

Dear Minnesota Legion Baseball Supporter,

Minnesota American Legion Baseball has been a cornerstone of our communities for over 100 years. Each summer, more than 5,000 players and 1,000 coaches participate in this time-honored program, which serves as a vital part of local communities across the state. At its core, Minnesota American Legion Baseball is about community-based competition, where young athletes from local schools and neighborhoods have the opportunity to compete in what is often referred to as the "greatest game on earth."

In recent weeks, the leadership of Minnesota American Legion Baseball made the difficult decision to discontinue its support for the All Star Series, which has been held at the end of the season for the past four years. This event was organized by the MN Legion Prospect Series, a dedicated group of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to showcase talented players and celebrate the summer season of American Legion Baseball.

When the All Star Series was first introduced, its mission and vision were aligned with those of Minnesota American Legion Baseball. The series successfully highlighted the skills of the players while celebrating the season as a whole. Over time, the event expanded to include multiple teams and players from both the metro and outstate areas, with Minnesota American Legion Baseball providing financial support through the 2024 season.

However, during a recent Minnesota American Legion Board of Directors meeting, a founding member of the MN Legion Prospect Series presented ideas for expanding the All Star Series into the regular season by creating "Zip Code" teams. After careful consideration, the Board rejected this proposal for several reasons. First, the concept of "Zip Code" teams would violate several established Minnesota American Legion Baseball rules. Second, the idea would place undue strain on our regular season teams for the benefit of a select few players, undermining the integrity of the program as a whole.

Despite the rejection of this idea at the Board meeting, it has come to our attention that the concept of "Legion Gold" and "Legion Zone" teams is still being promoted across the state as a potential addition to the 2025 season. These terms are being presented as a supplemental option to the current American Legion Baseball offerings.

We want to be clear: Minnesota American Legion Baseball does not support or endorse the creation of "Zip Code" teams, nor any other variation of the proposal. As the idea continues to be pushed under the banner of American Legion Baseball, the Minnesota American Legion Board of Directors felt compelled to take decisive action. As such, Minnesota American Legion Baseball will no longer offer financial or institutional support to the MN Legion Prospect Series, nor will we continue to associate with it in any official capacity. As a result, the Minnesota American Legion has issued a cease and desist letter to the organization.

Thank you for your continued support of Minnesota American Legion Baseball. We remain committed to the values and vision that have guided this program for over a century, and we look forward to continuing to serve our communities and players in the years to come.

Minnesota American Legion Baseball Board of Directors