



2025 CBLSL Rules of Play – Women’s+ Division

The most recent edition of the Official Rules of Softball and USA Code, except as specifically modified by the CBLSL Constitutions and By-Laws, recorded resolutions of the CBLSL Commission, as well as the most recently published World Series Tournament Rules of Play dictated by the Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (“ASANA”), will serve as the ground rules for the 2025 CBLSL season.

Important Reminders:

- Any player who identifies as a woman, transgender, or non-binary shall be eligible for play in the Women’s+ Division.

Time Limit:

- 1 hour and 10 minutes (70 minutes)
- No new inning may begin after 65 minutes
- The next scheduled game should plan to take the field and start their game exactly as scheduled.

Lineup:

- All lineups must be given to the other team with first initial, last name and correct number. No nicknames allowed.

One and one count:

- Each batter starts with a 1-1 count (1 ball, 1 strike).
- Each batter will receive 1 courtesy foul.

Grace Period:

- There is a 10-minute grace period from the scheduled game time for a team to arrive with the legal number of players to start a game (9 players).
- The game must be completed within a 70-minute game time.
- If a team forfeits their first game of the day, there is NO grace period for the second game.

Warmup:

- No infield or outfield warm up after the first inning.
- Pitchers are allowed 1 warm up pitch after the first inning.
- Pitchers are allowed to have 5 warm up pitches at the start of their first inning.
- No “around the horn” is allowed following an out.

Tie Breakers:

- No game can end in a tie.
- If a game is in a tie after 7 innings or when time expires, the International Tie Breaker Rules go into effect until the winner has been declared.

Mercy Rule:

- The mercy rule will follow USA rules of 10 runs after 5 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings and 20 runs after 3 innings. The participation rule does not apply to the losing team.

Minimum Number of Players:

- A team must have 9 players to start and continue a game.
- If a team starts a game with 9 players, the 10th batting position will not be an automatic out.
 - A team can add their 10th player up until the completion of the first run through of the batting order.
 - The rest of the game will be final. The game cannot be replayed.
- IF a team starts a game with 10 players but must drop to 9 players during the game, the vacated batting position will be an automatic out for the remainder of the game.

Rosters:

- No new player can be added to the roster after June 1.
- All players on the roster must pay before they can step on the field to play in a game.
- If the Hepburn’s Division (recreational) does not have 9 players, they can add another player eligible to play in the Hepburn’s Division, so they do not have to forfeit.
 - The added player needs to fit within the ASANA ratings eligible to play in the “D” Division and be registered to play in the Hepburn’s Division.
 - This player can only be the 9th player, not the 10th player, unless this player is a pitcher (and the team does not have another pitcher for that game).
 - If the opposing team has 10 players, 2 players can be added to ensure an even game.
 - No more than 2 non-rostered players can play and have the game count. The game can still be played but it will be considered a forfeit.

- This player cannot also have a game scheduled that they are missing from their own rostered team.
- Games with additional players added will count in standings.

Player Participation:

- The Women's+ Division will follow the USA rules for substitutions.
- Teams in both divisions should make a reasonable effort to ensure that all players receive adequate playing time.
- For the Hepburn's Division (recreational), every eligible player on the roster will be entitled to play a minimum of 2 innings per game.
 - For inter-division games: Every eligible player on the roster of each team will be entitled to play a minimum of 2 innings per game.
 - A player can volunteer to sit, and the team will not be required to meet minimum innings.
 - The manager must indicate to the opposing manager that a player has opted to sit or is injured during the lineup exchange prior to game start.
 - Playing 2 innings is defined as being listed in the lineup for at least 2 full innings.
 - The position of EH will be considered valid in meeting player participation requirements.
 - There will be no participation requirements during the playoffs or tournament play.
- For the Yurich Division (competitive) there are no minimum inning requirements.
- If a player is late, each inning they are late is considered an inning played.

Inter-divisional Special Rules

- Run Limits
 - The Hepburn Division (recreational) team will be spotted with 3 runs at the start of the game.
 - The opposing team will be limited to a 6-run cap per inning.
 - If any point in the game the opposing team is losing, the opposing team will be allowed to exceed the cap to catch up and then go ahead by 6 runs total. Once the opposing team goes up by 6 runs or the opposing team receives 3 outs, the half inning will end.
 - This does not apply to the 1st inning.
- The mercy rule will remain in effect for all games as described above.
- Mutual Decision to End Official Game
 - If after 3 full innings of play, the score is 18-3 in favor of the opposing (Yurich Division team), the managers may collectively decide to end the official game and record the score as 18-3.

- If the managers mutually decide to end the official game, they must continue to play for a minimum of 2 more innings to ensure that all players receive adequate playing time.
- The teams may mix players to make the game more fun for all players after the decision is made to end the official game.
- The umpire will not be required to stay after the decision is made to end the official game.
- Total game time may not exceed the 70-minute time limit.
- Inter-divisional games will not count towards division standings.

Forfeits and Schedule Changes

- A game is forfeited if, after the 10-minute grace period, a team cannot field 9 players.
- The opposing team will be declared the winner, and the score will be recorded as 7 to 0.
- Forfeits that occur with less than 24-hour notice of game day will result in a team fine of the umpire cost for that game.
- A team must pay their fine prior to their next week's.
- Teams will be suspended from the CBLSL until the fines are paid.
 - A team that is under suspension will automatically forfeit their scheduled games.
- Due to unforeseen circumstances, a team may be compelled to forfeit a game at the discretion of the Divisional Director.
- In the event of 3 or more forfeits within 1 season, the manager of that team shall be brought before the Protest Committee, and if the Committee so rules, the manager may be removed if insufficient reason is given for the forfeits.

Rainouts:

- Will be called by 7:30 AM on game day for games starting at 9:00 AM.
- Information will be provided on the league website (www.cblsl.org) as well as Facebook and Instagram.
- If a cell number is provided, a text message will be sent to all managers as soon as the rainout is determined at 7:30 AM.
- The umpires will declare rainouts, unplayable conditions, and will decide on inclement weather during games.
- The first rainout games will be rescheduled for the declared rain-out day at the end of the season. If a team cannot play their rescheduled rainout game regular forfeit rules apply.

Official Bookkeeping:

- The Home Team's scorebook will be the official book for the game.
- The Home Team will be responsible for updating League Apps of game score outcomes no later than Tuesday the following week.

- Each Team will be responsible for sending a photo of your team book to your divisional director no later than Tuesday the following week.
- Line-ups should read the player's first initial, last name, and number.
 - No nicknames or names other than what appears in League Apps are permitted.

Courtesy Runners:

- The CBLSL will follow the USA rule for courtesy runners. Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. One courtesy runner only may be used per inning.
- All pitchers get a courtesy runner. This does not count as your 1 courtesy runner per inning.

ADA Rules:

- Any player with an ADA must have the proper forms filled out and submitted PRIOR to play in their first game of the season.
- Notification should be made to the opposing team during ground rules.
- The Divisional Coordinator will have a list of all approved ADA players.

Extra Hitters:

- Teams may elect to have 2 extra batters in their lineup.

Equipment:

- 11" balls will be used in the Women's+ Division.
- The balls will be USA approved and must be given by the league.
- All divisions will follow USA Softball guidelines for legal/ illegal bats.
 - Managers must check all bats prior to the start of the game. Any bat that does not have a USA/ASA stamp or is on the banned bat list (which can be found at <https://www.usasoftball.com/certified-equipment/>) cannot be placed out for use at a game. It must be returned to the player and be placed in a location that no other player can access.
 - Any bat in the dugout area that is not secured in a bag is considered "entered into the game".
 - Exception: A bat may be removed from a player's bag temporarily if they are requesting that their manager, the opposing manager, a league commission member, or the umpire review the stamps for eligibility. The bat may not leave the player's hands during this process and must be placed in a location that no other player can access if it is deemed ineligible.

- Umpires must check bats prior to the start of the game. If this does not occur, it is the manager's responsibility to ensure that this happens before the start of play.
- If an illegal bat is entered into the game (as described above), the player to whom the bat belongs, and the team manager will be ejected from the game and any other games to be played that day. The player in question will not be clear to play and the manager will not be clear to resume manager duties until the League Commissioner reviews the incident and gives clearance in writing.
 - An interim manager must be named by the Divisional Coordinator or Director in the meantime.
- Upon review of the incident, the League Commissioner may refer the player and/or manager to the Ethics Committee for further disciplinary action. Other players may be brought to the Ethics Committee as well if proven to be negligent.
- A player, manager, or umpire can request a bat challenge at any time, including before the game begins if it has been entered into the game (as described above).
 - No player, manager, or umpire may be retaliated against for challenging a bat's eligibility. Any retaliation, including verbal abuse, will result in immediate ejection from the game or forfeiture of the game.
- The league has a zero-tolerance policy for illegal bats due to the safety risk they create.
- Pitching Mask – Player safety is our number one priority, so it is highly recommended by the league that all pitchers wear protective face gear while they are pitching. In 2019, the league purchased team masks and reimbursed teams for face mask purchases. If a team needs a replacement mask, the league will reimburse the team \$20 towards the cost of a mask.
- Metal cleats are not permitted.

Bases:

- The first base is a safety base with the orange base to be used by the runner when not trying to further bases.
- The league uses moveable bases provided by the league.

Slide of Veer:

- All players advancing a base must slide or veer to allow the defensive player a chance to throw out the following runner.
- If a player does not slide or veer, both players may be called out at the umpire's discretion.
- A player must slide to avoid collisions; intentional body contact will result in the runner being called out (determined by the umpire).

Unsportsmanlike Behavior:

- No warnings will be given.
- Managers and players can be removed from a game.
- If a player/ manager is thrown out of a game, they will be suspended for the next game at which they are present.
- The Commission will review the situation to see if any further actions or penalties will be assigned to that player/ manager.

Alcohol and Illegal Drug Consumption:

- There shall be no alcohol and/ or illegal drug consumption by players, coaches or managers before, during, or between their games.
- Any violation of this rule of play shall result in the player being benched for the rest of the day.
- The manager and coach will not be allowed in the field of play (i.e. they cannot coach bases, discuss umpire calls, etc.).

Smoking/ Vaping:

- In accordance with a Mayoral Executive Order that became effective December 18, 2019, smoking and vaping are prohibited on all outdoor city property, including all parks and recreation centers managed by the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation.
- CBLSL, as the permit holder, is obligated to ensure that all its participants and spectators comply with this prohibition. Any CBLSL member or spectator found to be violating this prohibition may be suspended from attending games at the discretion of the League Commission.

Uniforms:

- All teams must wear (on their jerseys) the logo of their sponsor's choice. A logo is unnecessary if the sponsor does not require a logo.
- All players on the field must wear the same or similar shirts.
- All players on the field must wear shirts with unique numbers on them.

Fields:

- A ball that hits a tree in the air will be considered a dead ball. The swing does not count as a strike.
- Prior to the season, the League Commission and a representative from the Umpire organization shall adopt "ground rules" for each field that will be used during the season. The umpires shall go over the ground rules with a representative of each team prior to each game.

- The “ground rules” will be in effect for every game, unless special circumstances (i.e. weather, damage, etc.) require alteration.

Playoffs:

- Each eligible team will participate in playoffs within their respective divisions.
- Any team with 4 or more forfeits will be disqualified from participating in playoffs.
- Individual players must play a minimum of 50% of the games to participate in playoffs.
- In the result of a tie, the following tie-breaker conditions will apply (in order):
 - Head-to-Head
 - Coin Flip
- Playoffs games will have all regular season rules apply.
- The Championship game will have no time limit.

ASANA World Series Qualifying Tournaments:

- Rules for the ASANA World Series Qualifying Tournaments will follow ASANA and USA guidelines.

Home Team Determination:

- Home team and Away team are listed on the schedule; however, some games have been designated as “coin flip games”.
- Coin flip will determine the home team if teams play each other an odd number of times (1 or 3). The final matchup will be designated the coin flip game.