



C. B.L.S.L. Open Division Rules of Play for 2025

The most recent edition of the Official Rules of Softball and USA Code, except as specifically modified by the C.B.L.S.L. Constitutions and By-Laws, recorded resolutions of the C.B.L.S.L. Commission, as well as requirements by International Pride Softball (iPride), will serve as the ground rules for the 2025 CBLSL Season.

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.

One and One Count

- Each batter starts with a 1-1 count (1 Ball, 1 Strike).
- Each batter will receive 1 (one) courtesy foul.

Warm Ups

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

Grace Period

- There is a ten (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 the 70-minute game time (unless in the event of a Tie, see Tie Breaker rule).
- If a team forfeits their first game of the day, there is NO grace period for the second game.

Tie Breakers

- NO game is to end in a tie.
- If a game is tied after 7 innings OR time has expired the International Tie Breaker Rules go into effect until a winner has been declared.

Mercy Rule

- In the Open Division there is no Mercy rule.

Minimum Number of Players

- A team must have nine (9) players to start and continue a game.
- The lineup for each team must have at least ten (10) batting positions listed.
- If a team starts a game with nine (9) players, the (10) tenth batting position will be an automatic out until filled by a late arriving player. If the (10) tenth position does not arrive by the time the lineup has been gone through **once**, they may no longer be added to that position. That position will be an out for the remainder of the game.
- If a team starts a game with (10) ten players but must drop to (9) nine players during the game, the vacated position will be an automatic out for the remainder of the game.
- The result of the game will be final. The game cannot be replayed.

Player Participation Rule (Recreational Division Only)

- Each player in the Recreation division **MUST** play at least two complete innings defensively and complete at least one at bat offensively.
- If all players who are at the game (start of the game) don't play the required 2 in the field and 1 at bat, the offending team will take a loss regardless of the score. The score will be recorded as 0-7.
- Any player who takes the field in any manner (fielder or batter), at any point in the game is subject to the player participation rule.

C. B.L.S.L. Open Division Rules of Play for 2025

Forfeits and Schedule Changes

- A game is forfeited if, after the ten-minute grace period, if a team cannot field nine 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.
 - Should the team notify their Division Coordinator 3 days in advance of the forfeit, those games will be rescheduled or forfeited at the discretion of the opposing manager. The manager of the forfeiting team must inform the Division Coordinator to obtain contact information of the opposing manager. Both the forfeiting manager and the opposing manager must agree on a time to reschedule and it must then be approved by the Division Coordinator. There will be no fine.
- A team must pay their fine prior to the next week's games.
- 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 Division Director.
- In the event of three (3) or more forfeits within one season, the manager of that team shall be brought before the Protest Committee, and if the Protest Committee so rules, the manager may be removed if insufficient reason is given for the forfeits.
- If a team requires a weekend off, arrangements must be through their Division Coordinator to get that information, in writing, to the Division Coordinator, prior to the schedule being published. The Division Coordinator will make every reasonable effort to accommodate requests, based on the season's playing parameters.
- Any team that forfeits three (3) games or more during the season shall be ineligible to qualify for a World Series berth.

Rainouts

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

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.
- The team at bat may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher. This does not count towards the one courtesy runner per inning. Managers are responsible for designating their pitcher at the start of the game and making opposing teams aware of substitution.

"Free" Substitution

In the **Recreational** Division:

- ANY player may make multiple entries into the game as long as that player re-enters the game at the same place in the line-up.

In the **Competitive** Division:

- There will be no free substitution.

ADA Rules

- Any player with an ADA accommodation 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.
- Players with an ADA accommodation must attempt first base. The designated runner must be the last batted out. This runner does not count towards the one per inning.
- The Divisional Coordinator will have a list of all approved ADA players.

C. B.L.S.L. Open Division Rules of Play for 2025

Extra Hitters

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

Equipment

- Yellow 12" balls will be used in the **Competitive** and **Recreational** Divisions.
- The balls in the **Competitive** and **Recreational** Division's will be .52 restricted flight.
- All divisions will follow USA Softball guidelines for legal/illegal bats.
 - Managers (or their designees) 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.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Certified-Equipment/Equipment-Bats>) 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 to be "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 players 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 (or their designee'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 cleared to play and the manager will not be cleared to resume manager duties until the League Commissioner reviews the incident and gives clearance in writing.
 - An interim manager must be named by the Division Director or Divisional Coordinator in the meantime.
 - Umpires will immediately confiscate an illegal bat. The illegal bat will be delivered to the League Commissioner and sent for inspection.
- 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 is interested in a mask, please speak with your divisional Coordinators about additional costs associated.
- **Metal cleats** are not permitted in the CBLSL.

Safety-base

- First base is a safety base with the orange base to be used by the runner, when not making an attempt for further bases.

Moveable Bases

- The League uses moveable bags

Slide or 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 will be called out at 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)

C. B.L.S.L. Open Division Rules of Play for 2025

Stealing

- No stealing is allowed
- If the runner is called by the umpire due to leaving the base before the ball crosses the plate, the runner will be called out.

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 (one) at which they are present.
- The Commission will review the situation to see if any further actions or penalties will be assigned 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 on the field of play (i.e. they cannot coach bases, discuss umpire calls etc.).
- Players under 21 caught drinking will be immediately suspended from the league pending review by the Ethics Committee. In other words, if you are under 21, don't drink and don't ask anyone for alcohol.
- Players over 21 who provide alcohol to anyone under 21 will be immediately suspended from the league pending review by the Ethics Committee. In other words, if you are over 21, don't give any alcohol to anyone under 21.
- Managers are responsible for making sure that no one (of any age) drinks before or during their games.
- Managers are responsible for communicating the policy to all of their players.
- Managers are not responsible for a player who provides alcohol to someone under 21 unless they participated in the exchange.
- League Officials are not responsible for a player who provides alcohol to someone under 21 unless they participated in or witnessed the exchange and did not take immediate action.

Smoking/Vaping

- In accordance with a Mayoral Executive Order that became effective December 18, 2019, smoking and vaping is prohibited on all outdoor City property, including all parks and recreation centers managed by the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation (PPR).
- 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 shall wear (on their jerseys) the logo of their sponsor's choice.
- All players, on the field, shall wear like shirts.
- All players, on the field, shall wear shirts with unique numbers on them

Fields

- Any ball that strikes a tree within FAIR territory is deemed a Dead Ball, batter awarded second. Any runner on the bases will be ruled 2 bases from the original starting base. In the case of a ball striking a tree in Foul Territory is deemed a Dead Ball, Foul Ball.
- By the April Commission meeting, the League Commissioner, all Divisional Directors 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.

C. B.L.S.L. Open Division Rules of Play for 2025

Playoffs

- For the 2025 Season, each eligible team within the Open Division will participate in playoffs within their respective divisions.
- For the 2025 Season any team with 4 or more forfeits will be disqualified from participating in the playoffs.
- Individual players must play in a minimum of 3 games to participate in the playoffs.
- In the result of a tie the following tie-breaker conditions will apply (in order):
 - Head to Head
 - Coin flip

World Series Qualification

- Any player that wishes to participate in their respective World Series must meet the organizations attendance requirements. In iPride's case, a player must be in attendance for 50% of their **regular** season games.