



CBL TRIPLE A RULES

1. Line-ups and Scorekeeping

- a. The home team shall keep the scorebook of record. The visiting team may also keep score, but unresolved discrepancies shall be decided in favor of the scorebook of record. Scorekeepers should compare scorebooks every half-inning.
- b. Coaches must list all players on the Official Lineup Card (OLC) before the start of the game and indicate lack of player availability with an asterisk/note. Coaches must report to the umpire, scorekeeper and opposing coach when a previously unavailable player becomes available.
- c. Coaches shall confirm all players on the OLC are in attendance after the conclusion of the 3rd inning and before beginning the 4th. If a player arrives after the top of the 4th inning begins, the player is not allowed to enter the game without the opposing coach's permission.
- d. If a team has only 8 players in attendance when the OLC is filled-out, the 9th position in the OLC will remain unoccupied until another player arrives. The late arriving player may be inserted into the 9th position on the OLC.
- e. If a player leaves after the game has begun and only 8 players remain, the position on the OLC that this player occupied will remain unoccupied as long as the team has only 8 players.
- f. Any unoccupied position in the OLC is scored as an automatic out each time it comes-up in the rotation.

2. Field of Play and Team Dugout Assignments

- a. The strike zone is that area over home plate defined on top by a horizontal line at the bottom of the batter's ribcage and on bottom by a horizontal line at the hollow beneath the batter's knee cap. The strike zone shall be determined from the batter's stance as the batter is prepared to swing at a pitched ball.
- b. As the home and visiting teams are identified on the game schedule, the home team shall occupy the third base side dugout and the visiting team shall occupy the first base side dugout, regardless of which coach arrived at the field first.

3. Equipment

- a. All bats used on the field of play must be wood bats. A single piece wood bat must be no more than 36 inches in length with a barrel no more than 2 ¾ inches in diameter.
- b. Metal cleats are **NOT** allowed on the field of play.
- c. ******NEW FOR 2019 SEASON. Bats with the USA stamp will be allowed on the field of play******

4. Pitcher Eligibility

- a. Rule:
 - i. A pitcher may not pitch more than six regular season innings consecutively unless the innings are contained within a single game that extends into extra innings.
 - ii. Pitchers must rest three days for each six innings pitched (except for tournament play). For example, if a pitcher throws three innings on Monday, rests Tuesday, pitches three innings on Wednesday, rests Thursday and Friday, he may pitch on Saturday. Pitchers who do not adhere to the rest rule will be deemed an illegal pitcher and will result in a forfeit in any games illegally pitched (honor system).
 - iii. For the purposes of this rule, if a pitcher pitches at least one pitch in an inning, he shall be considered to have pitched the entire inning. If multiple pitchers pitch in a single inning, each will be recorded with a full inning of pitching. Therefore, it is possible for multiple pitched innings to be recorded for a single inning actually pitched.



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- b. Exceptions: During tournament play, tournament rules shall apply.
- c. Violations: Pitchers who violate the above pitcher eligibility rule shall be deemed an illegal pitcher. (See rule 7.b below)

5. Player Participation

- a. Every eligible player on each team's roster who is present at the field must play a minimum of 2 innings and have a minimum of 1 at bat per game, weather and darkness (non-lighted field) permitting. CBL coaches are encouraged to utilize an equitable substitution scheme and strive for fairness in player bench time.
- b. Every eligible player on every team's roster must play at least 1/2 of the innings played over the course of a season, for which the player is present.

6. Substitutions

- a. Unlimited substitution is allowed (players may be substituted in and out and in), but this only applies to the two players involved. If player A substitutes for player B, then only player B can come back into the game for player A.
- b. If a player reenters a game after being substituted, the player must return to the same spot on the OLC as in the original batting order.
- c. Substitute players must play the entire inning in which they are substituted.
- d. Exception: In the event of injury, both coaches and the umpire must agree on the substitution to be made.

7. Forfeit

- a. A team must forfeit the game ten minutes after the scheduled starting time (umpire time) if a coach on record and at least eight players are not present. A team may start and/or finish a game with eight players without the risk of forfeit.
- b. Teams using an illegal pitcher shall forfeit games in which the illegal pitcher pitched.
- c. Forfeits will not be rescheduled and the forfeiting team must pay the league \$50 for the cost of the umpire/game.
- d. Forfeit fee must be paid by team before their next regularly scheduled game. CBL board of directors will decide if team can continue playing in league if forfeit team has not paid fee by agreed upon time.

8. Game Rescheduling

- a. A team must submit a game reschedule request by May 1st, 2019. All game reschedule requests are subject to approval by the league game scheduler and league director. Circumstances such as religious events, school sponsored activities, and uncontrollable life events will be deemed reasonable for a game to be rescheduled. All other requests (game conflicts in other leagues) will not be approved.
- b. If Team A must reschedule a game during regular season play due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. not enough players), Team A will be responsible for paying the umpire fees before the start of the rescheduled game. If Team B cannot play on the rescheduled game day (i.e. not enough players), Team A shall forfeit the game and will then reimburse the league \$50 for cost of umpire/game.
- c. Refer to rule 7d.



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9. Game Duration and Decision

- a. A half inning shall be declared closed after three outs or eight runs have scored, whichever comes first. During the play in which the eighth run is scored, if any additional runs score prior to the end of the play, they will be counted as well.
- b. There is no run limit in the sixth inning. It shall end after three outs.
- c. A game shall be declared finished after six innings or two hours, whichever occurs first. If the two-hour limit is reached, the inning during which the two-hour limit was reached shall be continued until finished.
- d. Games that are tied after six innings shall be continued until one team is ahead at the end of a complete inning, weather and darkness (non-lighted field) permitting.
- e. Games that are called on due to darkness (non-lighted field), weather, etc. shall be considered complete and official games if at least 3½ innings have been played (if the home team is ahead) or at least 4 innings have been played if the home team was behind. Games that are called prior to this shall be considered suspended and have to be rescheduled and restarted from the point that it was stopped. The home team, since they are the scorebook of record, will be responsible for noting the game status at time of stoppage (inning, # of outs, ball/strike count on batter, etc). At time of restart, the coaches can set the roster at that time – the league is not requiring kids to be in the exact same position, etc. Note that the innings pitched will be charged to those pitchers who pitched in the game, REGARDLESS of the game being considered completed or not. This is for the safety of the kids.
- f. Mercy Rule - In the event that either team is ahead by 12 runs or more after the conclusion of 4 innings (3-1/2 if the home team is ahead) or 10 runs or more after the conclusion of 5 innings (4-1/2 if the home team is ahead) then the game shall be declared completed.

10. Reporting and Dispute Resolution

- a. The winning team's coach or representative shall be responsible for reporting the scores to the division representative within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game.
- b. Protests shall be sent to the division representative within 24 hours. Final decision on protests shall be made by the CBL Board of Directors within 48 hours after receipt of the protest.

11. Speed-Up Rules

- a. Taking the Field: Position players should be on the field, in their defensive positions and ready to play within two minutes after the conclusion of the previous half-inning.
- b. Pitcher Warm-Up: New pitchers are allowed 10 warm up throws and returning pitchers are allowed 5 warm up throws.
- c. Courtesy runner for catcher: To assist in speed of play, should the catcher get on base AND at the coaches discretion, a courtesy runner can be used.
 - i. The intent is to allow the catcher to begin getting his gear on in preparation of the next inning. The courtesy runner must be a player that is not currently in the game.
 - ii. The catcher will not be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
 - iii. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
 - iv. Player may not run as a courtesy runner for the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning. If an injury, illness or ejection occurs and no other players are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute if the opposing coach and umpire agree to do so.
 - v. Player violating the courtesy runner rule will be considered and illegal substitute and will be ejected from the game.



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12. Ejections

- a. Any player or coach may be ejected from a game at the umpire's discretion per CBL Coach and player code of ethic rules.
- b. The player or coach ejected from a game will serve an additional mandatory two-game suspension by the CBL.
- c. The ejected player's coach is required to report the incident to the CBL Board of Directors within 24 hours after the incident.
- d. The board of directors will review the incident and decide if suspended player/coach can return to the field of play in the Christian Baseball League.