

Connecticut Collegiate Baseball League

2026 Rules

RULE I: ORGANIZATION AND FRANCHISES:

This organization will be called the **Connecticut Collegiate Baseball League (CCBL)**. Its mission is to encourage and manifest sportsmanship, integrity, and civic responsibility within an orderly, positive and competitive environment for players, families, friends and fans.

Each Franchise in the **CCBL** will be sustainable, financially sound, and well managed. Players for each Franchise must possess college level ability and must demonstrate responsibility, loyalty and respect for his coaches, umpires, teammates, and opponents. Franchise leadership should be experienced and responsive, with coaches who are skilled in team organization and on-field direction. Playing fields should be modern and well maintained and must be approved by **the Commissioner** of the CCBL.

RULE II: ROSTERS AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Players will be assigned to CCBL teams by the Commissioner, based on players' residences and geographic territories established by the Commissioner. Franchise territories will be established prior to the start of the season and will include "grey/open territories" in the outlying towns not covered in the Territory Map of the CCBL. All first-year players must submit a CCBL Player Application to the Commissioner to be assigned to a CCBL Franchise.

Players with birth years from **2002 through 2008** who have completed their high school baseball eligibility may play in the CCBL during the **2026** season.

Players born in **2009 or 2008** who have not completed their high school baseball eligibility, but who have formally committed to play college baseball at a specific school, may play in the CCBL during the **2026** season if invited to do so by a CCBL Franchise. NOTE - all such invitations must be approved, in advance, by the Commissioner.

For the 2026 season, all players must provide a copy of their driver's license to their teams to verify age and current residence.

The penalty for ineligible player(s) participating in any CCBL game will be forfeit of the game by the team for which the ineligible player appeared.

Team Rosters shall include 30 age-eligible players, two (2) of whom may have Host Family status. In addition, each CCBL roster will include 2 coaches who are eligible to play only if their participation is necessary to avoid a forfeit.

All provisional CCBL Roster Forms are due to the Commissioner by May 24, 2026. All submitted rosters and Team Websites must include player names, positions, player hometown, college, uniform numbers and player photo.

A player who is dropped or released from the provisional Roster Form must be made available to other teams by directly notifying the Commissioner.

Beginning with the 2026 season, there are no longer Inactive/Injured Players on Team Rosters.

A player may obtain a Release/Transfer from one team to another in the same year if a Player Release/Transfer is agreed by both teams and is submitted to the Commissioner for approval. Players released will become permanent players for the acquiring team unless an agreement to a one-year release is approved by the Commissioner. Teams may trade players between teams. Traded players become permanent players for the acquiring teams.

Final Rosters are due to the Commissioner **by July 1st.**

Players must be available to play in at least 50% of his team's regular season games to qualify to play a position (including DH and EH) in the League Playoffs. Pitchers who do not play a position must pitch in at least **5 regular season games**, or pitch at least **8 innings**, during the regular season to qualify to pitch in the Playoffs. Any exceptions to playoff eligibility rules must be approved by the Commissioner.

Rule III: INSURANCE

League Insurance Fees are due to the CCBL prior to **February 1** of each year and must be paid before a team will be included in the CCBL Master Game Schedule for the season.

Rule IV: SCHEDULE, STANDINGS, GOVERNING RULES

The CCBL Master Schedule will be completed by the League Commissioner prior to **April 1** of each year. Regular season games for each team will total at least 20, but no more than 30 games. All teams in good standing, regardless of won/loss record, will be eligible for the postseason play-off tournament. **Play-in games will be used to get to the final 8 teams for a double elimination playoff tournament**

Most games on the Master Schedule will be scheduled on weeknights (Monday through Friday). However, a limited number of games may be scheduled on weekends. After the Master Schedule is released, teams may switch games if both teams agree. (i.e. *from a Monday to a Thursday in the same week or home and away dates*). **Changes must be approved by the Commissioner prior to the start of the season. No game changes are allowed during the season except rainouts. Rainouts must be rescheduled within 10 days of the cancelled date and must be made up in the order in which they were**

cancelled. If both teams can't agree on a makeup date the Commissioner will schedule the game. The Commissioner should be informed immediately of all makeup dates, locations, and times. The Home Team is responsible to reschedule the umpirers for the new date

Unless otherwise noted (e.g. EH rule, visits to mound, re-entry, etc. below), the CCBL will follow NCAA baseball rules.

The Visiting team will be listed first on the Master Schedule.

A team which does not have 9 players at/on the field at game time will be allowed a 15-minute grace period before a forfeit is declared.

Standings will be developed using a point system, to encourage completion of the entire regular season schedule - 3 points for a win, 2 points for a tie and 1 point for a loss. **For the 2026 season, the website standings will be by winning percentage until July 10th, they will then be converted to the point system to determine playoff positions.**

Games that are not yet official (at least 4 ½ innings completed) will be suspended and completed when the teams involved next play. The suspended game will be completed first, followed by the regularly scheduled game.

If a regular season game is tied after 7 innings, all subsequent ½ innings will start with the player who made the last out in the previous inning (or a legal substitute) on second base. Games tied after 9 innings will be declared tie games.

A team ahead by 10 or more runs after the game has become official will be declared the winner in all CCBL regular season and play-off games.

After play-in games are completed, all remaining teams will participate in the double elimination playoff tournament. The team which emerges from the Winner's Bracket will be the Home Team (and will serve as Host) for the first game of the "Finals". The second game of the Finals, if necessary, will be played immediately after the completion of the first game at the same location, if field conditions (i.e., lighting) permits. The team which emerged from the Elimination Bracket will be the Home Team. Otherwise, the second game will be played the day/night after the first game and the team which emerged from the Elimination Bracket will Host (and be the Home Team). **The final schedule and locations must be approved by the Commissioner and may include a neutral site facility**

All Playoff games will be played to scheduled completion (i.e. at least 7 innings), unless the "10 run rule" is in effect.

Teams which forfeit two (2) games within a season will be excluded from the remainder of the regular season schedule and will not be eligible for the playoffs.

The winning team is responsible for reporting the game results and highlights to the Commissioner immediately after each game.

CCBL teams may use a Designated Hitter, in accordance with NCAA rules. According to NCAA rules, the starting pitcher and the DH may be the same player.

CCBL teams may use 2 Extra Hitters (EHs) to include 11 players in its batting order. EH is treated as a “defensive position” and players may be moved to/from the EH position without limitation during a game; the batting order does not change.

If a team starts a game with an Extra Hitter (or two), it must complete the game with an Extra Hitter (or two) unless, for any reason, the team has less than 10 (or 11) players available at any time during the game. If a team no longer has 10 (or 11) players available, the vacant spot(s) in the batting order will be declared an automatic out(s).

An EH may not become the DH (as DH is not considered to be a defensive position). However, an EH may become the pitcher. If the EH (a defensive position) becomes the pitcher, the DH role is terminated for the remainder of the game.

The CCBL follows Major League Baseball rules related to visits to the mound and changing pitchers – i.e. a pitcher must be removed from the mound if a coach visits the same pitcher for the second time in an inning.

The CCBL allows players included in the starting line-up to re-enter a game once, in the same place in the batting order. All players on a team’s active roster are eligible to play in a game even if not included on the original lineup card. **Official CCBL lineup cards will be provided by the league and used for all CCBL games.**

The CCBL uses wood or wood composite bats.

All players and coaches will always wear team uniforms during games. Coaches and players may wear team jackets in place of jerseys. **Shorts are never considered part of a legal team uniform and players without uniforms are not allowed in the dugouts, bullpens or on the field.**

Base coaches/players must wear protective helmets while coaching the bases.

All teams shall have an approved (by the Commissioner) medical kit on hand at all games and practices.

The Official Baseball to be used in all games of the CCBL will be the Rawlings RCCBL baseball. The Home team supplies baseballs for CCBL games. **For the playoff games, the visiting team shall provide 4 New CCBL Baseballs for use until the finals when the CCBL will provide all baseballs.**

The Home Team must make the field available to the visiting team for warmups (i.e., the Home Team will complete on-field batting practice) no less than 45

minutes prior to the start of the game. The Home Team will take infield/outfield 20 minutes prior to the start of the game, and the Visiting Team will take infield/outfield 10 minutes later.

Rule V: POSTPONEMENTS

The Home Team shall make decisions regarding the postponement of a scheduled game because of weather and/or field conditions. Home Team must inform the Visiting Team and the Umpires by direct phone contact when it postpones a game. After lineup cards have been exchanged, the decision to continue, suspend, or postpone a game becomes the responsibility of the Umpires. .

Rule VI: PROTESTS

All protests must be in writing and emailed to the Commissioner within 24 hours of the completion of the protested game. Teams which are protesting must inform the Umpires that “the game is being played under protest”. Documentation of the protest shall be included in the official scorebook at the time of the protest. Protests are not permitted on judgment calls. **The 5 Member Rules Committee will make final decisions in reference to protests.**

Rule VII: CONDUCT

Responsibility for the conduct of each CCBL team rests with franchise leadership and its coaching staff. Any conduct by coaches or players deemed unacceptable will be subject to disciplinary action by the League including, but not limited to, suspension and/or expulsion from the League. Any coaches, players and/or other team personnel involved in fighting will be suspended from the League. Coaches are not to use or permit use of profanity by players and/or other team personnel.

The following are specific penalties to be imposed to players, coaches, managers and bench personnel:

Major Infractions

Flagrant physical contact with an Umpire - League Expulsion

Flagrant physical contact with players - League Expulsion

Minor Infractions

Any behavior that results in the ejection of a player, coach, or team representative by the Umpires will result in a one game suspension, which will be served during the team’s next scheduled game.

Umpires may remove a player from the game and restrict the player, coach or team representative to the bench, if undesirable conduct/infraction does not rise to a level that results in an ejection.

The suspension will continue into the next season, if it cannot be served during the remainder of the same regular season or playoffs.

A player, manager or coach suspended a second time during the season for a minor infraction will be suspended for the remainder of the regular season and playoffs.

Taunting and baiting by players, coaches, managers and/or bench personnel will not be tolerated. If the umpire observes this behavior and judges it to be minor in nature, the umpire will issue a team warning to the coach of team whose player(s) are involved. A second incident will result in ejection(s). If not judged to be minor in nature, the umpire will issue the team warning and eject the player(s) involved.

Team personnel shall not use tobacco or tobacco-like products at all CCBL facilities.

Consumption of alcohol and cannabis is forbidden at all CCBL facilities.

RULE VIII – UMPIRES

The CCBL will use the Greater Hartford, Greater New Haven, Eastern, Western, Waterbury, Fairfield County, and Western Mass Board of Approved Baseball Umpires for all regular season and playoff games. The cost of the umpires will be shared equally by the competing teams. Payment to the umpires will be made prior to the start of each game.

RULE IX- LEAGUE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Commissioner: The role of the Commissioner is to oversee the operation of the CCBL, including, but not limited to, scheduling and leading league meetings, developing a Master Schedule, negotiating contracts with Umpires, and enforcing the by-laws, standards, and principles of the CCBL in the best interest of all Franchises. **For 2026, the Commissioner will appoint a 5 Member Rules Committee to administer, interpret and enforce the rules of the CCBL.**

Assistant Commissioner: The role of the Assistant Commissioner (AC) is to assist in the operations of the CCBL. The AC shall assume the powers of the Commissioner in the Commissioner's absence.

Secretary/Treasurer: The role of the Secretary/Treasurer (S/T) shall be to collect all league fees and fines and keep a complete and accurate account of all monies received and expended by CCBL. The S/T shall secure, maintain, and administer the league's web site and its insurance coverage.