

CWBL Rules & Regulations

1. Fairness Doctrine

The Board and Commissioner of the CWBL shall have the authority to oversee all player, team and coach transactions. The Board has a duty to ensure that fair competition will prevail for the player(s), team(s) and the League as a whole. No Appeals of any sanctions, suspensions or terminations as set forth by the CWBL Board and/or Commissioner.

As set forth in the aforementioned Bylaws, any party disciplined, sanctioned, suspended or had it's membership terminated shall not have the right to an appeal. Said party must submit a written statement to the CWBL Board not less than five days before its effective date, showing cause as to why said disciplinary action should be overturned, lessened or modified. The Commissioner of the CWBL will rule on the appeal. Said Commissioner, at his/her choosing, may elect to defer his/her decision to a vote by the CWBL Board, or form a grievance committee to make a recommendation as to the disposition of the appeal.

2. Authority for the CWBL Board and/or CWBL Commissioner to act to prevent, discipline or sanction for any violations of League rules, practices, precedents or directives.

As set forth in the Bylaws of the California Women's Baseball League, the Commissioner and/or the Board shall have and exercise the authority to discipline any League members for any conduct or actions deemed "inimical to the best interests of the league". This shall include any actions, intentional or otherwise, to violate, circumvent or evade any League rules, reasonable intent of the League rules, proven intent of the League rules, historical League practices or League precedents. This shall also include direct or indirect violations of Board or Commissioner directives. Said disciplinary measures may include but are not limited to: suspension of League membership, termination of League membership or any League sanctions set forth as determined by the CWBL Board to apply to the specific case. The Board shall notify any affected member(s) of any disciplinary actions at least 15 days prior to the effective date said disciplinary actions are to take place.

Personnel

1. Age Requirements

- A. Players who turn 15 prior to 11:59 p.m. on December 31, of that year, are eligible to play in the CWBL. No age requirement thereafter.
- B. Any game(s) played with player(s) underage shall be deemed immediately forfeited by that team. The player(s) involved will also be ineligible for the duration of the current season, regardless of when the player(s) officially turns 15.
- C. A manager has the right to demand to inspect the identification of any player on the field, before, during or after an official CWBL game. Until the player produces acceptable identification, said player in question will not be allowed to

- participate in said game or any future games. Acceptable identification is defined as: a valid driver's license, valid passport, valid Federal or State Government ID card or any identification which the umpire accepts as valid identification.
- D. Should the requesting manager still not be satisfied or agree with the authenticity of the identification presented, said manager will immediately (within 24 hours) file a protest to the League Office for review. Protest may be called in and followed up in writing explaining why the manager feels that the ID presented is still in question. Commissioner will then investigate and report findings to the Board for review, decision and any sanctions, if warranted.
 - E. If any sanctions are applied, the normal appeal process will apply.

2. Roster Size

Each team must carry a **minimum** of 10 eligible players (inclusive of suspended or short-term players). If a team drops below 10 paid players (or full-time equivalents), they must draft a player from the remaining players in the draft pool. If a team drops below 10 paid players, they can either pick up a free agent or draft from the draft pool. The **maximum** number of players a team may carry is 15; however, the Commissioner may waive the maximum number. The board maintains the discretion to aid teams who drop below 10 available players.

3. Applicant Eligibility

An applicant is eligible to participate in league sanctioned tryouts as long as they have met the following requirements:

- A. Will be turning 15 years of age during the calendar year and has means to verify it.
- B. Has paid an acceptable pre-determined league fee deposit of \$130.00.
- C. Has completed the necessary league registration form(s).
- D. Is available to play on any team that exists in the region and competitive bracket of their choice.
- E. Applicants must also be available to play on any team in their second choice region.

4. Draft Eligibility

A player is eligible for the CWBL draft pool as long as they have met the following criteria:

- A. Has attended and participated in one sanctioned workout for each division the candidate desires to play in (this can be waived by consent of all managers respective to their division), and followed the tryout program given by the Workout Division Representative.
- B. Has presented a valid photo ID indicating at least 15 years of age by the end of the year.
- C. Has completed registration form.
- D. Has paid league fee in part (half of league dues of \$130.00).

5. Player Eligibility

A player is eligible to participate in league play as long as they have met the following requirements:

- A. Has paid in part the current league membership fee.

- B. Has been properly drafted, traded or selected as a free agent according to league rules & guidelines.
- C. Has returned as a veteran player or was an eligible player on same team the previous year.
- D. Is properly attired.
- E. Is not currently serving a league suspension or game ejection.
- F. Is a CWBL member in good standing.

6. Trades

A. All trades must be approved by:

- 1. Any and all involved parties
- 2. Both managers
- 3. League Commissioner

No outside compensation will be allowed for consummating a trade. Example: A player cannot be traded for baseball equipment or other fungible goods.

7. Veterans who choose not to return to their current team (effective 2004)

At the end of each season, a player may choose not to return to their current team. The player has 2 options:

- A. Re-enter the draft. Player must notify team manager and attend 1 sanctioned tryout.
- B. Request a trade (rule #6). Request must be made through current team manager.
- C. If a player sits out a full season, they have the option to become a free agent.

A current player is **not eligible** to join another team via free agency. Once a current player has stepped on the tryout field, they are no longer eligible to return to their former team, unless they choose to draft him. If another team drafts him, no compensation is due the former team.

8. Dissolution of Teams (effective 2004)

Teams shall be declared dissolved only after the following steps have been taken: Coach or voted representative of affected CWBL team informs the CWBL Commissioner that said team has no one on roster willing to take over the responsibilities of a coach for the upcoming season. Said affected Division Representative shall make an effort and explore all options available to find a coach for the affected team. If no coach can be found, then said Board may declare the team as a dissolved team. Coach of dissolving team is prohibited from coaching another team for that year without the express approval of said Board. If such actions can be proved or has the reasonable appearance of a violation of the above procedures or rules as determined by said Board, than teams, coaches and the player(s) involved may be subject to disciplinary measures including (but not limited to) censure and/or suspension.

9. Anti-Merger Rule

No teams may be allowed to merge with other teams without the express approval of the CWBL Board. Said Board must approve of such a merger via simple majority vote.

10. Anti-Raiding Rule

Teams and/or their coaches of the CWBL are prohibited from conspiring, colluding, or attempting (intentionally or unintentionally), to raid other team

rosters, or cause teams (including their own) to dissolve for the purpose of forming new teams.

11. Anti-Collusion Rule

Teams and/or their coaches of the CWBL are prohibited from conspiring, colluding or attempting (intentionally or unintentionally) to circumvent rules (written or unwritten), practices (written or unwritten) or precedents (written or unwritten). The CWBL Board and the Commissioner shall have sole discretion of determining if the teams, or coaches of said teams have violated any of the aforementioned either in the present or future.

If such actions can be proved or has the reasonable appearance of a violation of the above as determined by said Board, than teams, coaches and any player(s) involved may be subject to disciplinary measures including (but not limited to) censure and/or suspension.

12. Anti-Tampering Rule

CWBL teams and/or their coaches are prohibited from conspiring, colluding, or attempting (intentionally or unintentionally), to raid other CWBL team rosters for the purpose of filling their own roster or another team roster.

This includes (but is not limited to) suggesting or encouraging (intentionally or otherwise) players to quit their teams for the purpose of going into the draft so that they may be selected up by a the team or it's coach encouraged said player move.

If such tampering can be proved or has the reasonable appearance of tampering as determined by said Board, than teams, coaches and the player(s) involved may be subject to disciplinary measures including (but not limited to) censure and/or suspension.

Equipment & Uniforms

1. Uniforms

All teams participating in CWBL sanctioned games must meet league uniform requirements. **Each and every player must have matching caps, pants & jerseys in presentable condition for each regular season and playoff game.**

Each team has until the 2nd league game to get all their players properly attired.

2. Cleats/Spikes

Players may wear metal, plastic or rubber baseball or softball cleats/spikes. No other sport shoes can be used.

3. Helmets

A. All batters must wear a helmet with at least one (1) earflap (facing the pitcher) when batting.

B. All baserunners must wear a helmet.

C. Catchers must wear either a catcher's helmet or protective skullcap when catching.

4. Bats

Approved aluminum, graphite, wooden or composite baseball bats may be used during league play. **No softball bats will be allowed.**

5. Baseballs

- A. Only league approved baseballs may be used during league play.
- B. Each team is required to supply 4 balls per game. The umpires will return unused balls.
- C. If the supply of balls becomes exhausted during play, both managers or presiding umpires may use a previously used approved ball upon consent.

6. Pitcher's Uniform

Pitcher's cannot wear white or gray sleeves, batting gloves, sweat bands, jewelry or other distracting items while on the mound.

7. Failure to Adhere

Failure to adhere to the requirements listed in this section could lead to player and/or manager ejection and/or suspension, and/or team forfeiture of games in which infractions occur.

Tryouts & The Draft

1. Tryouts

One of the primary goals of the CWBL, is to provide an opportunity to interested individuals to play amateur baseball. We make this opportunity available through tryouts. Whether by league expansion, replacement of retired/non-returning players, or other means, the league attempts to leave no applicants behind. Teams in need of new players will be represented by managers or coaches who will observe and evaluate the skill level, hustle and attitude of each applicant at the tryout. The tryouts are usually held beginning in early-February, over the course of 2-3 non-holiday weekends, weather permitting, in the below listed areas:

San Francisco - East Bay - Alameda - South Bay

All eligible applicants must put forth their reasonable best efforts during the official tryout. The eligible applicant must also declare and perform all components of the positions they plan on playing during the season. They include:

Batting - Fielding (infield & out) - Running - Pitching - Catching

2. Failure to expend Best Efforts

- A. All eligible applicants are required to put forth all reasonable best efforts during the sanctioned tryout. If an applicant is judged by at least 3 managers/coaches to have not expended, in their view, a **best effort**, then that applicant will not be eligible for the draft.
- B. If during the course of the season (regular or post), it becomes apparent to at least 3 managers in the player's division that they did not expend reasonable best efforts during the spring tryout, said player may be subjected to suspension or expulsion, and the player's team may suffer forfeiture of any games in which the player participated in.

3. The Draft (2004)

- A. All managers within their respective divisions meet to select eligible applicants.
- B. At the draft meeting, each team, in order to fill its roster requirements (minimum 10 players per team), selects a pre-determined number of applicants in a pre-determined order. Usually the order is determined by the final standings from the

- previous season. In reverse order of finish, the teams select applicants round-by-round, until all rosters are full or all applicants have been exhausted.
- C. All teams must supplement their rosters until the league minimum is met - 10 paid eligible full-time players.
 - D. The presiding league Board of Directors must approve any exceptions or deviations from the draft requirements.
 - E. Forfeits & Won - Loss records - For the purpose of determining draft positions between teams with identical won-loss records, a team cannot count as a loss any forfeits they incur the previous season. Any team in this situation will have the drafting position immediately after the team it was tied with.

Game Requirement

1. Length of Game

- A. Nine (9) innings or 3 hours. No new inning is allowed to start after 3 hours.
- B. **Mercy Rule:** 12 run difference after 7 chances at bat by the losing team.

2. Start of Game

- A. Game time begins with the scheduled time. If a game is supposed to start at 10 a.m. but does not begin on time due to reasons other than field conditions, weather conditions (or other act of God) or late umpires, then the 3 hour time limit starts at 10 a.m. regardless of when the game actually starts.
- B. Each team must have a minimum of **8** eligible players present, in full uniform and ready to play, by no less than 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time, or a forfeit will be declared. In the batting lineup, when batting position #9 comes up, an automatic out will be recorded. The #1 batter then will bat. If a legal player arrives to the game, they will be inserted into the #9 slot and it will no longer be recorded as an automatic out.
- C. A team may reduce its lineup to 7 (offense & defense) only as a result of injury incurred during the course of a game. The injured player & manager must report such injury to the Home Plate Umpire before leaving the playing field. The umpire shall determine if the injury is legitimate and warrants leaving the game. In the event of such an occurrence, the batting order remains the same, but an **OUT** is recorded each time the injured player is due to bat.

3. Batting Line-up

- A. Batting and fielding line-ups operate independently of each other. If 10 or more players are present for the game a team may bat as many as it chooses provided there are a minimum of 10 in the line-up at all times. If 8 or 9 players are present for the game the regular rules of the CWBL will prevail. At the manager's discretion the batting order may be reduced, but not under 10, once the minimum one at bat requirement has been met. Pro-rules affecting "batting out of order" and "illegal substitution" still apply.
- B. Managers shall, prior to each game, supply the opposing manager with a batting order that includes batters that will be provided with courtesy runners.

- C. Any batting change must be announced to the opposing manager, coach/assistant or official scorekeeper prior to the change being made. Umpires need not be notified. The batting line-up may only be changed in the following manners:
1. **PINCH HITTER** - A player, who has yet to have been placed in the batting line-up, bats in the line-up in place of a batter who is already in the hitting line-up and has met the batting participation requirements.
 2. **ADDITIONAL HITTERS** - A player who has not yet been placed in the hitting line-up, may be added to the hitting line-up, but only at the end of the batting order.
 3. **REMOVED HITTER** - A player who has already been placed in the batting line-up and has met the batting participation requirements, may be removed from the batting line-up provided the line-up still contains the minimum number of hitters required. Once a player has been removed from the hitting line-up, they may not bat again during the game.

4. Fielding Line-up

- A. Fielding and batting line-ups operate independently of each other. All substitutions made on defense are unrestricted, except for the pitcher. Any player who departs or is removed from the position of pitcher may return to pitch only once, but not until, at the very earliest, the next new inning, following her initial departure from the mound.

5. Courtesy Runners

- A. Prior to the start of each game, managers have the option to designate up to 2 hitters in the batting order who require "courtesy substitute baserunners", after reaching base.
- B. Each respective "courtesy baserunner" will be the player who has made the last batted out. If no last batted out hitter is available to run (1st inning), then the duty goes to the last batter listed in the line-up.
- C. A "courtesy baserunner" must be inserted immediately, and before play resumes. If the "courtesy baserunner" is not inserted immediately, (by the next pitch), then the designated player loses his "courtesy baserunner" privilege until their next plate appearance.

6. Injured Baserunner

If a player is deemed injured by the home plate umpire and is unable to fulfill their duties as a baserunner, a "courtesy baserunner" (last batted out) will be permitted. The injured player is then permanently removed for the duration of the game.

7. Catcher 2-out baserunner

When 2 outs exist in any inning and the catcher is on base, a "courtesy baserunner" will be immediately inserted (last batted out). This will allow each team to adhere to the 2-minute rule.

8. Two (2) minute rule

Each team has 2-minutes from the recording of the last out in the previous half inning to get ready for the next half inning. This time includes pitcher, infielder & outfielder warm-ups.

9. Participation Requirements - Per Game

- A. CWBL requires 1 plate appearance and 3 full innings in the field.

- B. Failure to properly adhere to the PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS will result in an automatic forfeiture of game and possible suspension of presiding manager.

10. Playoff Participation Requirements

- A. For a player to be eligible for post season play, said player must meet the playoff participation requirement of a minimum of 5 games. If said player is injured, then said player shall have been assumed to have been able to play the required number of games, and thus qualify to participate in any playoff games. If a player has their season interrupted due to family or work considerations, then once acceptable documentation has been provided to the CWBL Commissioner, the player may be eligible to participate in the playoffs. In any or all cases, the Commissioner will determine playoff eligibility. Commissioner decision is **Final**.

11. Failure to adhere

Failure to adhere to the requirements in this section could lead to player and/or manager ejection, suspension and/or team forfeiture of games in which the infractions occur.

Conduct & Safety

1. Batter

A batter is to control her bat at all times. Under no circumstances is she to threaten, wield or throw her bat at another player. Furthermore, she is not to charge another player on or off the field. If, in the judgement of the presiding umpires, a batter intentionally attempts to injure another player, said batter will be immediately ejected from the game and subject to further league action.

2. Baserunner

- A. A baserunner is to stay in the base paths at all times. No baserunner may collide carelessly, intentionally or maliciously with any fielder to allow herself to reach base. INTERFERENCE shall be called and baserunners may be ejected at the discretion of the umpiring crew. An "OUT" shall be declared any time a collision not involving a legitimate slide prevents an out from being recorded.
- B. Falling, diving or crashing on or through a base does not constitute a "slide", nor does sliding beyond the back edge of either second or third base.
- C. No baserunner will intentionally alter her course from the base paths with the sole intention of injuring a fielder. Rolling blocks are not allowed regardless of whether the baserunner and/or fielder are in the base path or not. Hard, legitimate slides will be allowed as long as the fielder is in the base path. If, in the judgement of the presiding umpires, a baserunner intentionally attempts to injure another player, said baserunner will be immediately ejected from the game and an out recorded.
- D. A baserunner is required to wear a helmet at all times. If, in the opinion of the presiding umpires, the baserunner intentionally removes her helmet during the course of play, the baserunner will be issued a warning. If this player commits a second offense, they will immediately be ejected from the game.

3. Pitcher

No pitcher shall intentionally throw at a batter in either the batter's box or in the batter's on-deck circle. If, in the judgement of the presiding umpires, the pitcher intentionally throws at the batter, said pitcher will be immediately ejected from the game and will be subject to further league action.

4. Fielder

- A. No fielder, catcher or pitcher has the right to block any base unless the ball is in their possession before the baserunner involved can begin a legitimate slide. If a baserunner must alter their course to avoid a collision or is blocked from reaching a base as the result of a legitimate slide where such baserunner would have reached base safely if given a clear path and no ball is in evident possession, OBSTRUCTION shall be called.
- B. Fielders are not allowed to decoy baserunners in the base path into unnecessary sliding in order to slow them down or keep them from scoring.

5. Sportsmanlike Conduct

Anything not constituting SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT will not be tolerated. Examples include, but not limited to:

- A. Fake tags & deaking runners.
- B. Throwing equipment in any careless, dangerous or malicious manner.
- C. Swearing at anyone in attendance: Players, Umpires or Fans/Spectators.
- D. Taunting or any other displays of disrespect for person, property or the game of baseball itself.
- E. In the case of A & C, a warning shall be issued at the very least.
- F. In the case of B & D, offending player(s) shall be ejected with the possibility of suspension upon umpire's recommendation.

6. Player Suspension

- A. An ejected player will have her case reviewed by the Commissioner, who may decide upon further review that additional disciplinary action is warranted.
- B. All-Star or tournament games will not be considered official games for purposes of serving out the suspension. Only games that effect league records/standings or playoff games will be used to serve out the suspension. Suspension may be carried over to next season if necessary (a player is ejected from final regular season game and her team is not in the playoffs).
- C. Manager of the offending player is required to submit a report with **24 hours** regarding the incident. The manager will face a suspension of at least 1 game for not reporting an incident.

7. Suspension Appeal

Any disciplinary action taken by the league may be appealed by the suspended individual. This appeal must be made in writing, and submitted to **Commissioner**. Once notified, the Commissioner has 48 hours to review the appeal and render a decision. The Commissioner's decision is final.

8. Alcohol

Possession or consumption of **Alcoholic Beverages** is strictly forbidden at any high school, college, university or park & recreation location used by the CWBL. Furthermore, it is **AGAINST THE LAW!** The only beverages other than water

permitted at any location are milk, juice, sport or soft drinks. Any offender of this policy will:

- A. Be suspended for the baseball season. If offender(s) are caught after the 6th league game, said offender(s) will be suspended through the next season.
- B. Offender(s) subject to possible criminal action.

Teams that fail to comply and/or fail to properly identify any conspicuous offences will also be subject to:

- A. Forfeiture of game on date of the offense.
- B. Suspension of presiding manager.
- C. Team permanently banned from using field where offense occurred.

The CWBL is fortunate to be permitted the use of these facilities. Our agreements require us to follow their rules, as we are guests on their property. Failure to do so may cause them to cancel our agreements.

9. Smoking

Smoking of cigarettes, cigars or any other substance is strictly forbidden on any playing field or dugout.

10. Pets

Pets are forbidden on any playing area and dugout. Pets, where permitted, are allowed in the spectator area, but must be confined to a leash, with a responsible person controlling the animal. Failure to comply with this requirement may lead to suspension, revocation of league membership, criminal citation and/or civil damage claim.

Playoff Tie-Breakers

The following formula shall be used by the CWBL when determining tie-breakers for teams eligible for annual league playoffs:

1. Head to head match-ups: record against team tied with.
2. Run differential against team tied with.
3. Runs allowed: Team giving up least amount of runs against division opponents.
4. * Coin flip*

The coin flip procedure will be conducted by the Commissioner. The Commissioner will attempt to have all concerned parties present, either physically or by electronic means. This includes but is not limited to both Managers and Commissioner. If one or both of the managers are not present, then a League Official will represent the teams. The Commissioner will flip the coin. The results are **NOT** appealable.

Playoff games will follow all CWBL rules, with the exception of the time limit. Playoff games will not have a time limit.