



## **Connecticut Collegiate Baseball League 2019**

### **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 majority of the Charter Franchises of the CCBL.

### **RULE II: ROSTERS AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

A player must complete his high school baseball eligibility before he is eligible to play in the CCBL. Players will be assigned to CCBL teams by the Commissioner, based on players' residences and geographic territories established by the Commissioner.

Players with birth years from **1994 through 1999** are eligible for the **2019** season, without exception.

Players born in **2000** are eligible for the **2019** season if they did not play American Legion baseball in 2018, or are otherwise ineligible to play for an American Legion team in 2019.

Each CCBL team may roster no more than two players born **January 1 through May 31, 2001 (i.e. 18 years old on June 1, 2019)** who did not play American Legion baseball in 2018, or are otherwise ineligible to play for an American Legion team in 2019.

CCBL players who are "double rostered" in the CCBL and the Greater Hartford Twi-Light League (GHTL) are not eligible to play for GHTL teams in games vs. CCBL teams.

All players must provide driver's license or birth certificate copies to their teams to verify ages listed on CCBL team rosters.

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 25 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.

Pre-Season Roster Forms are due to the Commissioner prior to a team's first regular season game. Final Rosters are due to the Commissioner by **July 5**. All rosters must include player names, addresses and birth dates.

Players dropped from the Pre-Season Roster Form must be made available to other teams by directly notifying the Commissioner of the dropped player(s) prior to submitting their Final Roster.

A player may obtain a Transfer from one team to another in the same year if a Player Release/Transfer Form is signed by both organizations and is submitted by **July 5** with the Final Roster. Players who wish to move from one team to another and are unable to obtain a valid Release/Transfer form must sit out one (1) season before being eligible to play for another franchise.

Players must appear in at least 50% of his team's regular season games in order to qualify to play a position (including DH and EH) or pitch in the League Playoffs. Pitchers who do not play a position must pitch in at least 6 regular season games, or pitch at least 10 innings, during the regular season to qualify to pitch in the Playoffs. A player who is qualified to pitch in the Playoffs, but who did not appear in at least 50% of his team's regular season games, may play a position in the Playoffs only if his doing so is necessary to avoid a forfeit.

Players may be placed on the Injured/Inactive List by notifying the Commissioner. Players on the Injured/Inactive List must remain on the list for at least three (3) games. Games played while a player is on the Injured/Inactive List will not be included in the computation of the number of game appearances needed to qualify to play in the Playoffs.

CCBL players shall not be compensated for their services in accordance with the rules and guidelines of the NCAA.

### **Rule III: INSURANCE**

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

A franchise may purchase its own insurance, if the purchase is approved by the CCBL Commissioner.

## **Rule IV: SCHEDULE, STANDINGS, GOVERNING RULES**

The CCBL Master Schedule will be completed by the League Commissioner prior to May 1 of each year. Regular season games for each team will total at least 20, but no more 30 games. All teams in good standing, regardless of won/loss record, will be eligible for the season ending play-off tournament.

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

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.

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.

Regular season games which are tied after 9 innings will not continue and 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 league regular season and play-off games.**

All Playoff games will be played to scheduled completion (i.e. at least 7 innings).

Teams which do not complete their regular season schedules may be disqualified from the league play-off tournament by the Commissioner.

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 to report the game results and highlights to all CCBL media contacts each night.

CCBL teams may use a Designated Hitter, in accordance with Major League Baseball/American League rules. According to American League rules, the starting pitcher and the DH may not be the same player. If the starting pitcher is included in the batting order, there is no DH for the game. See Exhibit 1 – CCBL DH and EH rules for more information.

CCBL teams may use an Extra Hitter (EH) to include 10 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. If a team starts a game with an Extra Hitter, it must complete the game with an Extra Hitter (unless, for any reason, the team has less than 10 players available at any time during the game). If a team no longer has 10 players available, the vacant spot in the batting order will be declared an automatic out. See Exhibit 1 – CCBL DH and EH rules for more information.

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.**

The CCBL uses wood or wood composite bats.

Base coaches must wear protective helmets.

The Official Baseball to be used in all games of the CCBL will be the Rawlings RCCBL baseball.

The home team must make the field available to the visiting team for warm ups no less than 30 minutes prior to the start of 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 cancels a game. After lineup cards have been exchanged, the decision to continue, suspend, or postpone a game becomes the responsibility of the Umpires. Postponed games should be rescheduled for the next date on which both teams and the field are available, and the Commissioner should be notified to schedule Umpires for new game date.

## **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 the official scorebook at the time of the protest. Protests are not permitted on judgment calls. The Commissioner and the Secretary/Treasurer will make final decisions on all 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 fighting 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.

A 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, manager 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 within the confines of any CCBL facility.

Alcohol consumption is forbidden at any CCBL facility.

## **RULE VIII – UMPIRES**

The CCBL will use the Greater Hartford Board of Approved Baseball Umpires for all league 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. The Commissioner may, at his discretion, appoint other League Officials to assist in the operation of the CCBL.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** The role of the Secretary/Treasurer shall be to collect all league fees and fines and keep a complete and accurate account of all monies received and expended by CCBL. He shall maintain, secure, and administer the league's insurance coverage. He shall assume the powers of the Commissioner in the Commissioner's absence.

The League Elected Officials shall be elected to a two (2) year term of service by the majority of the Franchises at the CCBL Annual Meeting, which shall take in the fall each year. CCBL elected officials shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred for the benefit of the CCBL.

## **Exhibit 1 – CCBL DH and EH rules**

### **CCBL Designated Hitter (DH) rule:**

A hitter may be designated to bat for the starting pitcher and all subsequent pitchers in any game without otherwise affecting the status of the pitcher(s) in the game. A Designated Hitter for the pitcher must be selected prior to the game and must be included in the lineup cards presented to the Umpire-in-Chief.

The Designated Hitter named in the starting lineup must come to bat at least one time, unless the opposing club changes pitchers. It is not mandatory that a club designate a hitter for the pitcher, but failure to do so prior to the game precludes the use of a Designated Hitter for that game.

Pinch hitters for a Designated Hitter may be used. Any substitute hitter for a Designated Hitter himself becomes a Designated Hitter. A replaced Designated Hitter shall not re-enter the game in any capacity. The Designated Hitter may be used defensively, continuing to bat in the same position in the batting order, but the pitcher must then bat in the place of the substituted defensive player, unless more than one substitution is made, and the manager then must designate their spots in the batting order.

A runner may be substituted for the Designated Hitter and the runner assumes the role of the Designated Hitter. A Designated Hitter may not pinch-run.

A Designated Hitter is "locked" into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation of the Designated Hitter.

If the game pitcher is switched from the mound to a defensive position this move shall terminate the DH role for the remainder of the game. Once a pinch-hitter bats for any player in the batting order and then enters the game to pitch, this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game.

If the game pitcher bats for the Designated Hitter, such move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game. The game pitcher may pinch hit only for the Designated Hitter.

If a Designated Hitter assumes a defensive position\*, this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game.

If another defensive player replaces the pitcher, this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter's role for the remainder of the game.

**Source: MLB Web Site**

\*CCBL Note: EH is considered a "defensive position". Accordingly, the DH may become the EH, which terminates the DH role for the game.

**CCBL Extra Hitter (EH) rule:**

The player in the Extra Hitter position (a 10<sup>th</sup> hitter in the batting order), while not actually playing a defensive position, will be treated as such for substitution purposes. Without limitation, the EH may go into the field to play any other defensive position and the player replaced in that defensive position then becomes the EH. The batting order does not change.

The EH may not become the DH (as DH is not considered to be a defensive position). However, the EH may become the pitcher. As a player has moved from another defensive position to pitcher, this move shall terminate the DH role for the remainder of the game.