



Cape Town Baseball Federation

# playing rules

## 25/26

**Senior Playing rules 2025/26**  
**August, 2025**

## CTBF will follow the [WBSC Rulebook 2025/26](#)

### **Game Times by League**

Major league games will start at 15:45 (15:30 from Feb 1)

Second League games will start at 12:45 (12:30 from Feb1)

Third league games will start at 13:00

Masters' League games will start at 13:15

Sunday Major League games will start at 12:30

\*any deviations are to be conveyed for approval to CTBF

### **FOREIGNERS:**

- Only 2 foreign players may take the field at the same time. A D/H is classified as taking the field. There is no limit to the number of foreign players allowed on the line-up card.
- Foreign batteries are allowed on the field together (pitcher to catcher).
- To play in the CTBF leagues - both foreign and local players must comply with CTBF constitutional requirements regarding arrivals and clearances etc. (Note: All players must be resident locally for 7 days before being allowed to play in a CTBF league fixture)
- *Foreign players = ( A player not in possession of a SA passport or without exemption from CTBF )*
- All foreign players are to be registered by the close of business on the 16th of January 2026 to compete in the remainder of the 25/26 season.

### **Ejections**

- Players, coaches, managers, spectators or others etc. that are ejected from a game are to move a suitable distance away from the playing area & may not interact any further with the game. The distance the ejected person must move to will be determined by the umpire. If the ejected person does not comply, then the umpire is to stop the game till the person/s is removed. It is the home team's responsibility to make sure the ejected parties are moved a suitable distance from the playing area. The umpire's decision is final.
- Players/coaches or members who are involved in any capacity at multiple clubs will be suspended from involvement at both clubs should they be ejected from any game.

### **Pitching limitations/counts**

- Any player who has pitched in an earlier CTBF league game, junior or senior (including Masters), is not allowed to pitch in any other game on the same day/s. Failure to comply will result in the forfeiture of the second fixture.
- There shall be no pitch count for any pitchers born before April 1 2007 (senior)

- All Juniors pitching in Senior leagues will be governed by the age group pitch count of the athlete's age.
- [CTBF Age Group Chart Matrix](#)

### Entry Restrictions

- Any player/s - senior or junior - playing in any second CTBF senior league game on the same day, is only allowed to enter into their 2nd senior game after three (3) completed innings.
- Any junior player playing in any CTBF senior league game on the same day as having participated in a junior game is allowed to enter a senior game at the start of the game.

### Protests

- It is the responsibility of the protesting coach to ensure that a protest is recorded on both scoresheets and that these sheets are signed by the umpire. If the umpire refuses to sign the protest, the scorer should note it.
- A protest will be considered by CTBF only if the reason for the protest is documented and the relevant queried rule is referenced on the score sheet and payment of R200 is received by CTBF by 12 noon on the Monday after the game was played.
- In case of a protest relating to the technical aspects of the game over a misapplication or misinterpretation of the official rules, the protest shall be made immediately to the umpire in chief. The umpire in chief is to inform the opposing coaches of the written protest, mentioning the number of the rule related to the protest handed over to the official scorer and communicated to CTBF.

### Defaults/forfeits:

- **1st** infringement - a detailed explanation must be submitted describing why the team or club has defaulted must be sent to CTBF by 12 pm on the Monday after the fixture. Failure to do so will result in the club being summoned to a disciplinary hearing.
- **A 2nd** offence will result in a disciplinary hearing and a fine incurred for any match official fees for the forfeited game/s.
- **A 3rd** infringement during the season will result in the suspension of the offending team(1st or 2nd or 3rd or masters etc;)

### Equipment

- No player shall bat, nor run bases unless he wears an approved batting helmet. These helmets shall have flaps protecting both ears.
- Each team is to have a minimum of 2 balls for senior fixtures, and 1 ball for junior fixtures.
  - No player shall be allowed to participate in a game unless properly equipped with players' gear. This particularly applies to catchers who, for their own protection, shall play

in proper masks and body protectors. Furthermore,

- Bat boys shall wear an approved batting helmet, which shall have flaps protecting both ears.
- Wood bats or wood composite bats are compulsory for all major league and second league games for the 2025/26 season.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> league will have the option of using aluminum, Wood, and Wood composite bats.

### **Major League (ML)**

- For the Major League Division, a regulation game shall consist of 9 innings.
- If after 7(seven) complete innings for the visiting team or 6½ innings for the home team, there is a 10 (ten) run score difference between the teams, the game is ended.
- If after 5(five) complete innings for the visiting team or 4½ innings for the home team, there is a 15(fifteen) run score difference between the teams, the game is ended.
- If scores are tied at the end of the regulation 9 innings extra innings shall be played with the offensive team starting each half of their inning with runners on first and second base, The runner will be the two batters preceding the current hitter who is at bat.
- If a game is called for any reason before it has become a regulation game, it shall become a suspended game. Any suspended game shall be completed on the first available Sunday after the suspended game. Any club not making themselves available to complete this game on the day as stipulated will forfeit the points. If both teams do not make themselves available, then both teams forfeit the points.
  - If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fifth (5) inning to tie the score it shall also become a suspended game.
- If a game is scheduled for 9 innings, it is a regulation game:
  - (1) If five (5) innings have been completed.
  - (2) If the home team has scored more runs in four and a fraction half-innings than the visiting team has scored five (5) complete half-innings:
  - (3) Should a game be called due to weather or bad lighting and the home team is leading after four and a half (4½) completed innings the result shall stand, however, should 5 innings not be completed and the away team leading, the game will be classified as no result and the game will be replayed on the next available Sunday. If 5 innings have been completed and a team is leading, the result will stand. If 5 innings have been completed and the game is tied, it will be a suspended game, played on the first available Sunday.
- Foreign Pitcher/s are limited to five (5) completed innings or fifteen (15) outs. per game. If a team has more than one foreign pitcher the limit must be shared between the pitchers. Failure to adhere shall result in forfeiture of the fixture.

- Defensive Trips to the Mound will be limited to Three (3) free trips per 9 innings with an extra one (1) granted for extra innings. The penalty for failure to follow shall be a substitution of the pitcher.

**The first available Sunday shall be the following Sunday after the fixture. (i.e. if the fixture is on 9 December, then 10 December shall be the first Sunday.)**

### **Second and third leagues (SL and TL)**

- For the Second and Third Leagues, a regulation game shall consist of seven (7) innings or two hours and thirty minutes (2hr30)
- No new inning is to be started less than 15 minutes before the scheduled end time. That is 2h15 after the **scheduled start time**, If the score is tied the result will stand. A new inning begins as soon as the 3rd out is made in the bottom of the current inning. For example, if you are in the 5th inning and the home team makes the 3rd out on defense and it is not yet at the 2h15 mark, then you must play another inning.
- If after 5 (five) complete innings for the visiting team or 4½ innings for the home team, there is a 10(ten) run score difference between the teams, the game is ended.
- Should a game be called due to weather or bad lighting and a team is leading after four (4) completed innings the result shall stand, however should 4 innings not be completed, the game will be classified as a no result and the points will be split with both teams receiving 1 point each.
- Foreign Pitchers are limited to 9 outs or 3 completed innings per game.

### **Masters Rules**

- As scheduled per CTBF fixtures. Starting time: 13h15. (Or as

communicated)

- Game duration: 7 innings or 2 hours - no new innings after 1 hour 50 minutes.
  - A new inning begins as soon as the 3rd out is made in the bottom of the current inning. For example, if you are in the 5th inning and the home team makes the 3rd out on defense and it is not yet at the 1h50 mark, then you must play another inning.
  
- NOTE: As these games are time limit / 7 innings games, the following rules apply:
  - a) If the game is still tied after 1 hour 50 mins, 1 extra inning to be played & this extra inning will start with runners on 1st & 2nd base. These base runners will be the previous batters in the lineup, immediately in front of the batter that will be the first batter up in the new inning.
  - b) Irrespective of completed innings played – if time is up (1 hr 50 minutes) & there is a result – the result stands.
  - c) 10 run difference after 5 innings is a mercy rule.
  - d) Weather (rain) curtailed game that has completed 4 innings & a team is leading – that will be the result if no further play can take place! If the game is tied or 4 innings have not been completed with a result –
  
- NO replay – 1 point each.
  
- e) May start the game with 8 players but must finish with 9 players. The 9th player must be in the game no later than the start of the 4th inning. The late player has to be placed last in the batting line-up upon entry into the game. If 9 players are not on the field at the start of the 4th inning – the defaulting club loses the fixture.
  
- no players under 30 years of age are allowed to play in this league.
  
- only 2 players between 30 & 35 years of age are permitted to be on the field per team (this includes the dh). players between 30 & 35 years of age to only play an outfield position.