

Playoff Rules – 2025

All regular season rules apply unless otherwise stated. Click link to see [Regular Season Rules](#).

The following are the specific playoff rules, clarifications, and reminders.

1. Game Play

- The **home** team for each game, except the championship, will be the team with the **higher** regular season ranking.
- All games are scheduled for **7 innings**. At the **1 hour 15-minute** mark from the scheduled start time, the umpire will declare the next inning to be the 'open inning,' unless the game is already in the 7th inning.
- All **open innings** will be completed unless the home team is leading after the visiting team's at-bat.
- Teams must field a minimum of **8 players**. A **5-minute** grace period will be allowed, but the game clock begins at the scheduled start time.
- Call-ups are **prohibited**. All players must come from their own team's roster.
- All players **MUST** wear their official team jersey, buttoned up. **No jersey, no game**, unless pre-approved by the convenor. Teams unable to field 8 players in jerseys will **forfeit** the game.
- Any team **forfeiting** a game will receive a loss and a **\$300 fine**.
- **Mercy** rule: A team losing by more than **20 runs** at the end of an inning will lose by mercy.
- Umpires will maintain a fair pace. **Balls** and **strikes** may be called against teams delaying play.
- If a game is tied after the open inning, the '**International Tiebreaker Rule**' applies: the last official batter starts on **second base**, this baserunner **cannot** be replaced with a courtesy runner and must remain on the bases until they cross the home plate line. The inning begins with **one out**, and both teams bat until the winner is decided.
- Each team is allowed up to **5 substitute runners** per game, with a different player used each time. No extra substitutes are permitted in extra innings.
- In case of rain, at least **4 complete innings** must be played (**3½** if the home team is leading) for the game to count.
- Only **1 injured player** may be removed from the batting order at a time. Teams must still field **8 players**. No **injured** players can be removed in the **6th inning** or later; if unable to bat, the spot will be recorded as an out.

- All **bats** must meet the requirements outlined in **Rule #8** of the regular-season rules. If in doubt, consult the convenor or umpire before the game.

2. Championship Game

- The **undefeated** team from the upper bracket will be the **home** team, regardless of regular season standings.
- The home team may choose to **bat first** or **second**.
- If a **rubber match** is required, the home/visitor roles will **switch**. Rubber matches will be scheduled after other championship games are completed.

3. Game Misconduct

- Consumption of **alcohol** or **smoking** (tobacco or cannabis) during a game is **prohibited**. Violations will result in the captain being **ejected** and **suspended** for the next game. Bleachers and surrounding areas are considered part of the dugout.
- Players who **argue** with **umpires** unnecessarily will be **ejected** with no right of appeal. The **suspension** applies for the rest of the game and the following game.
- **Profanity** or **unsportsmanlike** conduct will result in **ejection**. Continued abuse or threats may result in further **disciplinary** action, depending on severity.

4. Roster Eligibility

- Players must have participated in at least **7** regular-season games to **qualify** for playoffs.
- Captains must review the official **photo roster** of **qualified** players before games.
- Teams using **ineligible** players risk forfeit; the player will be removed from the roster.
- **Impersonating** another player will result in immediate team **disqualification**.

5. Homerun Rule

- The '**3 plus 1**' rule applies: A team may not exceed **3 more** untouched, over-the-fence home runs than its opponent.
- Any **excess** home run will result in the batter being **declared out**.
- If a ball is deflected over the fence by a fielder's glove while attempting a catch, it is scored as a **four-base error**, not a home run.