



Glen Cairn Ladies' Softball League (GCLSL)

## **League Rules**

Last Revised: April 2026

These are the Glen Cairn Ladies' Softball League (GCLSL) Rules, which have exceptions and modifications to Softball Canada Rules to accommodate the "Recreational Nature" of our league.

Softball Canada Rules are listed according to the 2024-25 Rulebook found online at <https://softball.ca/resources/2024reglements>. Exceptions that GCLSL does not follow are listed below, along with an explanation.

Any interpretation of the rules should be addressed by the Rules Committee and the GCLSL Executive.

*The league Constitution and the Rules are available to all members online at <http://www.gclsl.com>.*

Softball Canada Rule 1: The Game		
1.1	<b>Definitions</b>	
1.2	<b>Regulation Game requirements</b>	
GCLSL Rule 1: The Game		
1.1	<b>League</b>	GCLSL is classified as a Recreational Fast-Pitch League.
1.2	<b>Team Captain</b>	<p>There will be no team Coaches, the team Captain is responsible for the team.</p> <p>If a Captain must resign her position, the team will be required to elect a new Captain.</p> <p>Team Captain Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encouraging Fair Play – make sure everyone sits and everyone plays equally throughout the year.</li> <li>● Setting up/taking down the Diamond – equally distributed between the teams and people</li> </ul>
1.3	<b>Regular and Playoff Games</b>	<p>All Regular &amp; Playoff games shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commence at 6:15 pm and 8:00 pm, respectively.</li> <li>● No new innings can start after 7:50 pm and 9:35 pm, respectively.</li> <li>● Consist of 7 innings</li> </ul> <p>In case of time limitations or inclement weather, a game is considered complete if 5 innings have been completed or after 4.5 innings if the home team is winning.</p> <p>All incomplete games will be rescheduled and played from the beginning as a new game.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Original line-up may be changed &amp; all teammates will have equal opportunity to participate in a rescheduled game.</li> </ul>
1.4	<b>Delays in Games</b>	<p>If there are circumstances that will cause a delay or stoppage of a game, (i.e. inclement weather, no official showing up, injury, lack of players) a decision will be made by the Officials and Captains of the scheduled game, if and when the game will resume. If a team has less than eight players including spares, the team will forfeit the game after the 15-minute grace period.</p> <p>If a team has eight players including spares, the game must be played. The game will start as soon as eight players are present. Upon arrival, late and/or spare players must be added to the bottom of the batting order.</p>
1.5	<b>Mercy Rule</b>	After the completion of the 5th inning, if a team is leading by more than 15 runs, the losing team will have the <b>option</b> of continuing or stopping the game.

1.6	<b>10 Batter Inning</b>	A team is allowed three (3) outs or a maximum of ten (10) batters per inning, whichever comes first. The announcement of the 10th batter must be communicated to the opposing team by the captain and/or the Scorekeeper and must be declared when the 10 <sup>th</sup> batter goes to bat. If the 10th batter is walked, the next batter in the order will go up. The inning cannot end with a walk, it needs to end with a third out or getting the ball and touching home plate.
1.7	<b>Player Safety and Responsibilities</b>	Intoxication on the field, whether drugs or alcohol will not be tolerated. Smoking or vaping are not allowed in the dugout. Children are not allowed on the benches – only players are allowed in the dugout. Safety is a priority. If you see something, say something!

<b>Softball Canada Rule 2: Playing Field and Equipment</b>			
2.1	<b>Definitions</b>		
	<i>Exceptions</i>		
	2.1.3	Batters Box	There are no lines drawn for the batters' box for regular season games.
	2.1.4	Catchers Box	There are no lines drawn for the catcher's box.
2.2	<b>The Playing Field</b>		
	<i>Exceptions</i>		
	2.2.2	The Official Diamond	Lines are not drawn on the field for one meter and sidelines; coaches, batters, and catcher's boxes; on-deck and pitchers circles.
2.3	<b>Game equipment</b>		
2.4	<b>Player's equipment</b>		
	<i>Exceptions</i>		
	2.4.2	Shoes	No metal sole and heel plates may be used. Metal cleats must not be worn.
2.5	<b>Uniforms</b>		

	<i>Exceptions</i>		
	2.5.1	Player Uniforms	Players are provided with GCLSL T-Shirts - Player uniforms as described in SBC rules do not apply
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Coaches Uniforms</b>		There are no Coaches in GCLSL
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Equipment</b>		
<b>GCLSL Rule 2: Playing Field and Equipment</b>			
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Where The bases are located</b>		Bases should be measured as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• back of home plate to pitcher's mound 40 ft</li> <li>• back of home plate to 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base 60 ft</li> <li>• back of home plate to 2<sup>nd</sup> base 84 ft</li> </ul>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Size of the ball</b>		11" Ball (low rise, yellow ball) as specified under SBC rules

<b>Softball Canada Rule 3: Participants</b>			
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Definitions</b>		
	<i>Exceptions</i>		
	3.1.2	Coach	The team captain is responsible for their teams' actions on the field and for communicating with the umpire and the opposing team.
	3.1.3, 3.1.6, 3.1.8, 3.1.9, 3.1.10, 3.1.16	Designated player, Flex Player, Illegal Player, Illegal Re entry, Illegal Substitute, Offensive Player Only	Everyone can play, everyone bats
	3.1.7	Head Coach	There are no Coaches in GCLSL
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Line-Up and Rosters</b>		

	<i>Exceptions</i>		
	3.2.1	Line-Up Cards	Team Captains provide their batting order to the scorekeeper before the start of the game.
	3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.2.5, 3.2.8	Players, Starting Players, Designated Player, Flex Player, Entering the Game	Everyone can play, everyone bats
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Appeals</b>		
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Coaches</b>		
	<i>Exceptions</i>		
	3.4.1	In General	
	3.4.2	Head Coach	
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Team Personnel</b>		
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Umpires</b>		
	<i>Exceptions</i>		
	3.6.3	Base Umpire	There is no base umpire for regular season games.
<b>3.7</b>	<b>Scorers</b>		
<b>GCLSL Rule 3: Participants</b>			
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Spares</b>		<p>If a team is unable to field a complete team by game time, they will be allowed to have a maximum of three (3) substitute/spare players.</p> <p><b>These spares must be currently registered players in the league.</b></p> <p>A team can call in a spare when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It has less than nine (9) players</li> <li>● The main pitcher or catcher is absent or injured such that they cannot pitch or catch.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In either case, a team cannot use the same spare more than three (3) times during the regular season, regardless of the position they are called in to play. The game will be forfeited if a team is caught using the same spare more than three (3) times.</li> <li>• The spare usage count resets for the playoffs and a team cannot use the same spare more than three (3) times during the playoffs, regardless of the position they are called in to play. The game will be forfeited if a team is caught using the same spare more than three (3) times.</li> <li>• No team player shall be displaced (including alternate pitchers and catchers) from her position by a spare pitcher or catcher when the team can field nine or more regular team members.</li> </ul>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Eligibility for Playoffs</b>	<p>A player must play at least eight (8) games of the regular season to be eligible to play in the playoffs (the number of games may be waived by a vote of the Executive, in exceptional circumstances).</p> <p>For players joining the league partway through the season, playoff eligibility will be decided at the time of registration (no less than 60%).</p>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Grace Period</b>	<p>Players have a grace period of three complete innings to enter the game. The player must be placed at the bottom of the batting order. After the grace period, they can not enter the game.</p>
<b>3.4</b>	<b>No Show</b>	<p>Any player who cannot continue to play for the season must inform her Captain so that a replacement can be found. Players must advise their captains if they will be away on holidays or unavailable for a game.</p> <p>Any player missing three (3) games without notifying her Captain will automatically be removed from the league.</p>
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Medical Leave</b>	<p>If a player is injured or applies for medical leave of absence, the player will be granted leave of absence for one year and have the right to register as a returning player for the following season.</p> <p>If a player takes more than a year's leave, they will have to register as a new player when they return.</p>
<b>3.7</b>	<b>Game Protests</b>	<p>A protest for a misinterpretation of a playing rule, applying an incorrect rule to a situation, or imposing an incorrect penalty, must be respectfully addressed by the captain to the umpire and opposing team Captain before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the next pitch, or</li> <li>• all infielders have left the infield, or</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on the last play of the game before the umpire has left the field.</li> </ul> <p>Protests based solely on judgment, or the accuracy of a call cannot be protested. All protests will then be submitted by the protesting Captain to the President and/or Vice-President for appropriate action and final decision.</p>
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<b>Softball Canada Rule 4: Pitching</b>		
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Definitions</b>	
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Defensive Conference and Defensive Delay</b>	
<b>4.3</b>	<b>Legal Pitch Requirements</b>	
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Warm-Up Pitches</b>	
<b>4.5</b>	<b>No Pitch</b>	
<b>4.6</b>	<b>Dropped Ball</b>	
<b>4.7</b>	<b>Return of Pitcher</b>	
<b>4.8</b>	<b>Illegal Pitcher</b>	
<b>GCLSL Rule 4: Pitching</b>		
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Rules for Pitchers</b>	<p>Pitcher must have their front foot on the rubber at the start of the pitching motion and must stay within the width of the rubber and not pitch from the outer sides of the rubber. Secondary pitcher must pitch by the 4th inning.</p>

<b>Softball Canada Rule 5: Batting and Base Running</b>		
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Definitions</b>	
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Charged Offensive Conference</b>	
<b>5.3</b>	<b>On Deck Batter</b>	
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Batting</b>	
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Batter-Runner</b>	

	<i>Exceptions</i>	
	<b>5.5.1b)</b>	The batter may not run to first base on a dropped third strike.
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Double Base</b>	
<b>5.7</b>	<b>Using an Illegal Glove</b>	
<b>5.8</b>	<b>Removal of Helmet</b>	
<b>5.9</b>	<b>Touching Bases in Legal Order</b>	
<b>5.10</b>	<b>Runners</b>	
<b>5.11</b>	<b>Base Running Effects (Other than for Obstruction)</b>	
<b>GCLSL Rule 5: Batting and Base Running</b>		
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Everyone bats</b>	All players must be included in the batting rotation.
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Batting as a Spare Player</b>	Spare players must bat last in the batting order.
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Asking for a Runner</b>	A pinch runner must be requested by the batter prior to batting; OR a pinch runner can be requested due to injury incurred during the game. A pinch runner will be the last player out, NOT the last available runner.
<b>5.4</b>	<b>2 Out – Catcher/Pitcher Runner</b>	It is up to the Catcher’s/Pitcher’s discretion to use a Runner with two outs. It is NOT mandatory.