

Chicago Women's Baseball League Rulebook

Roster Management

Roster management refers to the rules governing the ways players may be added to a team roster.

The League Committee shall have the authority to oversee all player transactions. The League Committee has a duty to ensure that fair competition will prevail for the player(s), team(s) and the League as a whole. While reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate requests to play on a particular team, only those transactions that have a neutral or positive effect on league operations as a whole will be approved.

Goals

Player transactions and the rules governing them are designed to fulfill the following goals:

- **Competitive Teams** - The primary objective is ensuring all teams in the league have a roster that is capable of winning. While realizing that anything can happen once the game starts, the outcome of the league's games should not be a forgone conclusion just by looking at the schedule. If a team (or teams) has a "weak" roster (e.g. no pitchers) then steps will be taken to strengthen that team ahead of others. These steps can include: trades, extra picks at the top of the draft, and priority access to pool players in season. If a team needs to be strengthened via player trades, that burden will be shared amongst some or all of the remaining teams; building up one team will not come at the expense of weakening another.
- **Avoid Forfeits/Borrowing Players** – Minimum roster sizes will be set so that each team will have 11-12 players for each game.
- **No Player Left Behind** - The CWBL exists to provide an opportunity for women to play competitive baseball in the Chicagoland area. Whether by league expansion, replacement of retired/non-returning players, or other means, the league attempts to accommodate all applicants who are willing to make the time and financial commitment to play.
- **Future League Expansion** – The possibility of adding teams the following season will be taken into account when setting roster size goals. In years preceding expansion, roster sizes will be increased to increase the number of veterans for the following season.

Returning Players/Veteran Players (non-expansion years)

A player who participated in two or more games for a specific team the previous year is considered to be a member of that team unless she requests a trade or declares her intention to enter the draft, as described below, or fails to inform her manager that she will be playing by the specified date. **Note:** A team is defined as the team roster, not the continuity of the team's management, coaching staff and/or name.

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If a player wants to return to her current team, she must:

Tell her manager that she will be playing in the upcoming season no later than the annual draft day. Returning veterans who decide to play after the annual draft are considered new players and are subject to the rules for post-draft new players.

If a player wants to take the year off, but return the following season to her current team, she must:

Tell her manager that she will be not be playing in the upcoming season no later than the annual draft day. The player will be added to the team's inactive list for that season.

If a player chooses not to return to her current team, she can:

Re-enter the draft. Player must notify her team manager and the League Committee Chair no later than **21** days (or the date designated by the League Committee) before the pre-season draft and must attend a sanctioned tryout. **Note:** Player is eligible to be selected by her original team.

or

Request a trade. Request must be made through her team manager and copied to the League Committee Chair no later than **21** days (or the date designated by the League Committee) before the pre-season draft. If a trade cannot be made the player will be placed in the player pool for the draft.

New Players – Pre-Draft Day

All new players must attend a tryout in order to be placed on a team.

A player is eligible to participate in league-sanctioned tryouts as long as she has met the following requirements. Applicant must:

- A. Be female
- B. Have reached the age of 14 prior to 11:59 p.m. on March 15 of the calendar year of the league season and have consent of a parent/guardian if a minor. There is no maximum age.
- C. Have presented a valid ID indicating applicant meets age requirement.
- D. Have completed the necessary league paperwork, including waiver.
- E. Be available to play on any team that drafts her.

Reminder: While reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate requests to play on a particular team, only those transactions that have a neutral or positive effect on league operations as a whole will be approved.

New Players – Post-Draft Day

Players that would like to join the CWBL after the annual draft will be placed in the player pool and picked in continuation of the draft order, unless a team has a greater need for players due to injury, player loss, balance of talent, etc. Players will be accepted into the league until all rosters are full.

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Trades

The following persons must approve all trades:

1. Any and all *involved* parties
Exception: Trades on draft day before the rosters are approved involving players from the player pool do not require the consent of those parties.
2. Both managers

Trades must be reported in writing to the League Committee President before the players can participate in a league game with their new teams. The League Committee President (or a designee) will record the transaction in the league's records and inform all managers of the trade via email.

A returning player who requests a trade between seasons can be traded for a pick in the annual pre-season draft. Players cannot be traded for draft picks at any other time.

Tryouts

The CWBL will hold at least one tryout no later than six weeks prior to Opening Day at a location and time agreed to by a majority of the League Committee.

Managers and/or coaches of all teams will observe and evaluate the skill level, hustle and attitude of each person at the tryout. All players will be asked to throw, field and hit during the tryout. Pitchers and catchers will be evaluated on playing these positions as well. All applicants must put forth their reasonable best efforts during official tryouts.

Draft

The CWBL will hold an annual draft no later than six weeks prior to Opening Day at a location and time agreed to by a majority of the League Committee.

Pre-draft Meeting – To be scheduled at least two weeks prior to scheduled draft date and attended by the League Committee (or a subset of the League Committee to include at least the President and Secretary or their designees) and the Team Managers. The purpose of the meeting is to clarify what will happen during the draft. A simple majority is required to approve a measure. Each League Committee member and each team get one vote. Tasks include but are not limited to:

1. Establish the agenda for draft day
2. Submit and record the returning roster for each team. Note if a player will be declaring part-time status.
3. Create a list of veteran players that wish to be traded.
4. Conduct trades of veteran players.
5. Create list of veteran players who wish to join the draft.
6. Create list of new players. Note if any will be declaring part-time status.

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7. Create a sub-list of new players who have a relationship with a returning veteran and are requesting to be placed on a certain team. Conditionally approve as many picks as possible. These approvals will count as draft picks.
8. Determine how many pitchers and catchers each team has, based on their returning veterans and conditionally approved new players.
9. Determine necessity of Round 3 in the draft. If needed, specify picks granted in this round. Unless otherwise decided, any picks granted in this round will be taken from the player pool. Approve.
10. Set minimum and maximum roster sizes.
11. Determine the order of picks. (**This applies to all rounds.) The default order is reverse order of the regular season standings. (Last team picks first, first team picks last.) Determine if there exists a situation in which a team or teams will not get picks in certain rounds due to large differences in the number of players each team needs to add and/or due to the addition of new players directly added. Approve.
12. Approve any deviations from the draft procedure described in this document.

Draft Day Proceedings

Required Attendees

- At least one member of the League Committee
- Team Manager or designee

Pre-Draft Meeting Review

Note: If there was no pre-draft meeting, perform the tasks listed for that meeting prior to holding the draft.

1. Record any changes made to the following documents created and/or submitted at the pre-draft meeting:
 - a. Each team's roster of returning players.
 - b. Players seeking trades.
 - c. Veterans entering the draft.
 - d. New players with specific team requests.
 - e. Part-time status on all lists above.
2. Give formal approval to the new players added directly to teams during the pre-draft meeting as appropriate. Approve any new requests as appropriate. Each League Committee Member and each team get one vote.
3. Determine if the outcome of 1-2 above affects the proceedings of the draft. Negotiate changes if necessary.

Rounds 1-3

Purpose: The first three rounds of the draft are designed to give each team a chance to field a competitive team at the beginning of each season by ensuring that each has access to the skilled players, particularly pitchers and catchers, that it needs to maintain or strengthen its team.

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Counting Pitchers and Catchers: A player can be counted as both a pitcher and a catcher for the purpose of determining how many pitchers/catchers a team has. Declared part-time players who are pitchers/catchers will be counted as ½ a player. A player who is both a pitcher and a catcher will be counted as ½ a player in each category.

Round 1 Pitchers – All teams must have a minimum of 3 pitchers on staff. For the purpose of this determination, a pitcher is defined as someone who is capable of throwing strikes on a regular basis. Teams that do not have the minimum number will pick in a pre-determined order agreed to at the pre-draft meeting.

Round 2 Catchers – All teams must have a minimum of 2 catchers. Teams that do not have the minimum number will pick in a pre-determined order agreed to at the pre-draft meeting.

Round 3 Competitive Balance – If the strength of a team's (or teams') roster is out of sync with the other teams, a pick or picks are granted to such team/teams in this round. The need for this round will be determined at the pre-draft meeting. It is acceptable to draft pitchers and catchers first, then make a final determination about the need for this round before continuing the draft.

Rounds 4-End

The remaining rounds of the draft will place new players on teams that have space available. Teams must continue to select players until the agreed-upon minimum roster size is reached and all players have been drafted. (Note: If there are differences in roster numbers, each team will not necessarily pick in each round.)

After the Final Round

1. Rosters will be reviewed for accuracy.
2. Rosters will be reviewed to determine if the roster management goals of the CWBL were met. If not, make necessary changes.
3. Post-draft trades will be conducted, if applicable.
4. Rosters will be approved by the League Committee representative(s) and Team Managers in attendance.

In-Season Transactions

The League Secretary will maintain a list of all roster transactions (additions, removals, trades, inactive list) and email it to the League Committee and Managers each time a transaction occurs. This list will include the transaction(s) for that date, the roster count of all teams after the transaction(s) and projected picks from the in-season player pool

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based on the roster compositions as of that date. See CWBL Transactions Template for format.

Substitute Pool

The League Secretary will maintain a list of all players who request to be in the sub pool and distribute the list to the team managers. See CWBL Substitutes Template for format.