



Official Rules 2026

→ TCBL

Introduction

Welcome to the Toronto Chinese Basketball League (TCBL) Official Rule Book. This comprehensive guide serves as the definitive resource for all participants involved in our league. Designed to uphold the principles of fair play, sportsmanship, and a secure environment, these rules establish the framework that governs player conduct, game procedures, and league administration. By familiarizing yourself with the regulations outlined in this rule book, you contribute to the integrity and success of TCBL, ensuring a season marked by competitive spirit, respect, and the joy of basketball. Thank you for your commitment to upholding the standards of TCBL, and may this rule book be your reference.

Table of Contents

- Zero Tolerance:
 - Emphasizes a strict policy against fighting, harassment, and verbal abuse.
 - Outlines consequences for offenders, including ejections and potential bans.
 - Clarifies the role of officials in enforcing the zero-tolerance rule.
- League Rules:
 - Establishes playoff eligibility criteria, emphasizing minimum game participation.
 - Outlines team roster submission deadlines and communication protocols.
 - Introduces substitution rules and guidelines for overtime scenarios.
- Game Format:
 - Describes various league formats based on the number of teams.
 - Structure of the regular season, playoff formats, and tiebreaker rules.

ZERO TOLERANCE



In adherence to our commitment to fostering a safe and respectful environment for all participants, we would like to communicate our updated and comprehensive Zero Tolerance Policy. The following guidelines have been established to address instances of fighting, harassment, racial slurs, and verbal abuse during TCBL events:

Fighting and Verbal Abuse

- Any form of fighting, harassment, racial slurs, or verbal abuse directed towards players, staff, referees, and spectators is strictly prohibited.
- Officials are empowered to issue technical/flagrant fouls and eject individuals (players, coaches, and fans) involved in such incidents from the game.

Consequences

- Any player ejected from a game will incur an automatic one-game suspension.
- Each case will be thoroughly reviewed by TCBL to determine the appropriate course of action.
- TCBL reserves the right to ban repeat offenders without offering a refund.

Specific Instances

In cases of physical altercations:

- Ejected players will face an automatic one-game suspension.
- Any member involved in fighting will be suspended for three games without a refund.
- TCBL retains the right to conduct a detailed review, in collaboration with on-site staff and referees, to consider additional suspensions or the removal of teams/players from the league with no refund.

Officiating Standards

- Officials are mandated to eject any player throwing a punch, irrespective of whether it connects. The same applies to elbow contact above shoulder level.
- Elbow contact at or below shoulder level is subject to the official's discretion regarding ejection.
- Even if a punch or elbow is initially undetected but revealed during video review, the player in question will face penalties, including a warning or a one-game suspension.

LEAGUE POLICIES & ADMINISTRATION



These rules serve as the foundation upon which the league's integrity is built, providing a clear and standardized structure for gameplay, player conduct, and overall league administration. Emphasizing principles of sportsmanship, respect, and strategic competition, TCBL's rules are meticulously crafted to ensure a level playing field.

Uniform Requirement

- All players must wear proper, matching team uniforms.
- Players without the correct uniform cannot play unless they pay a \$20 uniform fine.

Roster Management

- Each season requires a newly submitted team roster
- Rosters from previous seasons do not carry over.
- Players not listed on the official roster cannot play.
- To receive assistance with roster completion, teams may submit players' full names, email addresses, and jersey numbers to tcblbasketball@gmail.com. The TCBL team will prepare the roster and provide a confirmation for review.

Scheduling Requests

- Email all scheduling requests to tcblbasketball@gmail.com
- Rosters or requests sent via WeChat, text message, or other messaging platforms will not be accepted or deemed valid.

Players on Multiple Teams

- Players participating on multiple teams must submit their information separately for each team to tcblbasketball@gmail.com.
- Submissions from previous seasons do not carry over.

LEAGUE RULES



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Game Length

- Two 20-Minute Halves
- Last 20 Seconds of the 1st Half: The game clock will transition to stop time during the last 20 seconds of the first half.
- Last 2 Minutes of the 2nd Half (Within 10 Points): In the second half, the game clock will shift to stop time during the last two minutes of play, provided the point difference between teams is within 10 points.
- Last 1 Minute of the 2nd Half on Made Basket: In instances where the point difference is within 10 points during the last minute of the second half, the game clock will stop upon a made basket.

Timeout

- FIBA rules apply.
- Timeouts may only be called during a dead ball.
- Each team is allotted two (2) timeouts per half.
- During overtime, each team is granted one (1) timeout.
- Unused timeouts do not carry over from regulation into overtime.
- Timeouts may not be called between two free throws.

Shot Clock

- 30 seconds shot clock.

Penalty

- The penalty is awarded upon a team's 8th team foul in a half.
- Once in the bonus, the opposing team is awarded two (2) free throws.

Overtime

- Regular Season: The first overtime period will be played under sudden-death rules.
- Playoffs: Overtime will be played in two (2)-minute periods and will continue until a winner is determined.

Team Size

- Teams are permitted to have a maximum of 12 players on their roster.
- Teams are advised to adhere to this team size limit to maintain the integrity and competitive spirit of TCBL games.

Substitution

- Anytime the Ball is Out of Bounds: Substitutions can be executed at any dead ball situation, including throw-ins, after a made basket, or when a team gains possession after a defensive stop.
- Timeouts: Teams are granted the opportunity to make player substitutions during timeouts.
- Free Throws: Substitutions are permitted both before the first attempt and after the last attempt in a free-throw sequence.

Bench

- Eligible Bench Occupants: Only registered players and designated coaches are permitted to occupy the team bench during games. Registered players are those officially listed on the team roster, while designated coaches must be registered with the league before the second week of the regular season.
- Non-Registered Individuals and Fans: Non-registered players, non-registered coaches (not registered before week two), and fans are expressly prohibited from sitting on the team bench. This restriction ensures that only actively participating players and officially recognized coaches have access to the bench area.

Late/Forfeits

- A minimum of five (5) players is required for a team to start a game.
- If a team arrives 15 minutes or less after the scheduled start time, the game will begin as scheduled, and the non-offending team will be awarded two (2) points per minute.
- If a team arrives more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, the game will be forfeited. In the event of a forfeit:
 - The game will be recorded as a loss for the offending team.
 - A \$150 fine must be paid via EMT to tcblbasketball@gmail.com prior to the team's next game.
- Teams anticipating a forfeit must notify the league by Friday at midnight preceding the scheduled game to avoid penalties.

Playoff Or Play-In Eligibility Criteria

- The regular season consists of seven (7) games.
- Players must participate in a minimum of three (3) regular-season games to be eligible for playoff or play-in competition.
- If a player is unable to meet the minimum game requirement due to injury or vacation, the player must submit an exception request via email to tcblbasketball@gmail.com, subject to league review and approval.
- All players must be officially listed on the team roster to participate in playoff
- All roster-related communication, including exception requests, must be submitted by email to tcblbasketball@gmail.com. Rosters or requests sent via WeChat, text message, or other messaging platforms will not be accepted or deemed valid.
- Any team found using a non-registered player in a playoff or play-in game will result in an automatic game forfeiture, with no exceptions.

Playoff Seeding - Tie Breaker

- Determined only by point differential, not head-to-head results

