

2026 Spring Season

Cactus Cities Softball League

Coach & Manager Packet



Cactus Cities Softball League ("CCSL")

CCSL is thrilled to welcome you, your players, families, and fans to a season filled with fun, camaraderie, and, of course, softball! We're excited to return to the fields and hope you share our enthusiasm. Before we get started, let's go over some key responsibilities you, as coaches and managers, are committing to this season.

1. Communication

The League will share updates and important information throughout the season via:

- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CactusCities>
- Website: www.cactuscities.com
- Instagram: @cactuscityessoftballaz
- Email: Periodic messages sent to coaches, managers, and registered players.
- Crossbar calendar

It is your responsibility to share this information with your players promptly! Please prioritize keeping your team informed about League news and updates. Encourage players to actively check the League website and social media pages for the latest information.

We have made significant efforts to improve communication, and your support in this process is essential.

2026 Spring Game Rules - are available at CactusCities.com > About Us > League Documents

2. Dates of Play/Events

Sunday January 4, 2026 - Week 1 CCSL Spring Season, Cesar Chavez
Sunday January 11, 2026 - Week 2 CCSL Spring Season, Cesar Chavez
Sunday January 18, 2026 - **LEAGUE BYE - NO GAMES - MLK WEEKEND**
Sunday January 25, 2026 - Week 3 CCSL Spring Season, Cesar Chavez
Sunday February 1, 2026 - Week 4 CCSL Spring Season, Cesar Chavez
Sunday February 8, 2026 - Week 5 CCSL Spring Season, Cesar Chavez
Sunday February 15, 2026 - Week 6 CCSL Spring Season, Cesar Chavez
Sunday February 22, 2026 - Week 7 CCSL Spring Season, Cesar Chavez
Sunday March 1, 2026 - Week 8 CCSL Spring Season, Cesar Chavez
Sunday March 8, 2026 - Week 9 CCSL Spring Season, Cesar Chavez
Sunday March 15, 2026 - Week 10 CCSL Spring Season, Cesar Chavez
Sunday March 22, 2026 - RAINOUT MAKEUP GAMES

Events: List not all inclusive. Additional events to be added later.

Saturday January 2, 2026 - CCSL Spring Social, Charlie's Phoenix
Sunday January 11, 2026 - Sunday Social, Nu Towne Saloon
Sunday January 25, 2026 - Sunday Social,
Sunday February 1, 2026- Sunday Social,
Sunday February 8, 2026 - Sunday Social, Nu Towne Saloon
Saturday February 14 & Sunday February 15, 2026 - AZ Gay Rodeo, Corona Ranch
Sunday February 15, 2026 - Rodeo Social, Corona Ranch (Family Event)
Sunday February 22, 2026 - Sunday Social,
Sunday March 1, 2026 - Sunday Social,
Sunday March 8, 2026 - Sunday Social,
Sunday March 15, 2026 - Sunday Social, Nu Towne Saloon
Sunday March 22, 2026 - Season Closing Party - Charlie's Phoenix
Sunday March 28, 2026 - 17th Annual Marla Hooch Chili Cook-Off - Pat O's Bunkhouse Saloon
Friday April 10 to Sunday April 12, 2026 - Saguaro Cup Sports Festival

3. Roster/Liability Waiver/Code of Conduct

Players must register, pay the player fee, and complete the liability release online using the automated system. If a player has previously signed liability waivers and releases through CrossBar, those remain valid. Players can review waivers/releases online anytime via a provided link after registering for the season.

Each player is required to have their own individual account and email address. We will be utilizing CrossBar for all registrations. When a player creates their free account and registers, they will enter and save their personal information, review, and sign any required waivers or releases, and pay the player registration, officially completing their registration.

Important Notes:

Players who have not electronically signed the required forms and/or paid the player fee will be considered ineligible.

Any team that includes an ineligible player on a lineup sheet will forfeit all games in which that player participated. To avoid forfeits, please ensure your players are fully registered, fees are paid, and all forms are signed before they step onto the field.

Code of Conduct

All players and league members are required to uphold the CCSL Code of Conduct and display good sportsmanship throughout all league events and games. The Code of Conduct can be accessed online at CactusCities.com > About > League Documents. Violations may result in administrative action, including suspension or removal from CCSL.

4. Player Ratings Process (NEW FOR 2026)

The 2026 season introduces a new ratings system to make the process simpler and more transparent.

- Coaches must identify each player as either "New" or "Returning" when submitting their team roster.
- Returning players will carry over their 2025 ratings (the league will populate these)
- New players must be rated by the coach upon roster submission.
- The CCSL Team Roster Rating Sheet template can be accessed online at CactusCities.com > About > League Documents
- *Coaches are strongly encouraged to keep **detailed score books** during the season, as video evidence is now a standard component for protests at GSWS. CCSL coaches are advised to become familiar with this process.*

Ratings for new players will be evaluated throughout the season for accuracy by the CCSL Board.

If any player wishes to request a personal ratings change:

- They may email ccslboard@cactuscities.com
- Include:
 - The specific questions they wish to adjust
 - A brief explanation for each requested change

All personal requests will be reviewed by the CCSL Board, and approved changes will be reflected in official records. End-of-season ratings become the baseline for 2027.

Rating Adjustment requests to a change another player's rating must be

sent in writing to ccslboard@cactuscities.com. The adjustment request should include a detailed explanation and substantial supporting evidence.

Ratings Adjustment Deadlines

- **Your Team:** February 15, 2026
- **Another Team:** February 15, 2026

Adjustment Process

1. Adjustment and CCSL Board Review:

- a. Adjustment requests will be reviewed by the CCSL Board.
- b. The CCSL Board may include other coaches and players from the division, prioritizing those who have already played against the player in question.
- c. A decision will be made within **two game days (Sundays)** of the submission.
- d. If the adjustment request is submitted by a different team, the coach of the player in question will be given an opportunity to appeal.

Post-Adjustment Options for Players Over Division Limits

If a successful adjustment moves a player over the division limit, the player has two options:

1. Remain with the Current Team:

- a. At the discretion of the Competition Director;
 - i. The player may continue playing with their current team for the remainder of the season
 - ii. May not be eligible to continue in the season with that team
 - iii. Regardless of the outcome the player will not be allowed to play in GSWS for any team in that division
 - iv. Player is required to move up to the next appropriate division

2. Switch Teams:

- a. The player may transfer to a team in the appropriate division.

4. Roster Close

Teams have three (3) weeks to add/drop players from rosters. This means by the end of the day on January 25, 2026. Roster changes after this date may be submitted for consideration by email to

ccslboard@cactuscities.com or presented in person at any monthly CCSL Commission Meeting.

5. Forfeits & Fines

Each team is allowed **one (1) courtesy forfeit day** per season, provided notice is given to the board at least **48 hours** before the scheduled start time of the forfeited game. Notice must be submitted in writing via email to ccslboard@cactuscities.com

Forfeits beyond courtesy forfeit or those with improper notice will incur a **\$60 fine per forfeited game**. Payment of all forfeit fines must be made **before your team's next scheduled game the following week** using one of the following methods:

- **Zelle** (preferred and exclusively for forfeit fines)
- **Cashier's check**
- **Money order**

The league does **not** accept cash or Venmo as payment.

If the fine is not paid on time:

- a. Your team will be prohibited from taking the field until payment is made.
- b. Each additional game missed due to unpaid fines will also be recorded as a forfeit.

6. Uniforms

We recognize that there are new teams and many new players in the league. As a result, all teams will have until **Week 3 games on January 25, 2026**, to comply with the uniform rules.

1. Base Color Consistency:

- Players must wear uniforms of the same base color.
- Shirts may include tank tops, t-shirts, jerseys, etc.
- Bottoms may include pants or shorts.

2. Numbering Requirements:

- Uniforms must display a clearly identifiable whole number on the back, at least **6 inches high** and in a contrasting color that is visible during gameplay.
- No two players may have identical numbers (e.g., numbers 0 and 00 are not allowed on the same team).
- Numbers must be **permanently attached** (e.g., no tape or temporary modifications).

3. Additional Notes:

- Outerwear is allowed if it matches the team's base color and does not create confusion about team affiliation.

- Umpires have final discretion on whether uniforms comply with these rules during games.
- Any hat may be worn so long as it does not have a neck string. (Umpire discretion)

4. **Jewelry and Accessories:**

- All exposed jewelry and loose accessories must be removed before the game.
- Medical alert bracelets are permitted but must be secured to the body.
- Non-removable jewelry must be **concealed** (e.g., taped over). These rules ensure fairness, safety, and consistency across all teams.

7. **Line-Up Sheets**

As Spring is a competitive play season, the league must verify the eligibility of all players participating in the 2026 iPride GSWS. **The use of line-up sheets is mandatory.** Line-up sheets will be provided by the league and must be **fully completed before the start of each game.** The following information is required on every line-up sheet:

Required Information:

a. **Legal Name of Player:**

- The name as it appears on the player's state-issued ID.
- Complete first and last names are preferred, but at minimum, the last name and first initial must be included. (This is also noted on the line-up sheet.)

b. **Uniform Number**

c. **Position** (Optional)

d. **Substitution Players:**

- Include the legal names and uniform numbers of all substitution players.
- Substitution players must be physically present at the start of the game to be listed.
- Do not list any player on the lineup who is not present in the dugout.
- Players who arrive after the start of game time may be added as a substitute.

Important Rules:

- **A roster may contain an unlimited number of non-LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning) players; however, as per the most current International Pride Softball Bylaws, no more than three (3) non-LGBTQ rostered players may be on the field or in any batting lineup in any game at any given time. CCSL Bylaws are available at CactusCities.com > About Us > League Documents**
- **All players listed on a line-up sheet must be a registered player for the current CCSL season, no exceptions.**
- Players must be rostered to the team and comply with divisional ratings guidelines, regardless of whether the game is divisional or non-divisional.
- Failure to comply with these requirements will result in a **forfeited game.**

9. Umpire fees

Umpire fees will be paid at the plate again this year. \$15 per game will be collected PRIOR to the game starting. Coaches should have all umpire Venmo and/or Zelle accounts by now. We have all previous umpires returning. Please DO NOT delay game due to umpire fees needing to be paid. This can be done prior to the manager meeting at the plate.

8. Bases & Other Equipment

If your team is scheduled for the first or last game of the day, we kindly ask for your assistance with the following tasks:

- Setting up or taking down bases.
- Assembling or disassembling pop-up tents, sponsor banners, and folding tables.
- Putting up flyers.
- Carrying equipment to and from the fields and the parking lot.

As a completely volunteer-run organization, we appreciate your help in making operations smooth for everyone.

For teams playing the last game of the day, please also assist in keeping the facilities and dugouts clean by picking up any trash or debris. Let's work together to ensure clean, welcoming dugouts for all players. Your cooperation makes an enormous difference!

9. GSWS Berths/Declaring Intent to Attend the GSWS

CCSL has been awarded several berths to the 2026 Gay Softball World Series ("GSWS"). To ensure strong representation at this national tournament, teams must officially declare their intent to attend GSWS by **January 25, 2026**. This can be done by completing form available CactusCities.com > About Us > League Documents

Before declaring intent, teams should thoroughly understand the

expenses involved in traveling to a large national tournament and be prepared to cover these costs independently. While CCSL has budgeted to cover the GSWS entry fee for participating teams, the **host hotel deposit**, currently set at **\$500 per team**, will need to be paid directly by the teams.

We look forward to having our league proudly represented on the national stage!

2026 CCSL iPride GSWS Berths

- A
- B
- Legends C
 - No berth limit
 - If multiple teams commit, each team limited to 4 pick-ups
- C
- Legends D
 - No berth limit
 - If multiple teams commit, each team limited to 4 pick-ups
- D (2)
- E (2)

10. Monthly CCSL Commission Meetings

During competitive play seasons, each registered team receives a vote on all matters that come before the league. You are strongly encouraged to be present at and take an active part in each monthly commission meeting. Each meeting is scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The specific times and locations are posted on the CCSL website cactuscities.com. If a meeting date/time needs to be adjusted, it will appear in the events calendar on CactusCities.com / Crossbar.

Please tell us of any questions. Good luck and have fun this season!

Sincerely,

Commissioner - Len Branham
Assistant Commissioner - Devin Benham
Competition Director - Jeff Baranczyk
Secretary - Brian Kelly
Treasurer - Carrie Conner
Assistant Treasurer - Brian Pierce
Events Director - Dustin Jones
Outreach Director - Jason Blake
Umpire in Chief - Cody Anderegg