

CBSL Playoff Format and Schedule Framework

1. Playoff Eligibility

All teams are expected to make every reasonable effort to complete their full 10-game regular season schedule. This includes working with opposing coaches and town coordinators to reschedule postponed or incomplete games, including the use of weekends when necessary.

For the A divisions, a team must complete a minimum of 8 regular season games to be eligible for playoff qualification. The Board has elected to set this minimum due to the scheduling challenges created by district tournament play and the number of players participating in both district and summer league baseball. For the B divisions, a team must complete a minimum of 9 regular season games to be eligible for playoff qualification.

Prior to finalizing playoff brackets, the League will confirm with each team that qualifies for the postseason that the team is able and willing to participate for the full duration of the postseason, including all rounds through the championship game if the team continues to advance. This confirmation is intended to avoid situations where a team enters the postseason but is later unable to complete the bracket or participate in a championship game.

If a qualifying team declines postseason participation, or confirms that it cannot participate for the full postseason, that team will be removed from the playoff field. All remaining qualifying teams will slide up in the seeding order, and the next eligible and qualifying team will be added to the bracket as the lowest seed.

2. Playoff Field

Division	Structure	Qualification Rule	Format	Bracket Games
9A	3 regions	Top 3 from each region; Seeds 8/9 play-in	Single elimination	8 total games incl. play-in
9B	4 regions	Top 2 from each region	Modified double elimination	14 games
10A	3 regions	Top 3 from each region; Seeds 8/9 play-in	Single elimination	8 total games incl. play-in
10B	3 regions	Top 2 from each region plus 2 wildcards	Modified double elimination	14 games
11A	2 regions	Top 4 from each region	Single elimination	7 games
11B	3 regions	Top 2 from each region plus 2 wildcards	Modified double elimination	14 games
12A	2 regions	Top 4 from each region	Single elimination	7 games
12B	3 regions	Top 2 from each region plus 2 wildcards	Modified double elimination	14 games

Playoff Qualification

The table below shows the number of teams that qualify for the postseason in each division:

Division	Total Teams	Playoff Teams
9A	26	9
9B	29	8
10A	26	9
10B	29	8
11A	18	8
11B	26	8
12A	17	8
12B	26	8

2. How Teams Qualify

Division Structure	Qualification Rule	Main Bracket Result
2 regions	Top 4 from each region	8 total teams
3 regions - A divisions	Top 3 from each region; Seeds 8 and 9 play a play-in game	9 teams qualify; 8 teams enter the main bracket
3 regions - B divisions	Top 2 from each region plus 2 wildcards	8 total teams
4 regions - 9B	Top 2 from each region	8 total teams

For three-region A divisions (9A and 10A), use the top 3 teams from each region. This creates a 9-team postseason field with Seeds 8 and 9 playing a play-in game for the final spot in the 8-team main bracket. For three-region B divisions (10B, 11B, and 12B), qualify 8 teams only by taking the top 2 teams from each region plus the next 2 best remaining teams as wildcards. For 9B, which has four regions, qualify the top 2 teams from each region.

- A division automatic qualifiers for 9A and 10A: the top 3 teams from each of the three regions.
- B division automatic qualifiers: for three-region B divisions, the top 2 teams from each region plus 2 wildcards based on overall regular-season record; for 9B, the top 2 teams from each of the four regions.
- Region winners receive the highest available seeds and are seeded above non-region winners.
- After region winners are seeded, remaining qualifying teams are seeded by overall regular-season record, using the tiebreakers below as needed.
- Seeds 8 and 9 play a play-in game only in three-region A divisions, currently 9A and 10A. The higher seed hosts unless the Board assigns a neutral site.
- Avoid first-round games between teams from the same region when reasonably possible, but do not reseed the entire bracket if it creates a larger issue.

2. Tiebreakers

Standings and playoff seeding are based first on regular-season winning percentage. The tiebreakers below apply only when two or more teams are tied by winning percentage.

Two-team ties

1. Head-to-head record, if the tied teams played each other.
2. Region record.
3. Fewest runs allowed per game.
4. Coin flip.

Multi-team ties

1. Head-to-head mini-standings among the tied teams, if all tied teams played each other.
 - a. If all tied teams did not play each other, skip this step.
2. Region record.
3. Fewest runs allowed per game.
4. Run differential
5. Coin flip.

For multi-team ties, the tiebreaker should be used to rank the tied teams in order. If a tiebreaker advances or eliminates one team and other teams remain tied, reset the process and apply the appropriate two-team or multi-team tiebreaker to the remaining tied teams. Runs allowed and run differential should be calculated on a per-game basis to account for teams that may not have played the same number of regular-season games.

4. Hosting and Site Rules

- Play-in games, where used, are hosted by the higher seed unless the Board assigns a neutral site.
- Games before the semifinal stage are hosted by the higher seed.
- Semifinals are played at neutral sites assigned by the Board and listed in the bracket tables below.
- Championship games are played in Braintree.
- B divisions use modified double elimination with no “if necessary” championship game. The championship game is winner-take-all.
- Colonial Baseball will assign and pay for umpires for the semi-final and final rounds.

5. Championship Schedule

Date	Start Time	Division	Site
Wednesday 8/5	5:30 PM	9A Championship	Braintree
Wednesday 8/5	5:50 PM	10A Championship	Braintree
Wednesday 8/5	6:10 PM	11A Championship	Braintree
Wednesday 8/5	6:30 PM	12A Championship	Braintree
Thursday 8/6	5:30 PM	9B Championship	Braintree
Thursday 8/6	5:50 PM	10B Championship	Braintree
Thursday 8/6	6:10 PM	11B Championship	Braintree
Thursday 8/6	6:30 PM	12B Championship	Braintree

Semifinal Site Assignments

All semifinal and semifinal-stage games are scheduled for Monday 8/3. The neutral-site assignments below match the site allocation of 2 games in Needham, 4 games in Walpole, 6 games in Milton, and 4 games in Hingham. Assignments subject to change depending on teams in each game to maintain neutral field.

Division	Game	Matchup	Site
9A	9A-5	Winner 9A-1 vs Winner 9A-2	Milton
9A	9A-6	Winner 9A-3 vs Winner 9A-4	Walpole
10A	10A-5	Winner 10A-1 vs Winner 10A-2	Milton
10A	10A-6	Winner 10A-3 vs Winner 10A-4	Walpole
11A	11A-5	Winner 11A-1 vs Winner 11A-2	Needham
11A	11A-6	Winner 11A-3 vs Winner 11A-4	Hingham
12A	12A-5	Winner 12A-1 vs Winner 12A-2	Milton
12A	12A-6	Winner 12A-3 vs Winner 12A-4	Milton
9B	9B-11	Winner 9B-7 vs Winner 9B-8	Milton
9B	9B-12	Winner 9B-9 vs Winner 9B-10	Needham
10B	10B-11	Winner 10B-7 vs Winner 10B-8	Hingham
10B	10B-12	Winner 10B-9 vs Winner 10B-10	Milton
11B	11B-11	Winner 11B-7 vs Winner 11B-8	Hingham
11B	11B-12	Winner 11B-9 vs Winner 11B-10	Walpole
12B	12B-11	Winner 12B-7 vs Winner 12B-8	Walpole
12B	12B-12	Winner 12B-9 vs Winner 12B-10	Hingham

5. A Division Brackets - Single Elimination

A division regular-season play ends Wednesday 7/29. A divisions are single elimination. In three-region A divisions, Seeds 8 and 9 play a play-in game before the quarterfinals. All A division championships are scheduled for Wednesday 8/5 at Board Host Town fields.

9A Bracket

Game	Date	Round	Matchup	Site
9A-0	Thu 7/30	Play-In	Seed 8 vs Seed 9	Higher seed
9A-1	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 1 vs Winner 9A-0	Higher seed
9A-2	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 4 vs Seed 5	Higher seed
9A-3	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 3 vs Seed 6	Higher seed
9A-4	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 2 vs Seed 7	Higher seed
9A-5	Mon 8/3	Semifinal	Winner 9A-1 vs Winner 9A-2	Milton
9A-6	Mon 8/3	Semifinal	Winner 9A-3 vs Winner 9A-4	Walpole
9A-7	Wed 8/5	Championship	Winner 9A-5 vs Winner 9A-6	Braintree, 5:30 PM

10A Bracket

Game	Date	Round	Matchup	Site
10A-0	Thu 7/30	Play-In	Seed 8 vs Seed 9	Higher seed
10A-1	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 1 vs Winner 10A-0	Higher seed
10A-2	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 4 vs Seed 5	Higher seed
10A-3	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 3 vs Seed 6	Higher seed
10A-4	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 2 vs Seed 7	Higher seed
10A-5	Mon 8/3	Semifinal	Winner 10A-1 vs Winner 10A-2	Milton
10A-6	Mon 8/3	Semifinal	Winner 10A-3 vs Winner 10A-4	Walpole
10A-7	Wed 8/5	Championship	Winner 10A-5 vs Winner 10A-6	Braintree, 5:50 PM

11A Bracket

Game	Date	Round	Matchup	Site
11A-1	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 1 vs Seed 8	Higher seed
11A-2	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 4 vs Seed 5	Higher seed
11A-3	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 3 vs Seed 6	Higher seed
11A-4	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 2 vs Seed 7	Higher seed
11A-5	Mon 8/3	Semifinal	Winner 11A-1 vs Winner 11A-2	Needham
11A-6	Mon 8/3	Semifinal	Winner 11A-3 vs Winner 11A-4	Hingham
11A-7	Wed 8/5	Championship	Winner 11A-5 vs Winner 11A-6	Braintree, 6:10 PM

12A Bracket

Game	Date	Round	Matchup	Site
12A-1	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 1 vs Seed 8	Higher seed
12A-2	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 4 vs Seed 5	Higher seed
12A-3	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 3 vs Seed 6	Higher seed
12A-4	Fri 7/31	Quarterfinal	Seed 2 vs Seed 7	Higher seed
12A-5	Mon 8/3	Semifinal	Winner 12A-1 vs Winner 12A-2	Milton
12A-6	Mon 8/3	Semifinal	Winner 12A-3 vs Winner 12A-4	Milton
12A-7	Wed 8/5	Championship	Winner 12A-5 vs Winner 12A-6	Braintree, 6:30 PM

6. B Division Brackets - Modified Double Elimination

B division regular-season play ends Friday 7/24. B divisions use 8-team playoff fields only, with no play-in game. Games 1-10 are hosted by the higher seed. Games 11-13 are the semifinal/final qualifier stage at neutral sites. Game 14 is the championship in Braintree.

9B Bracket

Game	Date	Round	Matchup	Site
9B-1	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 1 vs Seed 8	Higher seed
9B-2	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 4 vs Seed 5	Higher seed
9B-3	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 3 vs Seed 6	Higher seed
9B-4	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 2 vs Seed 7	Higher seed
9B-5	Tue 7/28	Loser Bracket R1	Loser 9B-1 vs Loser 9B-2	Higher seed
9B-6	Tue 7/28	Loser Bracket R1	Loser 9B-3 vs Loser 9B-4	Higher seed
9B-7	Tue 7/28	Winner Bracket Semifinal	Winner 9B-1 vs Winner 9B-2	Higher seed
9B-8	Tue 7/28	Winner Bracket Semifinal	Winner 9B-3 vs Winner 9B-4	Higher seed
9B-9	Thu 7/30	Loser Bracket R2	Winner 9B-5 vs Loser 9B-8	Higher seed
9B-10	Thu 7/30	Loser Bracket R2	Winner 9B-6 vs Loser 9B-7	Higher seed
9B-11	Mon 8/3	Semifinal Stage	Winner 9B-7 vs Winner 9B-8	Milton
9B-12	Mon 8/3	Semifinal Stage	Winner 9B-9 vs Winner 9B-10	Needham
9B-13	Tue 8/4	Final Qualifier	Loser 9B-11 vs Winner 9B-12	Dorchester
9B-14	Thu 8/6	Championship	Winner 9B-11 vs Winner 9B-13	Braintree, 5:30 PM

10B Bracket

Game	Date	Round	Matchup	Site
10B-1	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 1 vs Seed 8	Higher seed
10B-2	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 4 vs Seed 5	Higher seed
10B-3	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 3 vs Seed 6	Higher seed
10B-4	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 2 vs Seed 7	Higher seed
10B-5	Tue 7/28	Loser Bracket R1	Loser 10B-1 vs Loser 10B-2	Higher seed
10B-6	Tue 7/28	Loser Bracket R1	Loser 10B-3 vs Loser 10B-4	Higher seed
10B-7	Tue 7/28	Winner Bracket Semifinal	Winner 10B-1 vs Winner 10B-2	Higher seed
10B-8	Tue 7/28	Winner Bracket Semifinal	Winner 10B-3 vs Winner 10B-4	Higher seed
10B-9	Thu 7/30	Loser Bracket R2	Winner 10B-5 vs Loser 10B-8	Higher seed
10B-10	Thu 7/30	Loser Bracket R2	Winner 10B-6 vs Loser 10B-7	Higher seed
10B-11	Mon 8/3	Semifinal Stage	Winner 10B-7 vs Winner 10B-8	Hingham
10B-12	Mon 8/3	Semifinal Stage	Winner 10B-9 vs Winner 10B-10	Milton
10B-13	Tue 8/4	Final Qualifier	Loser 10B-11 vs Winner 10B-12	Dorchester
10B-14	Thu 8/6	Championship	Winner 10B-11 vs Winner 10B-13	Braintree, 5:50 PM

11B Bracket

Game	Date	Round	Matchup	Site
11B-1	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 1 vs Seed 8	Higher seed
11B-2	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 4 vs Seed 5	Higher seed
11B-3	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 3 vs Seed 6	Higher seed
11B-4	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 2 vs Seed 7	Higher seed
11B-5	Tue 7/28	Loser Bracket R1	Loser 11B-1 vs Loser 11B-2	Higher seed
11B-6	Tue 7/28	Loser Bracket R1	Loser 11B-3 vs Loser 11B-4	Higher seed
11B-7	Tue 7/28	Winner Bracket Semifinal	Winner 11B-1 vs Winner 11B-2	Higher seed
11B-8	Tue 7/28	Winner Bracket Semifinal	Winner 11B-3 vs Winner 11B-4	Higher seed
11B-9	Thu 7/30	Loser Bracket R2	Winner 11B-5 vs Loser 11B-8	Higher seed
11B-10	Thu 7/30	Loser Bracket R2	Winner 11B-6 vs Loser 11B-7	Higher seed
11B-11	Mon 8/3	Semifinal Stage	Winner 11B-7 vs Winner 11B-8	Hingham
11B-12	Mon 8/3	Semifinal Stage	Winner 11B-9 vs Winner 11B-10	Walpole
11B-13	Tue 8/4	Final Qualifier	Loser 11B-11 vs Winner 11B-12	Canton
11B-14	Thu 8/6	Championship	Winner 11B-11 vs Winner 11B-13	Braintree, 6:10 PM

12B Bracket

Game	Date	Round	Matchup	Site
12B-1	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 1 vs Seed 8	Higher seed
12B-2	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 4 vs Seed 5	Higher seed
12B-3	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 3 vs Seed 6	Higher seed
12B-4	Mon 7/27	Winner Bracket R1	Seed 2 vs Seed 7	Higher seed
12B-5	Tue 7/28	Loser Bracket R1	Loser 12B-1 vs Loser 12B-2	Higher seed
12B-6	Tue 7/28	Loser Bracket R1	Loser 12B-3 vs Loser 12B-4	Higher seed
12B-7	Tue 7/28	Winner Bracket Semifinal	Winner 12B-1 vs Winner 12B-2	Higher seed
12B-8	Tue 7/28	Winner Bracket Semifinal	Winner 12B-3 vs Winner 12B-4	Higher seed
12B-9	Thu 7/30	Loser Bracket R2	Winner 12B-5 vs Loser 12B-8	Higher seed
12B-10	Thu 7/30	Loser Bracket R2	Winner 12B-6 vs Loser 12B-7	Higher seed
12B-11	Mon 8/3	Semifinal Stage	Winner 12B-7 vs Winner 12B-8	Walpole
12B-12	Mon 8/3	Semifinal Stage	Winner 12B-9 vs Winner 12B-10	Hingham
12B-13	Tue 8/4	Final Qualifier	Loser 12B-11 vs Winner 12B-12	Canton
12B-14	Thu 8/6	Championship	Winner 12B-11 vs Winner 12B-13	Braintree, 6:30 PM