

CBS Minor Baseball Association

Female Baseball Report – 2025

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting
Conception Bay South Kiwanis Minor Baseball Association

Overview

The 2025 season represented another year of growth for female baseball in Conception Bay South, this was demonstrated in overall registration and in program depth. CBS has a long history of female participation across many co-ed age divisions. This season, however, marked a notable increase in overall female player registration, reflecting both the strong community interest and the success of our sustained development efforts over the past three years.

Across the association, total player registrations increased from 289 in 2024 to 366 in 2025, a 27% overall rise. Female participation grew from 32 players in 2024 (11% of total registrations) to 54 players in 2025 (15% of total registrations). This represents not only a record number of female participants but also a measurable shift toward gender balance and inclusivity within the association.

Female Participation Overview

Division	2024 Players	Format (2024)	2025 Players	Format (2025)	Change	Notes
6U	6	Co-ed	8	Co-ed	+2	Continued early interest through Learn-to-Play.
9U	6	Co-ed	8	Co-ed	+2	Consistent participation; several first-time players.
11U	5	Co-ed	3	Co-ed	-2	Slight dip, likely due to players moving to 12U. .
12U	14	Female	20	Female	+6	Two full teams fielded; strong retention and new interest.

13U / 14U	1	Co-ed	14	Female	+13	Expansion into standalone 14U female division.
18U	–	–	1	Co-ed	+1	First 18U female participant registered.
Total	32	—	54	—	+22 (69% increase)	Record female participation in CBSKMBA history.

Female registration rose from 32 players in 2024 to 54 in 2025, representing a 69% year-over-year increase. Growth was strongest in the 12U and 14U female divisions, where interest now exceeds available field time and coaching resources. This expansion underscores the need for continued investment in female baseball infrastructure, coach development, and dedicated field access.

League of Their Own (LOTO)

The League of Their Own (LOTO) is the regional female baseball league serving the Avalon Peninsula. Established by St. John’s Minor Baseball in collaboration with Baseball NL, the league was created to provide female athletes with structured competition, development opportunities, and a dedicated space to play and grow within the sport.

LOTO began in the mid-2010s with a small number of teams based in St. John’s and has since expanded to include female programs from Conception Bay South, Paradise, and Mount Pearl. The league currently operates at the 12U, 14U, and 16U levels, offering players a clear pathway for progression as they develop their skills and experience. While the league has played an important role in supporting the expansion of female baseball, 2025 presented some challenges. There were inconsistencies in competition balance and scheduling, which impacted the overall player experience and limited opportunities for evenly matched play. These issues reflect the growing pains of female baseball and the LOTO league as well as it highlights the need for continued coordination and communication among participating associations.

For CBS, participation in LOTO continues to be a cornerstone of the female program. The LOTO provides access to regular games, and exposure to a broader community of female athletes. As CBS looks ahead to the future of female baseball, collaboration with LOTO partners will remain key to ensuring fair competition, balanced scheduling, and positive experiences for all players.

12U Program

The 2025 season saw 22 female players registered in the 12U program, allowing CBS to field two teams, CBR Red and CBR Black, each with 11 players. Both teams competed in the League of Their Own (LOTO), with Sunday at 4:30 p.m. as the designated field timeslot. A shared timeslot, and multiple associations offering up Sunday as an allocated time for female games resulted in lost opportunities for Red vs. Black match ups.

Each team was scheduled to play 14 regular-season games, along with 4 playoff games (total of 18 games), but only 11 games were completed. Approximately seven scheduled games were cancelled due to overlapping tournaments, wildfires and air-quality advisories, weather-related field closures, and other teams being unable to field full rosters. Despite these challenges, the depth created by having two 12U teams ensured that CBS was always able to field a team and participate fully in league play.

The 12U division held four practices throughout the season. Practice frequency was limited by alternating game schedules, field and coach availability, and varying coaching experience. Players and parents consistently requested more practice opportunities, echoing similar feedback from 2024 and highlighting a continued area for development.

The 12U A All-Star team was composed of players from both Red and Black who expressed interest in competitive play. The 12U A team represented CBS at five tournaments:

- CBS Kiwanis Cup – newly expanded to include the 12U Female division (4 games)
- St. John's Mike Buist Memorial (4 games)
- Grand Falls-Windsor Hickman Honda Female Classic (3 games)
- Paradise Heather Healey Invitational (4 games)
- Provincials in Pasadena (6 games)

The team delivered outstanding results, capturing gold at the Heather Healey Invitational and silver at Provincials — a significant improvement over the prior season's results. The 12U A team also held three additional practices beyond the general 12U schedule to prepare for tournament play.

A total of seven 12U players graduated from the division at the end of the season, with six indicating their intention to register for 14U in 2026, signaling strong retention and continued growth within the CBS female baseball pathway.

14U Program

The 2025 season marked the first year CBS fielded a dedicated 14U female team, representing another major step forward in the association's female baseball development pathway. A total of 15 players registered, with an additional three players waitlisted due to Baseball NL roster limits and coaching capacity.

The 14U Raiders practiced regularly throughout the summer, completing 15 practices — a significant improvement from the previous season and reflective of the strong commitment from both players and coaches. The team's designated field slot was Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

A total of 12 league games were scheduled and 3 play off games, with only 9 games played due to a combination of cancellations and forfeitures. Games were not played due to a mix of scheduling conflicts for CBS players, weather conditions, wildfires, and air-quality advisories. Some forfeitures also occurred when other teams could not field full rosters. The reliance on Sunday scheduling limited flexibility for makeup games and compounded cancellations during tournament weekends or family travel periods.

The 14U Raiders also functioned as the 14U A All-Star team, competing in the following tournaments:

- St. John's Mike Buist Memorial – 4 games
- Paradise Heather Healey Invitational – 4 games
- Provincials in Corner Brook – 4 games

Although combining the 14U house league roster with the All-Star team allowed all players to gain tournament experience and exposure to higher-level competition, it also presented challenges. Many of the 14U athletes were new to baseball and were competing against players with several years of experience. While the opportunity was valuable for development, it also resulted in some difficult and discouraging losses. This experience highlighted the importance of ensuring that competitive team composition aligns with player readiness and experience level.

Program Insights and Lessons Learned (2025)

The 2025 season marked the most significant year of growth to date for the CBS Female Baseball program. With two 12U teams and one 14U team, overall participation increased, competitive performance improved, and player retention remained strong. However, this expansion also revealed several challenges that will shape planning and advocacy efforts heading into 2026.

1. Scheduling and Field Access

Female teams faced scheduling limitations under the League of Their Own (LTO) structure, where many associations designated Sunday time slots for female baseball. Sundays often conflict with family commitments, other extracurricular activities and weekend tournaments, leading to numerous lost games.

For CBS, Sunday scheduling simply does not provide a sustainable framework for the continued growth of female baseball. A division that is still working to establish its foundation cannot take on additional burdens related to field availability and make-up games. Expanding access to weeknight field time will be a key focus for 2026, allowing for more consistent game play, additional practices, and greater long-term stability.

2. Practices and Skill Development

Both divisions identified practice frequency and skill-specific training as areas for improvement. While the 14U team held regular sessions, the 12U teams faced challenges related to alternating field schedules, coach availability, and limited field access during times the team was available. Players and parents consistently expressed interest in more structured and consistent practice opportunities.

3. Competitive Readiness and Player Experience

While both divisions benefited from tournament play and All-Star exposure, combining house league rosters with competitive teams produced mixed outcomes. For many 14U players who were

new to the sport, the skill level of playing at LOTO as well as the step up to tournament-level play was challenging. These experiences underscored the importance of aligning team composition and competitive placement with player readiness, while still providing opportunities for all athletes to learn and grow in a supportive environment.

4. Rules, Umpiring, and Consistency

Inconsistent rule application at the LOTO level was a recurring theme this season. Some umpires were unfamiliar with the specific rules of play for the 12U and 14U female divisions, leading to confusion during games. Standardized rule enforcement, improved communication among associations, and formalized umpire education specific to female baseball will be important areas of focus. Consistency in how the game is called will improve both fairness and player confidence.

5. Logistics and Team Management

Increased participation placed new demands on scheduling, communication, and travel coordination. CBS will work toward consistent standards for team logistics, this includes tournament planning, communication expectations, travel policies and equipment coordination, to ensure an equitable and organized experience across all divisions.

6. Program Growth and Retention

Despite challenges, enthusiasm and engagement remained high throughout the season. Female registration retention from 12U to 14U was strong, with most eligible players indicating interest in continuing next year. This sustained interest reflects the success of CBS's efforts to build a welcoming environment and reinforces the need to keep investing in coaching support, field access, and skill development.

Program Feedback and Emerging Discussion Topics

Throughout the season, several key topics were raised by coaches, parents, and players. These conversations highlight areas for collective improvement, collaboration, and advocacy within both CBS and the League of Their Own (LOTO) structure.

Feedback regarding the League of Their Own (LOTO) has been shared directly with league organizers and participating associations. CBS is committed to working collaboratively to address these issues and contribute to the ongoing development of the female baseball program at the regional level. The intention is to ensure that LOTO continues to evolve in a way that supports fairness, balance, and player development for all associations involved.

Player Feedback

Players also provided thoughtful and honest feedback throughout the season, highlighting both what they value and where they see opportunities to grow. A recurring theme was the desire for

more constructive feedback and opportunities to improve. As one player shared, “I love the positivity, but I need you to tell me what I can fix so I can improve.”

Another consistent message centered on pitching opportunities at the 12U level. Several players expressed frustration at not being able to pitch in games or develop those skills consistently. One player summarized this sentiment clearly, saying, “If I can’t pitch at 12U, then I don’t want to play. Why should the boys be allowed to pitch and the girls can’t?”

This feedback reinforces the importance of continuing to build technical skill development into female programming — particularly in pitching — and ensuring that opportunities for growth are equitable across all divisions. Providing female players with meaningful chances to learn, compete, and lead within the game is key to keeping them engaged and confident as they progress through the program.

Future Planning

As female baseball continues to expand in Conception Bay South, structured planning and community involvement will be essential to maintain momentum and ensure sustainable growth. CBS Baseball is committed to building on recent progress by strengthening player development, fostering engagement, and ensuring that female baseball remains a vibrant, lasting part of the association’s future.

Near-Term Priorities (2026 Season)

- **Dedicated female skills sessions:** Offer targeted clinics for hitting, fielding, pitching, and game strategy, designed specifically for female players across all age divisions.
- **Female-focused events:** Continued hosting smaller, in-house gatherings such as “CBS Girls in Baseball” days, and developing mentorship meet-ups, and skill-sharing sessions to build connection and confidence among players.
- **Inter-association “fun” games:** Invite nearby associations to participate in informal, development-focused matchups that emphasize participation and enjoyment rather than competition.
- **Creation of a Female Baseball Committee:** Establish a dedicated committee of interested parents, coaches, and volunteers to guide program improvements, share ideas, and support the ongoing growth and organization of female baseball in CBS.
- **Female Player Mentorship:** Encourage older players—particularly from the 14U team—to volunteer with younger divisions such as 6U and 9U. This initiative will provide leadership experience for older players while inspiring younger athletes to stay involved in the program.

- **Season-end celebration:** Introduce a year-end banquet or recognition event celebrating the achievements and growth of CBS Baseball's female baseball players and coaches.

Long-Term Vision

- **Launch of a 16U Female Program:** Continue the player development pathway by introducing a 16U team once registration and coaching depth allow, aligning with the League of Their Own (LTO) structure.
- **Coach Development Pipeline:** Establish a mentorship model pairing experienced coaches with new volunteers—especially female leaders—to build coaching depth and confidence.
- **Expanded Facility Access:** Collaborate with the Town of CBS to secure additional field time and off-season indoor training space for female players. The [Community Lifestyle Centre](#) will be an incredible addition to CBS, increasing opportunities for off-season, and poor weather use.
- **Provincial Hosting and Leadership:** Position CBS as a host site for future female-focused tournaments and development events in partnership with Baseball NL and LTO associations.

Conclusion

The 2025 season was a turning point for female baseball in Conception Bay South, both in scale and in spirit.

In just one year, the program grew from one female team in 2024 to three in 2025. This growth reflects years of effort, planning, and belief in what female baseball could become in our community. It wasn't just about adding more teams; it represented new opportunities for girls to play, develop, and feel part of something meaningful.

This progress was made possible by an incredible group of coaches, parents, and volunteers who poured their time, energy, and focus into growing the program. Their dedication, whether running practices, planning tournaments, or simply showing up to cheer, has been the foundation of this success.

Equally important were the players themselves. Many of them were brand new to baseball, but they stepped onto the field with enthusiasm and courage. They learned, competed, and represented CBS with pride. Their willingness to try something new has helped pave the way for the next generation of female athletes in our association.

As the program continues to grow, one clear area that needs more support is pitching development at the 12U level. Without regular access to pitching instruction, players often face a steep learning

curve when they move up to 14U. Focused skill sessions and mentorship in this area will be a major priority moving forward.

This year also included a special highlight when CBS hosted an exhibition between Team NL's female baseball team and the Women's 19U provincial team. It was an incredible opportunity for our players to watch high-level competition up close and see what their own future in the sport might look like.

With female baseball now featured at the 2025 Canada Games, there has never been a more exciting time for the sport in Newfoundland and Labrador. CBS remains committed to providing a supportive, development-focused environment where every girl can learn, grow, and love the game.

Thank you to every player, parent, coach, and volunteer who helped make this season possible. Your hard work, encouragement, and belief in this program continue to shape the future of female baseball in our community.