

GNAC SPORTS REGULATIONS

BASEBALL

Section 1. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

- 1.1. All member institutions fielding teams in baseball shall agree to participate for the championship.

Section 2. SCHEDULE

- 2.1 All member institutions shall observe the NCAA starting date for pre-season practice and the 132-day length of season guideline.
- 2.2 The maximum number of games permitted in a single season shall not exceed 50. (Revised 10/04; 5/09; 10/09; 5/10)
- 2.3 Varsity contests shall be scheduled in accordance with the regulations as they appear in Article 17 of the Bylaws of the NCAA.
- 2.4 Conference members shall complete their conference-scheduled contests as assigned yearly by the Conference office. No Conference game shall be scheduled after the Sunday preceding the regional playoffs. (Revised 10/03).
- 2.5 Each member school will play eight conference games against each other member of the Conference. A four-game series will be played at each home site. All conference doubleheaders will include a nine-inning contest followed by a seven-inning contest. All single conference games will be scheduled for nine innings. The maximum number of conference games that may be played on the same calendar day is two.
- 2.6 All conference series will be played on consecutive days: Friday/Saturday, Saturday/Sunday or Friday/Saturday/Sunday. Starting times shall be determined by the host institution.
- 2.7 Make-up policy
 - 2.6.1 The day following each conference series (Sunday for a Friday/Saturday series except if Northwest Nazarene is involved and Monday for a Saturday/Sunday series) shall be held open for the make-up of postponed games.
 - 2.6.2 If a series is delayed prior to the visiting team traveling:
 - a) The entire series may be rescheduled on mutually agreeable dates, or
 - b) In the first round, sites may be switched if the traveling teams' field is playable, or
 - c) If in the second round, the series may be played at the site of the original traveling team. Should this cause a team to travel twice to the same site, the non-traveling team will pay reasonable travel expenses to the team traveling the second time.
 - 2.6.3 If the visiting team has traveled and the series is interrupted by weather:
 - a) The postponed games will be completed on the makeup day (if it is a viable option), or
 - b) One or two games postponed during the first round may be added to the second round series. The traveling team will be the home team for the first one (five-game series) or two games (six-game series). (Note: This only applies if the distance between the two

schools is more than 250 miles. If the distance is less than 250 miles, the games may rescheduled for the original site).

- c) If the second round or the makeup day (due to religious reasons or travel requirements such as the inability to reschedule a flight) is not a viable option, the game(s) will be cancelled. However, if overnight travel is not required, the games shall be rescheduled.
- d) The host institution is responsible for determining when a field is playable. Once a game has started, the umpires are responsible for determining when and if a game should be suspended, postponed or canceled.
- e) If a game is suspended due to rain or darkness (or curfew) the NCAA halted game rule will be used and the game will be completed before the next day's doubleheader. If the suspended game is the final game of the series, it will be completed before the first game of the second round of round-robin play. If the suspended game is the final game of the series of the second round of round-robin play, then the game will be declared an official game.
- f) Rescheduling a conference game will have priority over non-conference contests.

Section 3. NCAA REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPRESENTATION

- 3.1 The Conference Champion will be determined by conference win\loss percentage.
- 3.2 If there is a tie for the Conference Championship, the tie-break procedure in Bylaw 1.3. (reprinted below) will determine the team which will receive the GNAC's automatic berth (if in the future an automatic berth is granted to the GNAC) in the NCAA regional playoffs. The teams tied, however, will still be declared co-champions.
- 3.3 Tie-Breaker Procedure
 - 3.3.1 The best won/loss record in all GNAC counting conference games played between the tied teams over the past regular season;
 - 3.3.2 The best won/loss record in all games, including non-conference games, played between the tied teams over the past regular season;
 - 3.3.3 The best won/loss record of the tied teams against the next place finisher(s);
 - 3.3.4 If still tied, then teams will be compared to the next place finisher(s), and so on until a representative is determined;
 - 3.4.5 If still tied, the representative will be the institution with the highest NCAA regional ranking.

Section 4. CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS – (See Bylaw Article 10, Section 1)

Section 5. PLAYING RULES

- 5.1 Conference games will be played under NCAA Rules.
- 5.2 The host team shall be the "home" team for both games of a doubleheader.
- 5.3 The 10-run rule will not be used at any time unless mutually agreed upon.
- 5.4 Bat specifications must follow NCAA guidelines.
- 5.5 There is no limitations for the number of players allowed to travel with the team for conference contests.
- 5.6 The time between games of a doubleheader shall be a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 30.
- 5.7 The NCAA fight rule shall be observed.

Section 6. OFFICIALS

- 6.1 Three umpires will be assigned to all Conference games (**Revised 11/08; 5/09; 5/10**)
- 6.2 All umpires shall be College Certified.
- 6.3 If a game has been rained out and umpires have traveled to the site of the game, umpires shall be paid for one game only plus their appropriate travel fee (if it applies). If the second game of the scheduled doubleheader has begun, umpires will also be paid for the second game. (**New Section 11/08**)

Section 7. EQUIPMENT

- 7.1 The official ball used for all conference games shall be mutually agreed upon by the conference coaches.

Section 8. GAME MANAGEMENT/CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

- 8.1 The host team will provide adequate equipment and supplies at the game site, including the following:
 - 8.1.1 Game Balls
 - 8.1.2 Drinking water and cups
 - 8.1.3 Restroom facilities
 - 8.1.4 Towels (if pre-arranged)
- 8.2 The host team shall provide a trainer at least one and one-half hour prior to game time either at the game site or in the training room. A trainer must be in attendance during, between and for a reasonable time period following the games (s).
- 8.3 The host team shall provide a well-trained and knowledgeable official scorer for each contest. The official scorer shall be the final authority for all scoring decisions made during the course of the game. Under no circumstances shall the official scorer be permitted to keep score in either the host or visiting team's dugout.
- 8.4 On school days, the visiting team's batting practice will conclude 75 minutes before game time. The home team's batting practice shall begin 75 minutes prior to game time and will last 40 minutes. This order may be reversed on non-school days by mutual agreement of the coaches. The host team will provide equal pre-game batting practice opportunities if wet

conditions prohibit on-field batting practice. The home team will take pre-game infield 30 minutes prior to game time. They will have 10 minutes. The visiting team will take pre-game infield 20 minutes prior to game time and they will have 10 minutes. The host coach will explain the ground rules five minutes prior to game time.

- 8.5 Pre-game information, including parking, appropriate entry into the facility, practice times, etc. shall be communicated in writing to the coach and any appropriate administrators of the visiting team prior to the game.

Section 9. CONFERENCE CHAMPION

- 9.1 The conference champion will be the team with the best winning percentage in the conference schedule. In case of a tie, co-champions will be declared. A team must complete two-thirds of its scheduled conference games in order to qualify for the championship.

Section 10. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- 10.1 All Conference schools are required to use StatCrew software. The home team is the official book.
- 10.2 The StatCrew game file shall be e-mailed to the Visiting team sports information director and to the GNAC Conference office as soon as possible at the conclusion of the game.
- 10.3 Per NCAA guidelines, statistics from games played against junior colleges, club teams and teams from foreign countries may not be counted when reporting statistics to the NCAA and the GNAC. (**Note:** Under NCAA guidelines, games against Canadian schools may be counted if the Canadian school schedules at least half its games against U.S. four-year colleges).

Section 11. VIDEO EXCHANGE AND SCOUTING REPORT POLICY

- 11.1 No in-person scouting is allowed. (Revised 5/09)

Section 12. ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

- 12.1 For guidelines in selection of All-Conference team, see Bylaws, Article 9.1
- 12.2 For guidelines in selection of Academic All-Conference team, see Bylaws, Article 9.2.
- 12.3 For guidelines in selection of Conference Coach of the Year, see Bylaws, Article 9.3
- 12.4 A Player-of-the-Year, a Pitcher-of-the-Year, a Newcomer-of-the-Year and a Freshman-of-the-Year shall be selected. See Bylaws, Article 9.4.
- 12.5 A Player-of-the-Week and Pitcher-of-the-Week shall be selected. See Bylaws, Article 9.5.