

Empire 8 Baseball Coaches 2013 Fall Meeting Minutes – 2/3/14 @ 10:00 am

Note 1: any items that were voted on by E8 baseball coaches and were approved by the E8 governing body are highlighted in **BOLD BLUE**

Note 2: material discussed/elaborated on during this call are highlighted in **BOLD RED**

- **NCAA Tournament & In Region/Out of Region Talk with Ithaca's Associate AD Mike Lindberg**
 - What Empire 8 Teams can do to best position themselves for an at large bid
 - Changes to regional playoff format? **No changes in 2014 postseason play, but there has been discussion about changing to a "Super Regional" format in the future. Softball switched to it this year.**
 - "70% in region rule" for 2014 and beyond... What happens if games were rained out and brought a team's "in region" percentage below 70%? Waiver form and other "in region" FAQ's are attached. **As long as 70% of games are SCHEDULED "in region" teams will be considered to have met the 70% criteria. Each coach should discuss with their own AD/Administrators about whether a waiver form should be filed to the NCAA. Empire 8 teams must have 28 "in region games scheduled" (assuming 40 game regular season schedule)**
 - Waiver for Houghton games to "count" was not approved – **Janelle reported that "waiver" to get Houghton games to count in 2014 was denied. Will need to wait until 2015 as originally planned.**
 - 500 mile radius for "in region" in 2015.

- **ABCA Business Meeting Notes** – Review Document (PDF doc of notes attached in email)

- **Empire 8 Pre-Season Poll Voting/Results**
 - Poll was sent out on 1/30/14... **Need to vote by 5 pm on Wed. Feb 5**

- **Empire 8 2014 Conference Schedule** – Review (approved 2014 schedule can be found below)
 - **16 total conference games. Play each opposing school in one 4-game weekend (or Fri/Sat. when applicable) block.**
 - **7/9 inning proposal in 2014 was voted on AD's on 10/7/13 and was approved. If game goes extra inning in game one, game two will still be a nine inning game.**
 - Conference commissioner must approve any change to conference schedule... Form is attached in this email. **Janelle confirmed that time changes DO NOT need to be accompanied by game change form... But changed dates DO need the form.**
 - 12:00 pm starts are encouraged to help accommodate 7/9 inning format

- **Empire 8 2015 Conference Schedule** – Review (proposed 2015 schedule can be found below)
 - AD's voted on 10/7/13 and approved 7/9 & 9-inning format as well as 3 game sets proposal for 2015 conference schedule
 - Doubleheader Saturday (7/9-inning format) and Single Game Sunday (9-inning) or Single game Friday (nine inning) and Doubleheader Saturday (7/9)
 - Any team playing Houghton would be Single Game on Friday (9-inning) and Doubleheader on Saturday (7/9-inning).
 - E8 coaches voted 6-to-0 that all 3 games would be played at one site.
 - E8 coaches confirmed that in 2015 "bye week" would be eliminated and makeup weekend (rain date weekend) would still exist
 - Houghton weekend scheduling (opportunity to avoid Friday scheduling?) **Brian R. reported that there is no concrete rule in place at Houghton that would guarantee that games rained out on Friday's could be made up on Sunday's. Janelle reported that schools must agree upon a makeup date within 48 hours of the postponement – implying that ALL conference games do need to made up (at next available date). Brian R. indicated that it is possible that games could potentially be played on Sunday's in case of a rainout, but that it would need to be on a case by case basis and pending approval from Houghton's administration. Key point is for coaches to stay in close communication with their administration regarding how and when to makeup any potentially rained out games vs. Houghton.**
 - Discussion of potentially eliminating rain weekend in 2015 and beyond? **Coaches discussed whether this may be a good idea. Discussion about playing some of the E8 conference games during midweek. Stevens would need to continue playing all of their conference games on weekends. Coaches will work on drawing up some rough drafts of this type of new schedule. Some coaches voiced that eliminating the rain weekend may be a good idea.**

- **Empire 8 All-Conference Voting**
 - Will be same as last year... And will be done online.
 - George was wondering if it would be possible to inscribe names of winners on awards.

- **Empire 8 Members for Baseball** – What does the future hold for Empire 8 Baseball?
 - Elmira – Joining League Play in 2015
 - Houghton games will count towards conference standings starting in 2015.

- **Diamond is the New Empire 8 Conference Baseball**
 - **E8 Coaches voted 6-to-0 to approve Diamond D1-Pro... Make sure not to confuse with D1-ix3 or D1-WS... Cost per dozen is \$48.95**
 - **Important:** Contact Heidi hdorling@diamond-sports.com 800 366 2999 x222 and Anne anne@diamond-sports.com 714 415 7600 to give them your estimate of how many baseballs you will need
 - Each institution is responsible for purchasing the appropriate amount of baseballs for themselves directly from Diamond
 - Anne will work with each coach to assign \$200 merchandise credit.

- **Empire 8 All-Conference and Weekly Awards Voting**
 - E8 baseball coaches Voted 6-to-0 (in May, 2013) to adopt an additional “end of season” award. Instead of “Rookie of the Year” we now will have a “Rookie [Positional] Player of the Year” & a “Rookie Pitcher of the Year” **This was denied by AD’s... Coaches discussed leaving the "Major End of the Season Awards" as is... (Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, and Rookie of the Year).**
 - E8 baseball coaches voted 6-to-0 (in May, 2013) to change the wording of the “Coach of the Year” Award to “Coaching Staff of the Year” Award. (still needs to be approved by AD’s). **This voting item was tabled to May. AD’s will look to make wording of these types of awards consistent across all sports.**
 - E8 baseball coaches voted 5-to-1 (in Nov. 2013) to adopt weekly “Rookie of the Week” award to go along with the already existing “Pitcher of the Week” and “Player of the Week” (still needs to be approved by AD’s). **This voting item was tabled to May. Coaches discussed pushing for a “Rookie of the Week” award because this WOULD be consistent with other conferences as well as ECAC awards.**

- **Stevens Joining CUNY in 2014**
 - **Stevens will remain in Empire 8 block schedule – nothing changes from the past**
 - CUNY conference tournament will take place Wed. 5/7, Thu. 5/8, Sat. 5/10, and Sun. 5/11 (rain date)

2014 Empire 8 Baseball Schedule

-All Games Double Headers (Sat./Sun. 7/9 inning Double Header format was approved by Ads on 10/7/13. If First game goes into extra innings the second game will still be nine innings)
-Host team is the Home team throughout all four games.

Fri/Sat March 28-29

Houghton @ Ithaca

Sat/Sun, March 29-30

Stevens @ St. John Fisher

BYE: Utica

Sat/Sun, April 5-6

Ithaca @ Stevens

St. John Fisher @ Utica

BYE: Houghton

Fri/Sat, April 11-12

Houghton @ Stevens

Sat/Sun, April 12-13

Utica @ Ithaca

BYE: St. John Fisher

Fri/Sat, April 18-19 (Easter Weekend)

Utica @ Houghton

Ithaca @ St. John Fisher

BYE: Stevens

Fri/Sat, April 25-26

St. John Fisher @ Houghton

Sat/Sun, April 26-27

Stevens @ Utica

BYE: ITHACA

Fri-Sun, May 2-4

KEEP OPEN FOR RAIN DATES

2015 Empire 8 Baseball Schedule

Approved

3-game series (Doubleheader format (7/9 inning))

Single game Friday, doubleheader on Saturday or Doubleheader on Saturday, single game Sunday

Host team is the Home team throughout all four games

Fri/Sat March 27-28

Houghton @ St. John Fisher

Sat/Sun, March 28-29

Utica @ Stevens

Elmira @ Ithaca

Fri/Sat, April 3-4 (Easter Weekend)

Ithaca @ Houghton

St. John Fisher @ Stevens

Utica @ Elmira

Fri/Sat, April 10-11

Houghton @ Elmira

Sat/Sun, April 11-12

Stevens @ Ithaca

Utica @ St. John Fisher

Fri/Sat, April 17-18

Stevens @ Houghton

Sat/Sun, April 18-19

Ithaca @ Utica

Elmira @ St. John Fisher

Fri/Sat, April 24-25

Houghton @ Utica

Sat/Sun, April 25-26

St. John Fisher @ Ithaca

Elmira @ Stevens

Fri-Sun, May 1-3

KEEP OPEN FOR RAIN DATES

May 13-17

NCAA Regionals

May 22-26

World Series