

## SECTION 8. SOFTBALL

\*Updated 10/4/12

### A. REGULATIONS FOR ALL CONFERENCE COMPETITION

1. NCAA rules shall be followed except where local ground rules require modification.
2. The local ground rules shall be given to the visiting coach and to the umpires before the game starts.
3. The host team shall determine whether or not a game is to start. Continuation of the game shall be under the absolute jurisdiction of the umpires. Normally, a game shall begin within one hour of the scheduled starting time.
4. The softball(s) approved by the NCAA Division II Softball Committee shall be used in all conference games.
5. The length of each game shall be seven innings with the NCAA adopted run-ahead rule in effect after the fifth inning.
6. The current NCAA tiebreaker rules will not be used in regular season conference competition, or the conference tournament.
7. Minimum Site requirements for conference competition:
  - a. Outfield fence 190-225 feet with at least 200 feet in center field.
  - b. Fields will be dragged and lined before the first and second game of a double-header. The base paths, pitchers mound and home plate area shall be dressed and/or repaired prior to the beginning of the second game.
  - c. All schools shall have a full infield tarp by the 2000 season.
8. Coaches are required to evaluate umpires on a conference approved evaluation form and submit their evaluations to the conference office every Monday during the season by 5 p.m. central time.
9. A copy of the GLVC Lightning Safety Protocol, as spelled out in Section 11.D in the GLVC Handbook, must be posted at the site (i.e. dugouts, press box) of competition, and the GLVC Tobacco Policy, as spelled out in Section 1.A.2.e in the GLVC Handbook must be posted at the site (i.e. dugouts, press box) of competition.
10. When using a heater(s) in their dugout/bench area, the home team must also provide a heater(s) for the visiting team's dugout/bench area.

### B. REGULAR SEASON COMPETITION

1. The conference will play a schedule prepared by the coaches or commissioner and approved by the conference. For scheduling purposes the conference is divided into two divisions: East (BU, UINDY, KWC, LEWIS, NKU, SJC, USI, UWP) and West (DU, UIS, MU, MS&T, UMSL, QU, RU, WJC). (Effective 1/12/2012)
2. Any change in the approved softball schedule shall be coordinated through the Commissioner and approved by the Commissioner.
3. Makeups
  - a. Games between teams in the same division canceled due to inclement weather must be made up, as noted in Section 1.B.1.e, unless noted as in Section 1.B.1.d.v. These games must be rescheduled in the order originally scheduled. Tie games halted by rain or darkness shall be completed by resuming play at the point at which the game was suspended. (Effective 10/11/05)
  - b. Prior to their departure for the trip/contest, if the visiting team is notified by a representative (e.g. AD and/or head coach etc.) of the host institution, that the games will not be played, the games must be rescheduled on a date mutually agreed upon by the Athletic Directors and coaches from both institutions.
  - c. All conference games must be completed by the last Sunday of the regular season. (*Updated 6/19/12*).
  - d. Games between teams in opposite division canceled due to inclement weather will not be made up.
4. The hosting institution must furnish the playing field, game balls, and umpires for the competition. Officials should be NCAA softball certified, registered and experienced and at the field 30 minutes prior to game time.

5. Conference games scheduled on Saturday and Sunday shall begin at noon local time unless mutually agreed upon by both coaches. Weekday conference games will start at 3:00 p.m. local time unless mutually agreed upon by both coaches.
  - a. Games delayed due to inclement weather may not start after 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.
  - b. Teams shall be provided at least 20 minutes between games, but may begin sooner if both coaches agree.
6. During the first day of a weekend series - the home team will wear light uniforms and the visitors will wear dark uniforms. During the second day of a weekend series - the home team will wear dark uniforms and the visitors will wear light uniforms. During weekday games - the home team will wear light uniforms and the visitors will wear dark uniforms.
7. All home teams must provide the visiting team with two conference approved balls prior to the start of the doubleheader.
8. Host institutions are required to play the national anthem prior to the start of the first game of the doubleheader, and introduce the starting line-up prior to the start of each regular season game.
9. Umpire selection shall be the responsibility of the Conference Assignor of Softball Officials.
10. All institutions are required to provide overnight accommodations for umpires working both days of a weekend series, provided the umpires are coming from outside a 100-mile radius of the host site and request a room.
11. The fee for the umpires shall be established by the Conference. The contract of employment is the responsibility of the Director of Athletics of the host institution. The fee for officiating must be established at the fall meeting 12 months in advance of the season in which it takes effect.
12. If circumstances prohibit use of a home field, every attempt shall be made to play elsewhere. The site shall be determined by mutual agreement of both institutions.
13. An institution may provide a three-umpire crew for home contests. (10/2/09)
14. Regular season standings are determined as follows: (3/6/12, to mirror baseball)
  - a. Standings are based on the highest percentage of conference games won.
  - b. In case of a tie, the standings shall be determined as follows: (Multiple teams tied see 1.c.4)
    1. Intradivision Criteria: Ties between teams in the same division broken first using, in order:
      - A. Head-to-head competition
      - B. Overall record versus divisional opponents
      - C. Head-to-head competition with the remaining divisional institutions in order of their divisional standing (each team's record vs. the team occupying the highest position in the regular season divisional standings and then continuing down through the standings until one team gains an advantage)
      - D. Overall record against teams that have clinched a berth in the GLVC Tournament
      - E. Overall record versus common opponents played at the same site
      - F. Result of first-game against common opponents in order of conference standings
      - G. A coin flip by the conference commissioner
    2. Interdivision Criteria: After ties between teams in the same division are broken using the intradivision criteria, ties in the standings between teams in different divisions are broken using, in order (Only contests included in the conference schedule will be used in this criteria):
      - A. Head-to-head competition
      - B. Overall record against teams that have clinched a berth in the GLVC Tournament
      - C. Overall record versus common opponents played at the same site
      - D. Result of first-game against common opponents in order of conference standings
      - E. A coin flip by the conference commissioner

### C. CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

1. The GLVC Softball tournament is to be played the weekend prior to the NCAA Regional.
2. A conference champion shall be determined on the basis of a season-ending tournament. The format for the tournament will be an eight-team double-elimination tournament. Seeding amongst schools will determine the schedule. The tournament will be seeded 1-8, with the winner of each division receiving the #1 and #2 seeds based on their winning percentage. (10/4/12)
3. In order for an institution to be eligible for the conference tournament, its team must have played a minimum of 60 percent of its conference contests.
4. The top three teams from the East Division and the top three teams from the West Division, along with two wild card teams. In case of a tie, the standings shall be determined as follows: (Multiple teams tied see 1.c.4)
  - a. Intradivision Criteria: Ties between teams in the same division broken first using, in order:
    1. Head-to-head competition
    2. Overall record versus divisional opponents
    3. Head-to-head competition with the remaining divisional institutions in order of their divisional standing (each team's record vs. the team occupying the highest position in the regular season divisional standings and then continuing down through the standings until one team gains an advantage)
    4. Overall record against teams that have clinched a berth in the GLVC Tournament
    5. Overall record versus common opponents played at the same site
    6. Result of first-game against common opponents in order of conference standings
    7. A coin flip by the conference commissioner
  - b. Interdivision Criteria: After ties between teams in the same division are broken using the intradivision criteria, ties in the standings between teams in different divisions are broken using, in order (Only contests included in the conference schedule will be used in this criteria):
    1. Head-to-head competition
    2. Overall record against teams that have clinched a berth in the GLVC Tournament
    3. Overall record versus common opponents played at the same site
    4. Result of first-game against common opponents in order of conference standings
    5. A coin flip by the conference commissioner
5. The number one seed will be the hosting institution or the Conference if the tournament is played at a neutral site. If the number one seed declines, then the opportunity goes to the number two seed and so forth down the line until someone accepts. A banquet/breakfast is to be held at the conference championship with the date and time to be determined by the host institution and the conference office.
6. Double Elimination Schedule: See the appendix to this section for the tournament bracket.

#### Day 1

Game 1	Seed 1	vs. Seed 8	A 10:00 a.m.
Game 2	Seed 4	vs. Seed 5	B 10:00 a.m.
Game 3	Seed 2	vs. Seed 7	A Noon
Game 4	Seed 3	vs. Seed 6	B Noon
Game 5	Loser 1	vs. Loser 2	A 2:00 p.m.
Game 6	Loser 3	vs. Loser 4	B 2:00 p.m.
Game 7	Winner 1	vs. Winner 2	A 4:00 p.m.
Game 8	Winner 3	vs. Winner 4	B 4:00 p.m.

Day 2	Game 9	Winner 5	vs. Loser 8	A 11:00 a.m..
	Game 10	Winner 6	vs. Loser 7	B 11:00 a.m..
	Game 11	Winner 7	vs. Winner 8	A 1:00 p.m. (loser 4th)
	Game 12	Winner 9	vs. Winner 10	A 3:00 p.m.

Game 13 Winner 12 vs. Loser 11 A 5:00 p.m. (loser 3rd)

Day 3 Game 14 Winner 11 vs. Winner 13 A Noon

Game 15 Repeat game 14 A 2:00 p.m.

If necessary

7. Game times or the tournament format may be changed by the games committee due to weather conditions or other conditions affecting field availability, but no game may start before 8:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m..
8. In the first round the highest seeded team shall be the home team. Following the first round of competition the home team will be determined by a coin flip prior to each game.
9. The home team shall occupy the third base dugout and line grounders will be allowed.
10. All tournament games shall consist of seven innings and shall be completed, except that the NCAA/ASA run-ahead rule is in effect after five innings. In the event a game is suspended, the game will be resumed at the point where it was stopped. All teams should be prepared to play the tournament to conclusion; teams leaving before being eliminated forfeit any remaining games.
11. The host institution shall select the umpires, furnish the balls, and provide all facilities necessary for the administration of the tournament.
12. The games committee will consist of the conference commissioner, the host athletic director, and the athletic director serving as representative for softball, or the representative sent to serve in lieu of any of these three individuals. The committee may be expanded if it so desires; however, participating coaches may not serve on the committee.
13. The following NCAA protest procedures shall be used:
  1. All protests must be made to the umpire-in-chief at the time of action or incident and before play is resumed.
  2. No protest shall be allowed that involves a judgment decision by an umpire.
  3. All protests must be ruled upon immediately by the games committee. The committee shall confer with the umpires before making its decision, and the chair shall make a written report to the Conference Commissioner.
14. NCAA Tournament Representative: the conference champion shall represent the GLVC in the NCAA Tournament. If unexpected termination (see Section 1.C.5) occurs prior to the conclusion of the GLVC Championship Playoff, the GLVC Automatic qualifier and Conference Champion will be based on the following:
  - 0 games played highest seed
  - 1 game played highest seed
  - 2 games played highest seed
  - 3 games played highest undefeated seed
  - 4 games played highest undefeated seed
  - 5 games played highest undefeated seed
  - 6 games played highest undefeated seed
  - 7 games played highest undefeated seed
  - 8 games played highest undefeated seed
  - 9 games played highest undefeated seed
  - 10 games played highest undefeated seed
  - 11 games played highest undefeated seed
  - 12 games played winner of game 11
  - 13 games played winner of game 11
  - 14 games played winner of game 14
15. In case of a tie, the tie-breaking procedures of 7.C.3.(1).(2).(3).(4) and 1.C.5 will be applied to determine the automatic qualifier.

**D. AWARDS** (See Section 1 ALL SPORTS, part D. AWARDS; the following are specific additions or changes to the general guidelines given there.)

1. All Sports Points Places 5 and higher will be determined by regular season overall standings, with ties broken as in C.2 above.
2. The National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-Region nomination procedure will be used to define the Utility Player position.
3. All Conference Team - A first and second team shall be selected for the East and West Divisions by the coaches from their respective division. Each team shall consist of 4 infielders by position (3B, SS, 2B, 1B), 3 outfielders, 1 catcher, 1 designated player, 3 pitchers, and 1 utility player. (Effective 10/11/05) Coaches may nominate as many players per team as they want. Voting for the individual award winners will be conducted separately by all coaches.
4. Weekly awards will include a Player-of-the-Week and Pitcher-of-the-Week, to be selected by the SID for the sport.
5. Postseason honors shall include a Pitcher-of-the-Year Award.

**E. COACHES ASSOCIATION**

1. Each Coaches Association shall meet at least once annually, either in person or by conference call. Such meetings shall be scheduled by the conference commissioner.
2. A Chairperson and a Secretary are to be selected annually.
3. A report of the minutes and the championship event shall be filed with the conference prior to the first scheduled session at the spring conference meeting.
4. Each coach is required to be an active member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

**F. PUBLICITY AND STATISTICS**

1. The NCAA statistics on conference and non-conference games shall be kept by the conference teams and reported to the conference SID. Statistical reports must be made weekly beginning with the final Monday of March through the conclusion of the season. The conference SID shall compile the conference statistics and release to the commissioner and each SID in the conference weekly coverage of the GLVC's softball activity. The release will include summaries of all categories reported by the NCAA and will be posted on the GLVC's official web site.
2. A designated software package will be the official statistical reference for softball, effective 2002. The specific package will be selected by a majority vote of the conference SID's.
3. Each institution's SID shall provide an updated numerical roster, and a media list for the next week's conference opponents by Monday of each week.
4. A Pitcher and Player of the Week will be chosen and released to conference members by the conference SID. The SID of each institution is responsible for nominating one person each week as necessary for Pitcher and Player of the Week consideration.
5. The conference SID will compile a composite schedule to be released to the commissioner and all conference SIDs one week before the season begins. Conference members are encouraged to provide updates to schedules as necessary due to cancelled or postponed contest