

## SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN CONFERENCE SOFTBALL SPORT GUIDELINES

- I. Season Limitations
  - a. Practice may begin on Monday, April 5, 2021
  - b. Each team must have 7 practices completed prior to the first contest of the season
  - c. Season ends June 19, 2021
- II. Contest Limitations
  - a. 35 games
- III. Levels of Competition
  - a. Varsity
  - b. JV
  - c. Freshman A (B optional)
- IV. Coaches Meeting
  - a. There will not be a pre-season meeting
  - b. The post-season meeting date/time/location will be determined at a later date
- V. Championship and Awards
  - a. Division Standings
    - i. A championship plate shall be awarded to the winner at the JV & Varsity levels in both the Blue & Red Divisions (winning school is responsible for ordering an engraved plate).
    - ii. The Division Champion will be determined by the best win-loss record within the Division only. Crossover games do not count when determining a Division Champion.
  - b. Individual Awards
    - i. Players from each Division will be selected to the All-Conference Team using the chart provided in part 2, section 12 of the handbook. *The mission of the coaches is to select the best players in the conference from each division to the All-Conference Team.*
    - ii. All-Conference selections will be given to schools based on their finish in the Divisional standings as follows:
      1. First place team will receive five (5) selections
      2. Second and third place teams will receive four (4) selections
      3. Sixth (and seventh) place team(s) will receive two (2) selections each
    - iii. In the event of a tie for a place, head-to-head results determine team placement. In the event there is still a tie, the total number of selections for the teams involved will be averaged and rounded up to the next highest number.
    - iv. All-Conference selections will be provided by the varsity coaches to the Resource AD at the post-season meeting.
- VI. Terms of Contests
  - a. Time of contests
    - i. All levels should start at 4:30 PM, or at a time that is mutually agreed upon.

- ii. Saturday games should start 11:00 AM, or at a time that is mutually agreed to.
- b. Scoring and Game Procedures
  - i. Official softball scoring rules of the National Federation of High School Softball Rules will be in effect for scoring and record keeping.
  - ii. The IHSA ten-run rule shall be in force for all games after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.
  - iii. The IHSA 15-run rule shall be in force for all games after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.
  - iv. Games shall be seven (7) innings in length (four and one-half or five innings shall be considered an official game; the losing team must have completed five (5) official at-bats).
  - v. In the event of inclement weather, conference games will be suspended and resumed from the point of suspension. These games should be rescheduled and resumed using the same criteria of make-up games.
  - vi. Make-up games must be scheduled in the order of cancellation on the first open date between the two teams. However, if the game is not played on the first rescheduled date, no open date can be omitted including Saturday, but the sequence of scheduled games may be interrupted. Conference games have priority over non-conference games.
  - vii. No conference varsity games will be played while either team involved in playing in the IHSA State Series, unless mutually agreed upon. Once involved teams are eliminated from the IHSA State Series, the conference game(s) will be played on the next available date.
  - viii. Sites for games that are unplayable due to inclement weather and poor field conditions may be played at the opponents site, if their field is playable. The second scheduled game would be played at the opposite site that the contest was played for the initial contest.
  - ix. Make-up games are not required if they do not determine the outcome of the Conference Championship.
  - x. The host school shall have the responsibility for contacting the assignment chair for securing umpires for any rescheduled games.
  - xi. The host school temperature shall be 40 degrees or above by 2:00 PM, in order to play the game, except by mutual agreement.
  - xii. The host school shall, if possible, notify the officials and the visiting school two (2) hours before the scheduled game time if the game is cancelled.
  - xiii. The visiting team shall be permitted fielding practice, starting fifteen (15) minutes before game time, for a period of ten (10) minutes.
  - xiv. Ground rules shall be discussed between coaches, team captains and umpires before the game.
  - xv. If the visiting team arrives late due to unavoidable circumstances, they shall be limited to ten (10) minutes to loosen up and five (5) minutes of pre-game fielding practice on the game field.

- xvi. The home team must provide two (2) new official (top grade) softballs for every home game.
- xvii. Freshman games shall be played with the “free substitution rule.” A player may be inserted in and out of the lineup as long as she does not bat more than one time per nine (9) batters.
  - 1. Please note that for spring 2021, Bolingbrook and Amos Alonzo Stagg will be using the “free substitution rule” for our JV games with SWSC Schools due to not having a freshman team.
- xviii. Scheduling of non-conference games is permissible during conference dates, provided that any conference make-up game(s) take priority over any non-conference game(s), including the assignment of conference umpires. Conference games must be rescheduled in the order of cancellation and must be played at the first site available for play.
- xix. Any game scheduled on either team’s prom date shall be moved to the next available date.
- xx. Visiting teams must complete batting practice prior to their arrival to the field. No soft toss is permitted against fencing.

VII. Umpires

- a. Umpires shall be hired as follows:
  - i. Varsity – Two (2)
  - ii. JV – Two (2)
  - iii. Freshman – Two (2)
- b. The home athletic director may move umpires between levels to ensure that the highest level playing has the most umpires.

VIII. Reporting Results

- a. Each JV & Varsity coach (or their designee) will enter their conference divisional home games on the SWSC website at <http://swsc.8to18.com>.
- b. The Resource AD shall oversee the results of all league contests and compile the official standings for league records on the Conference website.
- c. The Division win-loss records and scores will be verified at the post-season meeting to determine the Division Champions and final standings.
- d. The Website Coordinator is responsible for entering Conference team champions and all-conference players on the SWSC website.

IX. Playing Sites

- a. All schools will play on campus, except for the following:
  - i. Bradley-Bourbonnais plays at the Bradley-Bourbonnais Youth Softball League Fields (3339 N 1000W Rd, Bourbonnais, IL 60914).
  - ii. Lockport plays at their auxiliary fields at Garfield & Division in Lockport.