

SPORTS REGULATIONS

Note: Championship schedules may be adjusted to meet conference television obligations.

ARTICLE I

BASEBALL

1.01 Regular Season.

- A. **Regular Season Schedule.** The 2015 conference schedule will be an 8-series schedule consisting of three single game series (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). [Revised: July 14, 1998, 2001, June 2003, March 2008, October 2009, May 2013, October 2013]
- B. **Length of Games.** Nine innings, unless adjusted because of inclement weather as noted below. [Revised: October 27, 1998]
- C. **Start Time.** On 'get-away' day, the published game time should be a minimum of 3 ½ hours prior to the agreed upon 'get-away' time. [Adopted: June 2010]
- D. All games will be conducted under NCAA rules.
- E. The conference will produce a master conference schedule.
 - 1. **Final Conference Series of Regular Season.**
The final conference series will be held on Thursday – Saturday with the flexibility for a Friday-Sunday series due to exams. [Adopted: October 18, 2010]
- F. **Inclement Weather.**
 - 1. In the event of inclement weather, the director of athletics of the home institution - or his/her designee – shall determine if the field is playable until the game commences, at which time the umpire-in-chief shall assume full responsibility for continuation of play.
 - 2. The decision on whether the game can be played must be made within one hour of the scheduled game time. Following the decision, the field must be ready for play within one hour. [Example: For a game scheduled at 2:00 p.m., the decision to play must be made by 3:00 p.m. and the field ready for play no later than 4:00 p.m.]
 - a. Game times can be changed, due to weather related issues, on the date of the game, with consent from both coaches and host administrators. [Adopted: October 24, 2006]
 - b. A regular season conference game can be moved up a day earlier due to impending inclement weather when the two coaches and host administrator agree. Once the parties are in agreement, the host Athletic Director must seek the approval of the CAA office prior to the change occurring. [Revised: October 16, 2007; June 2008]

3. Rained out games will not be made up except as noted in the inclement weather policies noted below. Normal series: 3 single 9 inning games on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. [Revised: October 27, 1998; October 2008]
 - a. Unable to begin first game of series (Friday). A doubleheader will be played on Saturday; 9 inning first game, 9 inning second game.
 - b. Unable to complete (9 innings) first game of series (Friday). The game will be restarted on Saturday at the point it was halted with the intention to complete a full 9 inning game. A conclusion of the first game must be made before the second game can begin on Saturday.
 - c. If the first game of the series cannot be completed on Saturday (because weather prohibits all play) the "complete game" rule will govern the outcome of the contest.
 - d. **Sunday Doubleheader.** If it is necessary to play two games on Sunday, the first game will be 7 innings and the second game 9 innings. This permits a possible 7 inning first game and 5 inning second game to assist in travel time.

- G. **"Compressed Series".** When the three game conference series is "compressed" to two days, the principle set forth in 1.01 F3 will apply. In other words, if the first game of the series cannot be completed on the first day of the series, the complete game rule will apply so that no team is required to play three games on one day.

[Example: Series scheduled for Friday single game, doubleheader on Saturday. The *complete game rule* will be applied to the first game and the doubleheader will be played as scheduled.]

In addition, a doubleheader scheduled for the last day of the series ("get away day") the Sunday Doubleheader schedule (1.01 F.3.d.) will be followed (i.e., 7 innings followed by 9 innings).

- H. **Uniforms.** Uniforms will be contrasting colors as agreed by the coaches. Opposing team uniforms shall be of contrasting colors. It is the responsibility of the home team to wear uniforms in clear contrast to those worn by the visiting team. [Revised: October 27, 1998]
- I. **Pre-game Schedules.** Appropriate time should be scheduled so the second team in the rotation begins batting practice one hour before the scheduled game time. First infield practice should begin 30 minutes before game time.

1. **Friday.**

Fields without lights: The visiting team will take batting practice first.

Fields with lights: The home team will take batting practice first.

2. **Saturday/Sunday.** Home team will take batting practice first. [Revised: October 27, 1998]

- J. **Umpires.**

1. Three umpires must be used in regular season conference games and will be assigned by the CAA Officiating Bureau. [Adopted: January 9, 1994]
 2. Each institution shall provide two hotel rooms, as needed, for the umpiring crew for each conference weekend series. [Adopted: January 8, 1995, Revised: July 15, 1997]
 3. Game fees will be approved each year by the Executive Committee.

K. Protests.

1. Umpires will be instructed that protests are in order and must be accepted when filed by a coach.
2. The protesting coach shall notify the umpire-in-chief of his protest at the time of the play or act which he is protesting. The umpire-in-chief shall then advise the coach of the team against whom the protest is filed.
3. The protesting coach shall then advise his director of athletics of his protest. The director shall in turn notify the Commissioner of the protest and the circumstances involved.
4. The Commissioner shall decide the course of action to be followed in resolving the protest with the use of the NCAA Rule Book and the rules of organized baseball and other sports decisions as well as conference policies.

L. Game Ball. The Wilson CAA logo baseball shall be used in all regular season conference play.

M. Tarping the Field. Institutions will be required to tarp the infield, if there is a threat of rain within 24 hours prior to the start of a conference series and continuing throughout the series, unless both coaches can mutually agree that the field should not be tarped. [Adopted: August 2004]

1.02 Conference Championship.

A. All conference scheduled games will be counted for championship eligibility.

B. Seeding. The following procedure will be utilized to establish seeding for the Baseball Championship. Seeds will be based on winning percentage in all conference games. [Adopted: December 2010]

1. Two Team Ties:
 - a. Head-to-head competition.
 - b. If two tied teams tied during the regular season, or split the two games during the regular season compare each tied team's record against the teams occupying the highest position in the standings and continue down through the standings until one team gains the advantage, thereby winning the higher position. (Ties must be broken from the top to the bottom.)
 - c. If only two games in the series were completed and team split, their records against teams occupying higher positions in the standings will be used to break the tie.
 - d. If a tie still exists, a coin flip conducted by the Commissioner will be used.
2. Multiple (3 or more teams) Ties:
 - a. Compare the combined record of each of the tied teams against the other teams involved in the tie until an advantage is gained. (Example: Team A's combined record against both Team B and Team C as compared to B's combined record against both A and C, etc.)
 - b. If the multiple tie still exists, compare each of the tied teams' records against the team occupying the highest position in the standings and continue down through the standing until the tie is reduced to a two-team tie (at which time, revert to the two-team process) or until the tie is broken.
 - c. If a tie still exists, a coin flip conducted by the Commissioner will be used.

- C. Format.** Six teams will participate in a double elimination tournament, the winner of which will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Championship. The championship will be conducted in accordance with the current NCAA Baseball Championship Handbook. A single “championship game” may be approved if the game is to be telecast. [Revised: July 15, 1999; March 2009; June 2011]
- D. Bracket.** The championship bracket is located in the “Brackets” section at the rear of this handbook.
- E. Administration.** All games will be conducted under NCAA rules and the championship will be conducted using the NCAA Baseball Championship Handbook as a guide.
- F. Dugouts.** During the CAA Championship, the dugouts will remain consistent with the determination of the home and visiting teams. [Adopted October 18, 2010]
- B. Squad Size.** On the field, including the practice field, bullpen, bench and dugout, each team is limited to four official coaches in uniform (head coach, assistant coaches and volunteer coach), 27 eligible student-athletes in uniform, and student assistant coaches. Only uniformed personnel, including coaches and eligible student-athletes, may be permitted between the white lines and in the bullpens. Other non-uniformed personnel (up to the maximum limit of 35 individuals) in the dugout should be performing official team functions that they have performed during the season. A bat handler, who must be 13 years of age or older, does not count against the maximum limit of 35 individuals. Non-uniformed personnel in proper attire may participate in pregame warm-ups. Once a game begins, the athletic trainer or manager is permitted on the field only to perform his/her appropriate duty (e.g., warming up a pitcher is not considered an appropriate duty). [Revised: May 2010]
- C. Championship Conference Call.** There will be a pre-championship conference call scheduled for the Sunday prior to the championship and the head coach, administrator and sport information director should be present on the call.
- I. Pre-Championship Coaches Meeting.** All head coaches are required to attend the coaches meeting. [Revised: July 13, 1998, June 5, 2014]
- J. Games Committee.** The championship games committee will be comprised of the CAA representative, host championship director and umpire-in-chief.
- K. Tobacco Products.** In accordance with the NCAA Championship Policy, the use of all tobacco products by all individuals on the field of play, including the dugouts, shall be prohibited. [Adopted: May 1991]
- L. Game Ball.** The Wilson CAA logo baseball shall be used in all games at the CAA Championship.