

**Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference**  
**Softball Coaches Summer Meeting**  
*Interim Coaches Chair – Greg Jones, Winona State University*  
*Sport Liaison – Jordan Boisner, Minot State University*

June 22, 2026  
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88050671980>

Meeting ID: 880 5067 1980

Agenda

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks. (Greg Jones)
2. Recruitment Tampering Education. (Allison Cordes & Jeni Walsh) [Supplement No. 1]
3. NSIC Officiating. (Jason Smith)
  - a. [NCAA Rule Changes for 2027 Season.](#)
4. 2027 NSIC Schedule. (Cordes) [Supplement No. 2]
  - a. Adjustment of Competition Dates on Schedule to Friday/Saturday. (Bailey Bouman)
5. 2028 & 2029 Conference Schedule Development. (Cordes)
6. Review of NSIC Softball Handbook. (Jones) [Supplement No. 3]
  - a. Dome Roof Rules Adjustment. (Bob Bartel) [Supplement No. 4]
7. NSIC Softball Tournament. (Allison Cordes)
  - a. 2026 Recap.
  - b. 2027 & 2028 Tournaments Host Site Discussion.
8. NCAA DII Coaches Connection Update. (Jordan Petersen)
9. NFCA Update. (Jones)
10. Rawlings Contract. (Jones) [Supplement No. 5]
11. Coaches Chair Vacancy Process. (Cordes)
12. Miscellaneous.

## Recruitment & Communication

### Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes (PSAs)

#### NCAA Division II Legislation on Recruitment & Communication with Four-Year PSAs

**13.1.1.3 Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes.** An athletics staff member or other booster shall not communicate or make contact with the student-athlete of an NCAA Division II institution, or any individual associated with the student-athlete (e.g., family member, scholastic or nonscholastic coach, advisor), directly or indirectly, without first obtaining authorization through the notification of transfer process. Before making contact, directly or indirectly, with a student-athlete of an NCAA Division I institution or Division III institution, an athletics staff member or booster shall comply with the rule of the applicable division for making contact with a student-athlete.

- **13.1.1.3.2 Student-Athlete Withdrawn From Four-Year College.** A member institution may contact a student-athlete who has withdrawn officially from a four-year collegiate institution without obtaining authorization through the notification of transfer process only if at least one academic year has elapsed since the withdrawal.

#### Recruitment Tampering Examples

- A coach contacts a student-athlete who is enrolled at another NCAA institution and is not in the NCAA transfer portal.
- A coach directs a current student-athlete on their team to contact a student-athlete who is enrolled at another NCAA institution and is not in the NCAA transfer portal.
- A coach contacts the parent(s) of a student-athlete who is enrolled at another NCAA institution and is not in the NCAA transfer portal.
- A coach contacts the high school/club coach of a student-athlete who is enrolled at another NCAA institution and is not in the NCAA transfer portal.
- A coach directs a booster to contact a student-athlete who is enrolled at another NCAA institution and is not in the NCAA transfer portal.

#### Common Situations that Result in a Violation

- A coach contacts a four-year prospective student-athlete who posted on social media that they have entered the transfer portal; however, the student-athlete is not in the transfer portal.
- A four-year prospective student-athlete reaches out to a coach stating they are interested in transferring and that they have entered the transfer portal. The coach responds to the PSA with a recruitment correspondence before verifying the student-athlete is in the transfer portal.

## 2027 NSIC Softball Schedule

Approved 7/10/2025

| Week | Dates         | AU    | WSC   | USF   | SMSU  | BSU   | UMD   | UMC   | MSUM  | CSP   | SCSU  | MSU   | WSU   | UJ    | NSU   | UMary | Minot |
|------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1    | Fri<br>26-Mar | UMD   | BSU   | MSUM  | UMC   | WSC   | AU    | SMSU  | USF   | Minot | UMary | NSU   | UJ    | WSU   | MSU   | SCSU  | CSP   |
|      | Sat<br>27-Mar | BSU   | UMD   | UMC   | MSUM  | AU    | WSC   | USF   | SMSU  | UMary | Minot | UJ    | NSU   | MSU   | WSU   | CSP   | SCSU  |
| 2    | Sat<br>3-Apr  | UMC   | MSUM  | BSU   | UMD   | USF   | SMSU  | AU    | WSC   | UJ    | NSU   | UMary | Minot | CSP   | SCSU  | MSU   | WSU   |
|      | Sun<br>4-Apr  | MSUM  | UMC   | UMD   | BSU   | SMSU  | USF   | WSC   | AU    | NSU   | UJ    | Minot | UMary | SCSU  | CSP   | WSU   | MSU   |
| 3    | Sat<br>10-Apr | SCSU  | CSP   | WSU   | MSU   | UMary | Minot | UJ    | NSU   | WSC   | AU    | SMSU  | USF   | UMC   | MSUM  | BSU   | UMD   |
|      | Sun<br>11-Apr | CSP   | SCSU  | MSU   | WSU   | Minot | UMary | NSU   | UJ    | AU    | WSC   | USF   | SMSU  | MSUM  | UMC   | UMD   | BSU   |
| 4    | Wed<br>14-Apr | WSC   | AU    | SMSU  | USF   | UMD   | BSU   | MSUM  | UMC   | SCSU  | CSP   | WSU   | MSU   | NSU   | UJ    | Minot | UMary |
|      | Sat<br>17-Apr | WSU   | MSU   | CSP   | SCSU  | NSU   | UJ    | Minot | UMary | USF   | SMSU  | WSC   | AU    | UMD   | BSU   | MSUM  | UMC   |
|      | Sun<br>18-Apr | MSU   | WSU   | SCSU  | CSP   | UJ    | NSU   | UMary | Minot | SMSU  | USF   | AU    | WSC   | BSU   | UMD   | UMC   | MSUM  |
| 5    | Fri<br>23-Apr | SMSU  | USF   | WSC   | AU    | MSUM  | UMC   | UMD   | BSU   | WSU   | MSU   | SCSU  | CSP   | Minot | UMary | NSU   | UJ    |
|      | Sun<br>25-Apr | USF   | SMSU  | AU    | WSC   | UMC   | MSUM  | BSU   | UMD   | MSU   | WSU   | CSP   | SCSU  | UMary | Minot | UJ    | NSU   |
| 6    | Sat<br>1-May  | UMary | Minot | UJ    | NSU   | MSU   | WSU   | CSP   | SCSU  | UMC   | MSUM  | BSU   | UMD   | USF   | SMSU  | AU    | WSC   |
|      | Sun<br>2-May  | Minot | UMary | NSU   | UJ    | WSU   | MSU   | SCSU  | CSP   | MSUM  | UMC   | UMD   | BSU   | SMSU  | USF   | WSC   | AU    |
| 7    | Sat<br>8-May  | NSU   | UJ    | Minot | UMary | SCSU  | CSP   | WSU   | MSU   | UMD   | BSU   | MSUM  | UMC   | WSC   | AU    | SMSU  | USF   |
|      | Sun<br>9-May  | UJ    | NSU   | UMary | Minot | CSP   | SCSU  | MSU   | WSU   | BSU   | UMD   | UMC   | MSUM  | AU    | WSC   | USF   | SMSU  |

| Travel Partner Pairings |         |            |
|-------------------------|---------|------------|
| Institutions            | Mileage | # of Domes |
| UMC/MSUM                | 73      | 0          |
| CSP/SCSU                | 75      | 1          |
| USF/SMSU                | 96.6    | 0          |
| UJ/NSU                  | 105     | 1          |
| AU/WSC                  | 113     | 1          |
| UMary/Minot             | 118     | 1          |
| MSU/WSU                 | 137     | 1          |
| BSU/UMD                 | 149     | 0          |

Institution with a Dome

Easter: Sunday, March 28  
 NSIC Tournament: May 12-15, 2027  
 NCAA AQ Date: May 16, 2027

**Schedule Parameters**

- 30-game conference schedule. Each team plays a 2-game series (doubleheader) against all conference opponents.
- Start of conference schedule is the ninth weekend of permissible play (provides eight weekends to compete in non-conference competition). Conference schedule ends two weekends prior to NCAA regionals.
- All institutions play 8H/7A or 7H/8A series. Of the first four conference weekends, all institutions play 2H/2A weekends. Of the last two conference weekends, all institutions play 1H/1A weekend.
- To ensure a balance of home and away for all institutions, the location of games within the weekend for in-pod opponents is one home and one away. Week 5 is highlighted in blue to denote the weekend of in-pod opponents.
- No more than four series at home or away in a row. Exception: Four institutions have five series at home or away in row during weeks 2-4 when including the travel partner series that can be played at any point between February 1 and the end of the conference season provided mutual agreement by the involved institutions' administration.
- 2027 is the second year of a 2-year scheduling cycle.
  - The number of home/away series for each institution is opposite from the previous year.
  - The location of series for each opponent is flipped home/away from the previous year.
  - The order of opponents within each weekend is the opposite from the previous year. Exception: For the in-pod weekend (week 5), the order of opponents within the weekend is the same as the previous year.

NORTHERN SUN INTERCOLLEGIATE CONFERENCE  
**SOFTBALL HANDBOOK**  
**2025-26 EDITION**  
 (January 2026)

## 1 SPORT OPERATING PRINCIPLES.

- 1.1 Mitch Roberts of St. Cloud State will serve as the chair for the sport of softball. The chair will have a three-year term limit.
- 1.2 All NCAA rules are in effect for playing and practice seasons.

## 2 CONFERENCE COMPETITION SCHEDULE.

- 2.1 **Conference Schedule.** Conference institutions will play a 30-game schedule. (*Revised: 6/12/2023, 7/10/2025*)
- 2.2 A first-place trophy shall be awarded to the regular season conference champion and 24 certificates shall be awarded to the team.
- 2.3 Conference games and Conference Tournament games shall not use the international tie-breaker rule.
- 2.4 **Change of Schedule.** In the event a change of schedule is necessary, conference scheduling and makeup policies may be found in Appendix SB-A.

## 3 REGULAR SEASON PROCEDURES.

- 3.1 **Game Time.** The host institution is responsible for setting game start times. The preferred start time for NSIC conference double-headers will be between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
  - 3.1.1 There shall be a maximum of 30 minutes between games of a doubleheader. (*Revised: 7/15/2021*)
- 3.2 **Umpires.** A three-person umpire crew will be used for all contests. Games may still be played with two umpires if a third is not able to be secured. (*Revised: 7/15/2021*)
- 3.3 **NSIC Barrel Compression Testing Protocol.** Barrel Compression Testing (BCT) is required to be conducted prior to the start of all NSIC doubleheader series. All teams must use the G4 SSL Softball Bat Compression Testing unit as required by the NCAA. Reference Appendix SB-B for the full NSIC BCT Protocol. (*Adopted: 1/21/2022*)
- 3.4 **Game Day Protocol.** Reference Appendix SB-C for Game Day Protocols.
- 3.5 **Dome Roof Rules for NSIC Contests.** (*Adopted: 7/14/2022; Revised: 1/27/2026*)
  - 3.5.1 For a batted ball that contacts the roof or hits a wire/cable in fair territory: If caught, it is an out, and runners may advance at their own risk; if not caught, it is a foul ball, and runners may not advance. For a batted ball that contacts the roof or hits a wire/cable in fair territory and goes over the home run fence, it will be considered a home run.
  - 3.5.2 For a batted ball that contacts the roof in foul territory: The ball is foul no matter if it is caught or not, and runners may not advance.
  - 3.5.3 If a thrown ball hits a wire/cable, it is a live ball.
  - 3.5.4 The NCAA Infield Fly rule takes precedence over the Dome Roof Rules.

- 3.5.4.1** For a batted ball that is declared an infield fly that contacts the dome roof and the ball is caught, the batter-runner is out, and runners may advance at their own risk.
- 3.5.4.2** For a batted ball that is declared an infield fly that contacts the dome roof and falls to the turf in fair territory uncaught, the ball is dead with the batter-runner out due to the Infield Fly and runners may not advance.

**3.6 Game Balls.** The home team shall furnish two new Rawlings game balls per game.

**3.7 Travel Squad Size.** The size of the conference travel squad shall be a maximum of 24 players.

**3.8 Video Review.** Video review is not a requirement for conference play; however, it is permissible to use during NSIC contests. If video review is to be utilized during a contest, both coaches and the umpires must be notified of the use of video review prior to the start of the game and umpires must be able to test out the equipment prior to the start of the game. Criteria for implementing video review will follow what is outlined in the NCAA playing rules. *(Adopted: 7/14/2022)*

**3.9 Game Management.**

- 3.9.1** For all games, including the regular season and Conference Tournament, the host institution must provide an official book/scorer that is not an athlete or coach on the team. The host CSC should secure the scorers.
- 3.9.2** Playing fields must be dragged and lined before all games including game two of a doubleheader.
- 3.9.3** All NSIC institutions are required to have an infield tarp for their primary field, unless that field is turf.
- 3.9.4 Statistical Requirements.** Within 10 minutes following each game, the home/host institution must provide printed and/or electronic statistics to the home and visiting head coaches. *(Adopted: 7/15/2021)*

**3.10 Uniforms.** The home team shall wear their light uniforms for midweek games, light uniforms for the first doubleheader of a weekend series, and dark uniforms during the second doubleheader of a weekend series.

## **4 CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES.**

**4.1 Format.** The conference tournament shall be a 10-team single elimination, four-day tournament on the week/weekend prior to the NCAA Regional Championship. *(Revised: 8/24/2023)*

**4.2 Automatic Qualifier.** The conference tournament will decide the conference automatic qualifier unless the games are rained out. All decisions on inclement weather shall be left up to the umpire-in-chief and the tournament committee. If weather limits play, the automatic qualifier will be determined by the following criteria *(Revised: 1/12/2024)*:

- 4.2.1** If unexpected termination occurs when zero games have been played, the automatic qualifier will be awarded to the No. 1 ranked regular season champion.
- 4.2.2** If unexpected termination occurs between games 1-6, the automatic qualifier will be awarded to the No. 1 ranked regular season champion.
- 4.2.3** If unexpected termination occurs after game 6, the automatic qualifier will be awarded to the highest remaining seed.

**4.3 Schedule.** The championship shall be played Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday with a fifth day (Sunday) being a rain date. The 2026 tournament will be played May 6-9, 2026, with May 10, 2026, as the rain date. The weather policy outlined in Appendix SB-D will be in

place for the duration of the tournament. Games will be played until completion. (Revised: 8/18/2022)

**4.4 Eligibility.** In order to be eligible for the NSIC Conference Tournament, a team must complete 50 percent of the scheduled conference contests.

**4.5** The tournament is comprised of ten seeded teams, with the highest seeds being the home team and occupying the third base dugout throughout the tournament.

**4.6 Seeding.** The ten teams are seeded for the tournament according to the following criteria:

**4.6.1** Win/loss percentage in conference play.

**4.6.2** Head-to-head competition.

**4.6.3** Record versus common conference opponents in descending order, starting with the first-place team, or No. 1 seed, in the conference standings based on win/loss percentage. The criteria shall break the highest ties first. If a tie exists for the No. 1 seed, the criteria shall use the No. 3 team. Teams with less than 50 percent of games played in the conference shall be counted in the criteria.

**4.6.4** Runs allowed per game in conference play.

**4.6.5** Coin flip.

**4.7 Tournament Site Requirements.** Six-foot fences are the preferred fences at the conference tournament, and four-foot fences are the secondary option. Both heights will follow the recommended distances indicated by the NCAA. The primary tournament fields must be consistent in heights and distances.

**4.7.1** If the primary field is deemed unplayable, an alternate field may be considered by the tournament committee.

**4.7.2 Campus Site Tournament.** Hosting the conference tournament, if on an NSIC campus: (These requirements are strongly recommended to host the tournament.)

**4.7.2.1** The host institution must have a tournament director. This person may be an Athletic Director, Senior Woman Administrator, or the College Sports Communicator. The tournament director cannot be a coach.

**4.7.2.2** If four-foot fencing, distances must be between 210 and 235 feet down the lines and between 230 and 235 in the center. If six feet or higher fencing, distances must be between 190 and 235 feet down the lines and between 220 and 235 in the center.

**4.7.2.3** The field shall be chalked and dragged after every game.

**4.7.2.4** Field standards must meet NCAA standards (per NCAA rule).

**4.7.2.5** Fencing must run from the dugout and extend to the outfield fence.

**4.7.2.6** The distance from the backstop to home plate must be a minimum of 20 feet and maximum of 30 feet.

**4.7.2.7** The competition field shall be equipped with foul poles.

**4.7.2.8** The facility must have a scoring device (i.e., scoreboard or flip-chart).

**4.7.2.9** Restrooms are required.

**4.7.2.10** A public-address system is suggested but is required for the conference tournament championship game.

**4.7.2.11** If a team cannot meet these standards, the institution cannot host the tournament.

**4.8 Pre-Tournament Meeting.** There will be a coaches pre-tournament conference call at 10 a.m. on Monday, the week of the tournament.

**4.9 All-Tournament Team.** The all-tournament team will be determined by the Conference Tournament Committee. The team shall consist of two pitchers, one DH and eight position players. Coaches are required to nominate players for all-tournament consideration. Each coach

nominates three players from their team and three players from the team they played following each game. The official scorer will hand out ballots after each game.

## 5 VIDEO EXCHANGE/SCOUTING.

**5.1 Scouting.** Teams may not share scouting reports on other NSIC teams with any teams outside of the NSIC.

## 6 WEBCASTING.

**6.1** See NSIC Webcasting Handbook for details: <https://northernsun.org/webcastinghandbook>  
(Adopted: 8/5/2021)

## 7 WEATHER POLICY.

**7.1 Cold Weather Game Day Policy.** It is recommended that all conference games not be started if the “feels like temperature” is at or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. The official source for the “feels like temperature” is the WeatherSentry (WxSentry App) or at <http://weather.dtn.com>. The game may still be played if both coaches are in agreement but the “feels like temperature” is not reached. Once a game has started, the umpire-in-chief along with the on-site administrator will be the judges as to the suspension, resumption, or termination of the play due to poor weather.

**7.2** See NSIC Extreme Weather Policy (EWP) for other conference wide weather policies: [www.northernsun.org/ewp](http://www.northernsun.org/ewp)

## 8 AWARDS.

**8.1 Player/Pitcher of the Week.** The conference office will select the player and pitcher of the week based on the following criteria:

### 8.1.1 Player of the Week.

**8.1.1.1** Overall performance throughout the week (i.e., BA, H, HR, 2B, 3B, etc.).

**8.1.1.2** Performance of individual lead to team success.

**8.1.1.3** Milestones/school records achieved.

**8.1.1.4** Quality of opponents faced.

**8.1.1.5** Number of games played in the week.

### 8.1.2 Pitcher of the Week.

**8.1.2.1** Overall performance throughout the week (i.e., ERA, K's, Hits, Walks, etc.).

**8.1.2.2** Performance of individual lead to team success.

**8.1.2.3** Milestones/school records achieved.

**8.1.2.4** Quality of the opponents faced.

**8.1.2.5** Number of innings pitched during the week.

**8.2 All-Conference Selections.** To be eligible for a spot on the all-conference team, one needs to play in at least 45% of conference games played at the nominated position.

**8.2.1 Team Breakdown.** First-team will consist of eight position players, two pitchers, one designated hitter, one utility, one pitcher/utility and six at-large for a total of 19 players. The pitcher/utility must pitch a minimum of 50 innings to be nominated. Second-team will consist of 20 at-large players from any position. There will be no honorable mention honorees. (Revised: 9/10/2021)

**8.2.2 Nomination Procedure.** There shall be no limit to the number of players each coach may nominate for all-conference consideration, but coaches are asked to be sensible in their nominations.

**8.2.2.1** Players can only be nominated under one category for all-conference selection.

**8.2.2.2** Coaches may not vote for their own players.

**8.2.3 Voting Process.** The nominees shall be emailed to the conference office by Thursday at noon the week prior to the coaches' meeting. The conference office will then return the completed ballot to the coaches by Monday the week of the conference tournament. The first-round votes will be emailed back to the conference office by EOB Monday for the conference office to tabulate. The top point receiver at each position outlined on the first-team will be named all-conference (19 players). *(Revised: 9/10/2021)*

**8.2.3.1 Second-Team Revote.** A re-vote shall take place of the remaining all-conference nominations. The re-vote will be due back to the conference office by Tuesday at 10 a.m. The next 20 highest point receivers will receive second-team all-conference recognition.

**8.2.3.2 Voting System.** The all-conference ballot shall follow the system used to select all-region teams with a point system (5-3-1 scale) for each position. If there are less than three nominees for a position, a coach can choose to give those players a 5, 3, 1 or leave it blank.

**8.3 All-Defensive Team.** Nominations will be taken for a nine-player golden glove team (eight position players and one pitcher). Any ties will be broken by a re-vote. A player can only be nominated at one position. Coaches cannot vote for their own player. Each coach will be allowed to submit a list of eight position players (by position) and one pitcher, similar to a line-up card. All nominated players will be listed on a ballot and will be voted on with the 5-3-1 voting scale. One player per position will be selected to the golden glove team. The outfield will be awarded with one left fielder, one center fielder and one right fielder.

#### **8.4 Individual Awards.**

**8.4.1 Player of the Year.** The player of the year shall be voted on between the 13 first-team all-conference selections (not including the two all-conference pitchers).

**8.4.2 Pitcher of the Year.** The pitcher of the year shall be selected by a re-vote between the two first-team all-conference pitchers and first-team pitcher/utility player.

**8.4.3 Newcomer of the Year.** The newcomer of the year must be in their first season of softball competition at their institution and in the NSIC, but not a true or redshirt freshman. This is a completely separate vote from the all-conference voting. Nominations and a separate vote shall take place. No student-athlete can win the award twice in the same sport. *(Revised: 7/10/2025)*

**8.4.4 Freshman of the Year.** The freshman of the year must be a true freshman or redshirt freshman. This is a completely separate vote from the all-conference voting. Nominations and a separate vote shall take place. No student-athlete can win the award twice in the same sport. *(Revised: 7/10/2025)*

**8.4.5 Coach of the Year.** The coach of the year shall be voted on by the member coaches.

**8.4.6 NSIC Outstanding Senior of the Year Award.** *(Adopted: 9/10/2021)*

**8.4.6.1** The recipient shall be a four-year student-athlete at their institution, be a full-time\* regularly enrolled graduating senior competing in the NSIC and can only win the award once in their career.

**8.4.6.2** They shall be an academically sound student that has made a positive contribution to their team and institution.

**8.4.6.3** Each year an institution may nominate one qualifying senior to be voted on by league coaches. Coaches are asked to submit student-athletes roster information and GPA along with a supporting paragraph of the nominee's season, career accolades, and positive contributions to their institution. Coaches are NOT allowed to vote for their own players.



**8.4.6.4** A plaque shall be given to the winner of the award.

**8.4.6.5** The winner will also be recognized during the NSIC Tournament, if possible.

*\*Special consideration will be made for student-athletes that are not full-time, this must be explained in the nomination – all other criteria must be met.*

## APPENDIX SB-A

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULING AND MAKEUP POLICIES

#### Conference Scheduling.

1. It is permissible to play the weekend games between the Thursday of the week and the Monday immediately following the weekend. If games cannot be played in this timeframe, they will be considered lost and not able to be made up. For the travel partner series, institutions have the flexibility to move the doubleheader to a different date of competition between February 1 and the end of the conference season provided mutual agreement by the involved institutions' administration. The conference series scheduled during each week will take priority over the travel partner series that is being shifted in dates. *(Revised: 7/13/2023, 7/10/2025)*
  - a. **First Week of the NSIC Season.** For the first weekend of the NSIC Season it is permissible to play the weekend games between the Monday of the week and the Monday immediately following the weekend (i.e. for the 2026 season the permissible dates of play are Monday, March 16 – Monday, March 23). *(Adopted: 7/11/2024)*
  - b. **Easter Week.** For Easter weekend, teams cannot play or travel on Easter Sunday and cannot play on the Monday immediately following Easter. It is permissible to play the weekend games on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. *(Revised: 7/13/2023)*
  - c. **Week Travel Partner Series is Originally Scheduled.** For the week the travel partner series is originally scheduled (week 4), it is permissible to play the weekend games between the Thursday of the week and the Monday immediately following the weekend. *(Adopted: 7/10/2025)*
  - d. **Final Week of the NSIC Season.** For the last weekend of the NSIC season, the Sunday leading into the conference tournament will be considered the last permissible date of conference play. *(Revised: 7/13/2023)*

#### Halted Game Policy.

1. NSIC doubleheaders will not recognize a halted game with the exception of the Conference Tournament.
2. The halted game will be recorded as a no contest.
3. A game stopped after five or more innings with the score tied is considered a regulation tie game and not a halted game and may not be resumed. Rule 6.15 and 6.18 in the NCAA Rulebook. This is for conference doubleheaders and not the Conference Tournament.
4. Weekend games will follow the Halted Game Policy indicated in the NCAA Softball Rules (6.18.3), stating that if game one is under five innings and is postponed, when play resumes it must start at exactly the point of it being suspended.

#### Make-Up Policies.

1. Conference games take precedent over non-conference games for makeup.
2. A home site is defined as a site/location/field within the city or within 25 miles of the homes team's community.
3. The involved institutions will communicate prior to leaving campus to determine whether changes in scheduling should be made according to weather only. It must be mutually agreed upon by the involved institutions to change the schedule. If the involved institutions cannot come to an agreement, then the Conference Office will get involved.
4. **Weekend Make-up Policy.** This policy is for competition of the seven conference weekends.
  - a. Two seven-inning games shall be played on each day. If any part of the game is started and cannot be completed, that game shall be counted according to the NCAA Softball Rules. If only one game is able to be played due to weather, the series shall be considered complete.
  - b. If inclement weather postpones the finish or start of a doubleheader, the traveling team must stay in the host city until 5 p.m. that evening to determine if weather allows for the game to be continued at any site within the host community.
  - c. Games and schedules of each institution should be considered independently of their travel partner. If one travel partner can play and the other cannot, the expectation is that the games able to be played are completed.
  - d. The following order of options shall be followed when re-scheduling weekend games:
    - i. Home site (using 25-mile radius) of scheduled home team(s).

- ii. One location for all 4 teams using any home site (using 25-mile radius) of 4 competing teams.
  - 1. Home site(s) of scheduled home team(s) should be first option; followed by home site(s) of scheduled away team(s). Note: for week 5 of the conference schedule when teams play one home/one away within the weekend, d.ii.1. is not applicable. (Revised: 7/10/2025)
- iii. Site reversal: Home site (using 25-mile radius) of scheduled away team(s).
- \* Once step iv. is reached institutions may “opt-out” if the financial arrangements are not agreeable\*
- iv. One neutral site location for all 4 teams. (Revised: 8/24/2023)
- v. Multiple neutral site locations.
- e. There will be a travel day maximum of three nights once any of the traveling institutions have departed from their campus to complete the weekend’s games (i.e. if a team travels Thursday night, the teams have Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to complete the weekend games). The visiting team must stay three nights, if necessary, with the games on the last permissible day starting no later than 3 p.m. If a series cannot be played within the permissible travel window, the games will be considered cancelled, and no makeup is allowed. If teams are able to complete travel in one day (up and back, no overnight required) for the weekend games, games may be scheduled/played outside the three night travel window (i.e. teams could play one series on Friday and the second series on Monday). (Revised: 7/10/2025)
- f. If two teams have traveled for a weekend series and no games are played on day one at both sites, then the original schedule shall be played on the subsequent two days.
- g. If one team travels and is able to play day one and their travel partner is unable to travel on day one, then the team that traveled will have scheduling priority over its travel partner.
 

*Example: Team A and B are travel partners and Team C and D are travel partners. Team A traveled to team C and played. Team B did not leave their campus to play team D. Since Team A played their scheduled game, they would travel to team D for their next game. Team B would in turn play their first game with Team C and the next day play Team D.*
- h. If both traveling teams have left their campus and two teams play and two teams do not play on day one, then the two teams that did not play on day one shall play on day two. The teams that played on day one would sit idle and play their next opponent on day three.
 

*Example: Day 1 Team A and C play, Team B and D do not play. Day two would be Team B playing Team D and Team A and Team C sitting idle. Day three would be Team A playing Team D and Team B playing Team C.*
- i. Institutions will be able to determine game time. An early start is recommended to accommodate all institutions involved.
- j. If just one team is scheduled to travel for the series and no games are played on day one, then the original schedule shall be played on the subsequent two days.
- 5. **Travel Partner Series Make-up Policy.**
  - a. The following order of options shall be followed when re-scheduling the travel partner series:
    - i. Home site (using 25-mile radius) of scheduled home team.
    - ii. Site reversal: Home site (using 25-mile radius) of scheduled away team.
  - \*Once step iii. is reached institutions may “opt-out” if the financial arrangements are not agreeable\*
  - iii. A Neutral site location. (Revised: 8/24/2023)
  - b. Once a team travels for a travel partner series the games must be played that day. No more than one night on the road for the traveling team.
- 6. **Site Reversal.** A reversal of sites is allowable under the following criteria (Revised: 8/24/2023):
  - a. The use of a site reversal must be mutually agreed upon by the involved institutions’ administration. The NSIC Re-Schedule Form must be completed and signed by both team’s administration and the conference office before a team departs for a game. The form may be communicated electronically.
  - b. The original visiting team shall reimburse its budgeted costs for travel, meals, and lodging.
  - c. The originally scheduled home team shall remain the home team in competition, provide game balls, incur the costs of the umpire fees, and provide coverage per the Athletic Trainers’ Handbook.

- d. The team that becomes the host site team shall assume all game expenses, keep all revenue, be responsible for game administration and other responsibilities as outlined below for the series:
  - 1. Bat Testing.
  - 2. Perform Official Scoring Duties.
  - 3. Supply water and ice for the other team.
- e. For site reversal contests, live statistics are not required. For information regarding webcasting, reference the NSIC Webcasting handbook.
- f. If a reversal of sites occurs there will be no impact on the following year's schedule.
- 7. **Neutral Site.** The use of a neutral site is allowable under the following criteria (*Revised: 8/24/2023*):
  - a. The use of a neutral site must be mutually agreed upon by the involved institutions' administration. The NSIC Re-Schedule Form must be completed and signed by both team's administration and the conference office before a team departs for a game. The form may be communicated electronically.
  - b. The facility costs will be split equally between the involved institutions and each institution will be responsible for their teams' travel costs (i.e., transportation, meals, lodging), unless mutually agreed upon by the involved institutions' administration.
  - c. The originally scheduled home team shall remain the home team in competition and incur the costs of the umpire fees.
  - d. The originally scheduled home team shall be responsible for game administration and other responsibilities as outlined below for the series, unless mutually agreed upon by the involved institutions' administration to designate a different team/institution for the responsibilities:
    - 1. Bat Testing.
    - 2. Athletic Training Coverage.
    - 3. Perform Official Scoring Duties.
    - 4. Provide Game Balls.
  - e. For neutral site contests, live statistics are not required. For information regarding webcasting, reference the NSIC Webcasting handbook.
- 8. Any financial expenses incurred between institutions due to a neutral site or site reversal must be reconciled on or prior to June 30 of the same fiscal year in which the expenses were incurred. Failure to reconcile expenses by the aforementioned timeline will result in the financial exchange of expenses as null and void. (*Adopted: 7/11/2024*)

## APPENDIX SB-B

### NSIC SOFTBALL BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING PROTOCOL

1. Barrel Compression Testing (BCT) is required to be conducted prior to the start of all NSIC doubleheader series. All teams must use the G4 SSL Softball Bat Compression Testing unit as required by the NCAA.

#### Location & Timing of Testing

1. The home team's BCT machine will be used for testing. The visiting team should travel with their machine as a back up to only be used if the home institution's BCT machine is inoperable.
2. A coach from each team will bring the following to the testing location: All their team's bats, the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List with the models highlighted/total count of each model to be tested indicated, and destructible bat stickers to be placed on the opposing team's bats.
3. The location of testing will be determined by the home/host institution and communicated to the visiting coaching staff no later than 24 hours prior to testing. Testing shall not be conducted in public view.
4. Bat testing will begin 2 hours prior to the first game time of the doubleheader series unless a different time is mutually agreed upon by the participating institutions. A coach from each team must be present during both teams' testing. The on-site game administrator and umpires do not need to be present for the barrel compression testing.

#### Testing Procedures

1. Each coach is to arrange their team's bats in the same order as the models appear on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List for ease of testing.
2. The testing of all bats will be performed by the home/host institution's coaching staff in full view of the visiting team's coach.
  - a. The testing machine is to be calibrated in front of the visiting team's coach prior to testing.
3. The testing of all bats will consist of the following three parts.
  - a. Bat Verification.
    - i. Verify that the model number on the bat is legible and matches the model number highlighted on the provided NCAA Approved Softball Bat List.
    - ii. Verify the number of bats of each model are correctly recorded on the provided bat list.
  - b. Barrel Compression Testing.
    - i. Position the front page of the provided NCAA Approved Softball Bat List at the fixture for easy reference of minimum barrel compression pressure.
    - ii. Insert the bat into the chamber until the end cap rests against the stop stick.
    - iii. Place the cylinder under the handle so the bat remains level.
    - iv. Make sure the lever is pointed down, twist the pressure gauge until it reads exactly 500 psi (called preload).
    - v. Lift the handle and make note whether the bat exceeds the minimum psi (passes) before lowering the lever and releasing the preload on the pressure gauge.
    - vi. Rotate the bat 90 degrees (one quarter turn) and retest. **Bats must receive two passes.** Bats will be tested a maximum of three times, until they receive two passes or two fails, whichever happens first.
  - c. Bat Disposition/Documentation.
    - i. Bats that pass BCT will be identified with distinctive, destructible stickers. The opposing team's stickers will be placed on bats that have passed. Stickers should be securely placed as close as possible to the barrel end of the grip so that it is easily visible. The sticker must remain in place until the games of the series are completed.
    - ii. Bats that fail BCT will be deemed illegal and secured by the on-site game administrator until the end of the series.
    - iii. Once testing is completed, the bat tester shall complete the top information box on the front page of the provided NCAA Softball Approved Bat List, then return the list to the appropriate team representative for use by the umpire crew during the pregame inspection at the dugout.

**APPENDIX SB-C**  
**GAME DAY PROTOCOL**

The home teams need to communicate prior to a team's arrival regarding what is going to be made available for warm-up. Within the hitting protocols, the home team is to state what equipment they will supply for the visiting team to use for hitting. It is recommended that an athletic staff member greet and direct the visiting team upon arrival at the field.

- |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12:00 p.m. | Batting practice for home and visiting team<br>The home team MUST provide a designated area (batting cages, game field or open area next to game field) for the visiting team to do a full live batting practice. The visiting team must be provided with the same pre-game facility option as the home team, as well as the same amount of time. |
| 1:20 p.m.  | Shared field                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1:45 p.m.  | Field Crew/Umpires meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1:50 p.m.  | Announcements/NSIC Influencers of Change Pledge/National Anthem                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2:00 p.m.  | Game starts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

\*\* 20-30 minutes between games

## **APPENDIX SB-D**

### **NSIC TOURNAMENT WEATHER POLICY**

The tournament committee reserves the right to revise the game schedule because of inclement weather. If inclement weather occurs and play is suspended:

All teams are expected to remain at the competition facility unless instructed otherwise by the NSIC representative.

- If play may be resumed within 30 minutes of the time of the suspended game, each team will have a 10-minute warm-up period prior to resuming play.
- If all teams have remained at the field; however, and play has been suspended for 45 minutes, each team will be provided with 20 minutes to warm-up prior to resuming play.
- If play has been suspended for one hour or more and teams have remained on site, the game may start with a 15-minute notification to warm-up time and each team will be provided a 30- minute warm-up period prior to resuming play.
- If play has been suspended for one hour or more and teams have left the competition facility; the game may start with a 30-minute notification to warm-up period prior to resuming play. (Note: Notification time may be extended due to extenuating circumstances (i.e., travel from hotel, etc.) however, no less than 30-minute notification time shall be given prior to starting warm-ups and resuming play.)

**Dome Roof Rules for NSIC Contests.** *(Adopted: 7/14/2022; Revised: 1/27/2026)*

1. For a batted ball that contacts the roof or hits a wire/cable in fair territory: If caught, it is an out, and runners may advance at their own risk; if not caught, it is a foul ball, and runners may not advance. For a batted ball that contacts the roof or hits a wire/cable in fair territory and goes over the home run fence, it will be considered a home run.
2. For a batted ball that contacts the roof in foul territory: The ball is foul no matter if it is caught or not, and runners may not advance.
3. If a thrown ball hits a wire/cable, it is a live ball.
4. The NCAA Infield Fly rule takes precedence over the Dome Roof Rules.
  - a. For a batted ball that is declared an infield fly that contacts the dome roof and the ball is caught, the batter-runner is out, and runners may advance at their own risk.
  - b. For a batted ball that is declared an infield fly that contacts the dome roof and falls to the turf in fair territory uncaught, the ball is dead with the batter-runner out due to the Infield Fly and runners may not advance.

**Adjusted Policy Proposal - For When a Ball Contacts Roof or Wire/Cable in Fair Territory**

1. For a batted ball that contacts the roof or hits a wire/cable in fair territory:
  - a. If there are no runners on base, or there are 2 outs, it is an automatic out.
  - b. If there are runner(s) on base with less than two outs:
    - i. If caught, it is an out, and runners may advance at their own risk; if not caught, it is a foul ball, and runners may not advance.
  - c. For a batted ball that contacts the roof or hits a wire/cable in fair territory and goes over the home run fence, it will be considered a home run.





Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference  
Softball Adoption Agreement

This agreement between the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) and Rawlings Sporting Goods will be effective for a period of four years beginning 6/1/2022 and terminating 5/31/2027 or upon breach of this Agreement by either party.

The NSIC agrees to:

1. Adopt the Rawlings NC12L as the official ball of the Conference during this period. Balls to be purchased at fair market value from dealer of school's choice.
2. The ball must be used in all league and tournament play.
3. Display a Rawlings banner during conference tournament.
4. Provide Rawlings with a logo recognition on Conference Softball website.

As the official Ball sponsor, Rawlings agrees to:

1. Rawlings will supply four dozen game balls for the conference tournament. Balls to be shipped to tournament destination designated by the conference and will not ship until Conference informs Rawlings of the shipping address. ***Conference is responsible for allowing at least two weeks' notice of shipping address.***
2. Rawlings will supply each member school with one six-gallon bucket of practice balls with the purchase of a minimum of six dozen NC12L. Buckets will be shipped when ball order is placed through local Rawlings Sales Representative.
3. Prices can increase if any tariffs or governmental fees are incurred outside the control of Rawlings.
4. Rawlings is not responsible for any failure to perform its obligations under this contract if it is prevented or delayed in performing those obligations by an event of force majeure.

The signatures below indicate that the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and Rawlings are in accord with all the terms and conditions of this agreement. This agreement will be effective June 1, 2022.

Eric Lind, Commissioner  
Conference chairperson

Date Aug 16, 2022

Mark S. Kraemer  
Director, Sports Marketing

Date 8/18/22