

WIAC BASEBALL OPERATING CODE

2020 Season

[Note: The WIAC Sport Codes consist of those policies, procedures and practices unique or specific to the conduct and administration of each conference championship sport and are intended as **supplements** to the *NCAA Manual*, *WIAC Handbook on the Governance of Athletics* and the recognized playing rules for each sport, **not** as replacements for them. In addition, football, volleyball and men's/women's basketball have manuals that include expectations related to the administration of those sports.]

I. RULES

A. Conference/National Rules

Coaches are expected to be knowledgeable of and abide by all WIAC and NCAA rules. When in doubt, coaches are expected to consult with their athletics director concerning the application of a rule.

B. Contest Rules

NCAA playing rules shall govern baseball games involving WIAC institutions.

II. SPORT SEASON

A. Length of Season/Contest Limitations

1. Refer to current *NCAA Manual* [Bylaw 17.2].
2. In the sport of baseball, institutions are limited to playing a maximum of ten (10) subvarsity (e.g. junior-varsity) games. In addition, student-athletes are not permitted to miss class(es) to participate in these contests.

B. Scheduling [See WIAC Article 17]

The conference schedule is to incorporate the following parameters:

- a. The schedule will consist of 24 conference games.
- b. Saturday/Sunday doubleheaders with the exception of Easter week and the last weekend of the regular-season, both of which will be played as Friday/Saturday doubleheaders.
- c. With the exception of Finlandia, each team will alternate the home and away each year.
- d. No games are to be scheduled for Easter Sunday, but Easter Sunday may be used as a rain date.
- e. Should weather factors so dictate, institutions have the prerogative to schedule three (3) seven-inning games on the same day provided it is the last day in which the teams would be permitted to play under the conference rescheduling policies.

III. GAME MANAGEMENT

A. Starting Times

The first game of conference doubleheaders shall start at 1:00 p.m. on weekdays (Monday-Friday) and noon on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays), unless a different time is mutually agreed upon by the participating institutions and the change is approved by the conference office. The second game shall start 20 minutes (or sooner by mutual consent) after the completion of the first game. Weekday doubleheaders played prior to daylight savings time, as well as the doubleheader scheduled on the Friday of Easter weekend, are to start at noon.

B. Game Ball/Bats

The official conference game ball shall be the Rawlings *FSR/NCAA* flat seam baseball. Only those baseball bats that have been deemed "certified" under the standards adopted by the NCAA are permitted to be used for all competitions involving WIAC member institutions.

C. Home Team

The host institution shall be the home team for all conference doubleheaders.

D. Officials

1. Officials for regular-season competitions will be assigned by the WIAC coordinator of baseball umpires and contracted by the host institution. Two (2) umpires are to be contracted for each conference game. It is recommended (but not required) that different umpires be contracted to work each day of a four-game series.
2. Umpires are to be paid \$130.00 for each nine-inning single game and \$230.00 for a nine-inning doubleheader. No mileage is to be paid for regular-season games. Fees for other doubleheader formats are listed in Appendix Z of the *WIAC Handbook*.
3. Lodging may be provided in the event a game official(s) is used on consecutive days at the same site and the official(s) is traveling more than 50 miles one-way. Furthermore, lodging is to be provided by the institution hosting the second day of a four-game weekend series the night before if different officials are used and if deemed necessary by the assignor of umpires.
4. If the umpire(s) has arrived on site and no games are started, the umpires are to be paid \$50. If any games are cancelled in progress, the umpires are to be paid the game fee for that game(s).
5. Head coaches are expected to complete an umpire evaluation via www.arbitersports.com.

E. Pre-Game Warm-Ups

1. The visiting team is entitled to conduct its pregame warm-ups (e.g., hitting, infield) under the same conditions (e.g., game field vs. practice field) as those provided to the host team.
2. The pregame warm-ups shall be conducted in accordance with the following schedule:*

Prior to 11:40 a.m.	Home Team Hitting
11:40 - 12:20 p.m.	Visiting Team Hitting
12:30 - 12:40 p.m.	Home Team Infield
12:40 - 12:50 p.m.	Visiting Team Infield
1:00 p.m.	Game Time

* If the game time is something other than 1:00 p.m., these times should be adjusted accordingly.

F. Local Ground Rules

The local ground rules shall be given to the visiting coach and to the umpires prior to the start of the game.

G. Requirements

To the extent possible, field dimensions should approximate those recommended in the *NCAA Baseball Rules* book. Regulation bullpen areas for both teams are required, and it is recommended that each bullpen have two (2) pitching mounds constructed to the exact measurements of the mound on the playing field.

H. Canceling and Rescheduling Games

1. The cancellation and/or rescheduling of a game must be communicated immediately to the conference office and the assignor of umpires. A final decision relative to rescheduling is not to be made until approval has been granted by the conference office and the assignor of umpires. In the case of the assignor, this communication shall be by telephone. If the assignor cannot be reached, the cancellation of any game shall be communicated directly to the assigned umpires.
2. If at all possible, game-day decisions on the cancellation of a game(s) should be made prior to the departure of the visiting team and umpires. At the same time, a decision to cancel a game should not be made prematurely and not without all available information with respect to anticipated weather and/or field conditions. Games are not to be cancelled and rescheduled in advance simply because of the weather looks more favorable one day than another. If unplayable weather conditions appear imminent, then a decision to cancel and reschedule (e.g., moving games up) may be appropriate provided permission to do so has been granted by the conference office.
3. If unplayable weather conditions are localized, consideration may be given to moving a game to the site of the visiting team or to a neutral site.
4. The following policies shall apply to the rescheduling of any cancelled games:
 - a. Any cancelled weekday (i.e., Monday-Thursday) game in which the traveling team has departed will not be rescheduled.
 - b. Any cancelled weekday game in which the traveling team has not departed will be rescheduled for the next immediate available day.
 - c. Efforts should be made to play weekend (i.e., Friday/Saturday/Sunday) games that are cancelled by that immediate Monday or not be rescheduled. Institutions do retain the flexibility to remain at the site or leave and return in order to complete games by that Monday.
 - d. If a minimum of three (3) out of four (4) weekend games are completed, the one (1) cancelled game will not be rescheduled. If fewer than three (3) weekend games are completed up to two (2) games may be rescheduled as a doubleheader on the next immediate available day.

[Note: Rescheduled conference games are to have priority over scheduled non-conference games.]

I. Suspended and Halted Games

1. The home team shall determine whether or not a game is to start. The decision to start a game later than the designated start time should consider factors related to travel distances and the bearing the game(s) have on the conference championship or on which teams qualify for the postseason conference tournament.
2. Continuation of a game shall be under the absolute jurisdiction of the umpires and coaches shall not influence or interfere with the umpires' decision.
3. If a regulation game is suspended and not resumed following the top half of an inning, the score reverts back to the previously completed inning.
4. The NCAA "halted-game" rule shall be in effect for all regular-season games with the exception of the last game of a four-game series or a two-game series which is the final meeting between the participating institutions for that season.

J. Ten-Run Rule

By conference rule, a game is to be stopped (ruled completed) if one team is 10 or more runs ahead of its opponents after seven (7) or more complete innings of play. This rule may also be instituted for non-conference games by mutual consent of the opposing head coaches prior to the start of the game.

K. Results

Results of conference and non-conference games must be sent to the conference office (posted on institutional website) within 48 hours of the contest.

L. Sideline Coaching

Conference coaches are permitted the option of coaching from either the first or third base coaches' box.

IV. CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP/POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT

[See WIAC Appendix O–Guidelines for the Administration of WIAC Championships and Postseason Tournaments and Appendix Q–WIAC Postseason Baseball Tournament Handbook, Neutral Site.]

A. Conference Champion/Automatic Qualifier

1. Conference Champion. The regular-season champion (based on percentage) will be declared the WIAC Champion. If two (2) or more teams are tied, they shall be declared co-champions.
2. Automatic Qualifier. A postseason tournament will be conducted for the purpose of determining the conference's automatic qualifier (AQ). The AQ will be determined as follows should all, or part of, the tournament be cancelled:
 - a. If days one and two are cancelled, the tournament will be reduced to a one-day, single-elimination tournament with the winner receiving the AQ.
 - b. If the tournament is cancelled following the completion of the Game #4, the AQ will be awarded to the highest remaining seed.
 - c. If the tournament is cancelled prior to the completion of Game #4, the AQ will be awarded to the #1 seeded team.

B. Postseason Tournament Sites/Dates

The WIAC Postseason Baseball Tournament will be conducted on the Thursday-Saturday immediately following the completion of the regular season. The tournament will be conducted at the site of the regular-season champion or the #1 seed.

C. Format

1. The top-four (4) teams based on the final regular-season standings (i.e. winning percentage) will advance to the postseason tournament. The tournament will be a double-elimination tournament conducted on a single field over a three-day period (**see Attachment #1**).
2. The teams will be seeded according to their finish in the regular season. If teams are tied for any of the top-four (4) places, the ties will be broken according to the following criteria:
 - a. head-to-head competition.
 - b. win/loss record vs. teams placed higher in the conference standings in descending order.
 - c. win/loss record vs. teams placed lower in the conference standings in descending order.

[Note: When comparing tied teams against positions lower in the standings which are also tied, those “lower tied positions” shall be considered as a “single position” for purposes of comparison. Example: Team A and Team B tied for second would compare against Team X and Team Y tied for sixth as follows: Team A would compare its combined record against both X and Y versus Team B’s combined record against both X and Y.]

- d. average runs allowed vs. conference opponents.
- e. coin toss conducted by the WIAC commissioner.

[Note: If two teams remain tied after a third or other teams are eliminated, the tiebreaker reverts to criteria No. 1. For example, if three teams are tied and have 5-3, 4-4, 3-5 head-to-head records, the 5-3 receives highest seed. The tie between the two remaining teams is broken by reverting back to criteria #1 (head-to-head between those two teams) and then (if necessary) utilizing the remaining criteria in order.]

3. In the event the first day of the tournament cannot be held due to weather related problems, the tournament will revert to a two-day, four-team format that combines the elements of both a single and double-elimination tournament (**see Attachment #2**). In the event the second day of the tournament cannot be held, the original tournament bracket will be retained with the exception that Game #7 will not be played and the winner of game #6 shall be declared the tournament champion. In the event Day 1 and Day 2 are cancelled, the tournament will revert to a single-elimination tournament to be played on Sunday (**see Attachment #3**).

D. Game Times

Games times are stipulated in the bracket to be utilized for that particular tournament (**see Attachments #1 - #3**). Game times may be adjusted for weather or darkness related reasons. Games will also be allowed to begin 30 minutes following the conclusion of the previous game and prior to the stipulated game time provided both teams agree. All game time modifications must be approved by the commissioner (or designee).

E. Officials

A total of six (6) umpires will be selected by the conference office for the postseason tournament. The conference office will contract and pay the officials when a neutral site is utilized. The host institution shall pay the officials should the tournament be played on a campus site. Four (4) umpires will be assigned to work each game. The game fee shall equate to \$5 more than the game fee paid for a single nine-inning game for that particular year. Each umpire will receive an equal amount based on the aggregate total of fees for either six (6) or seven (7) games regardless of how many games worked by any particular umpire.

Mileage and/or lodging are to be provided as follows:

<u>Travel Distance (one way)</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Lodging*</u>
0-24 miles	No	No
25-49 miles	\$25	Yes
50-99 miles	\$40	Yes
100-199 miles	\$60	Yes
200-249 miles	\$80	Yes
250-299 miles	\$90	Yes
300 or more miles	\$115	Yes

*Lodging is to be provided only if it is a multi-day event or an early-morning start time necessitates that the official(s) travel the night before.

F. Ten-Run Rule

The ten-run rule (See III-J) will be in effect during the postseason tournament.

G. Designation of Home Team, Dugouts and Uniforms.

1. Home team. The home team for each tournament game will be determined based on the following:
 - a. For games #1 thru #5, the highest-seeded team shall be designated as the home team.
 - b. For the championship game (i.e., game #6), the home team shall be the winner of game #4. If a game #7 is necessary, the home team shall be the team that was the visiting team in game #6.
2. Dugouts. The home team shall occupy the third-base dugout. However, the #1 seeded team (i.e., host institution) shall be allowed to occupy the dugout it normally utilizes during the season.
3. Uniforms. The home team shall wear white if it owns white uniforms; the visiting team must wear a uniform of contrasting color.

H. Batting Practice Schedule (See Attachment #4)

I. Pre-Game Format (See Attachment #5)

The PA announcer will announce a one-minute warning for teams to take the field for warm-ups and prior to the conclusion of the warm-up period for each team.

J. Halted Game

Any tournament game that is suspended due to adverse weather conditions or other unforeseen factors (e.g., power failure) and cannot be resumed that day shall be considered a "halted" game and play resumed accordingly.

K. Tournament Committee

A tournament committee shall be convened to address issues that arise during the championships, which are not covered in the operating code or elsewhere. The Tournament Committee shall be comprised of the commissioner (or designee), the host institution athletics director, athletics directors' liaison (if present) and the sport chair.

L. Game Balls

Game balls for the conference tournament will be provided by the conference office. The host institution is responsible for identifying individuals to retrieve foul balls to be returned to a designated location. The host institution must also be prepared to supplement the supply of baseballs provided for the tournament should that become necessary.

V. AWARDS

A. Conference Championship

A championship award (plaque or trophy) will be awarded to the conference championship team. Each member of the championship team will receive a certificate.

B. Postseason Tournament Champion

A trophy will be presented to the team winning the postseason tournament. Each member of the postseason tournament championship team will receive a certificate.

C. Athlete of the Week

Each week during the season, the baseball sport committee (via a vote of the head coaches) will select a position player and a pitcher as athletes of the week, when nominations and data are sufficient. Coaches are permitted to vote for their own players. The recipients will receive a certificate.

D. Coach of the Year

A coach of the year will be selected by the coaches at the conclusion of the season in accordance with the criteria established in WIAC Administrative Regulation 25.4. The recipient will receive an award from the conference.

E. Scholar-Athlete Award

A scholar-athlete will be selected at the conclusion of the season in accordance with the criteria established in WIAC Administrative Regulation 25.6. In men's sports, the award shall be entitled the **Max Sparger Scholar-Athlete Award**. Nominees will receive a certificate and the recipient a plaque from the conference.

F. All-Conference/Players of the Year

The WIAC All-Conference Baseball Team, consisting of 12 position players (regardless of position) and eight (8) pitchers, and Players of the Year will be selected by the coaches at the conclusion of the regular season as follows:

- Coaches may nominate players from their team only.
- Coaches must vote for 12 position players and eight (8) pitchers.
- Coaches cannot vote for their own players.
- Any player not selected, but receiving one (1) or more votes, will be given honorable mention recognition and will receive a certificate.
- Only conference statistics will be used in the selection process.
- All-conference selections will receive a plaque from the conference.
- A position player and pitcher will be designated as players of the year. The recipients will receive plaques provided by Rawlings.

G. Newcomer of the Year

A Newcomer of the Year will be selected as voted by the head coaches of those eligible players who are selected for the All-Conference Team. A Newcomer of the Year is defined as a student-athlete who has used his first season of participation in the sport of baseball that season.

H. All Sportsmanship Team

An All-Sportsmanship Team will be named at the conclusion of the baseball season. The team will consist of one (1) member from each team (as selected from that team) who displays exemplary sportsmanship throughout the season. Each member of the All-Sportsmanship Team will receive a certificate from the conference.

VI. SPORT CHAIR/SPORT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A. Sport Chair

The chair of the Baseball Sport Committee will be rotated alphabetically by institution. The term of the chair shall be from July 1 to June 30. [See WIAC Administrative Regulation 24.2 for duties and responsibilities of sport chairs.]

B. Sport Committee Meeting

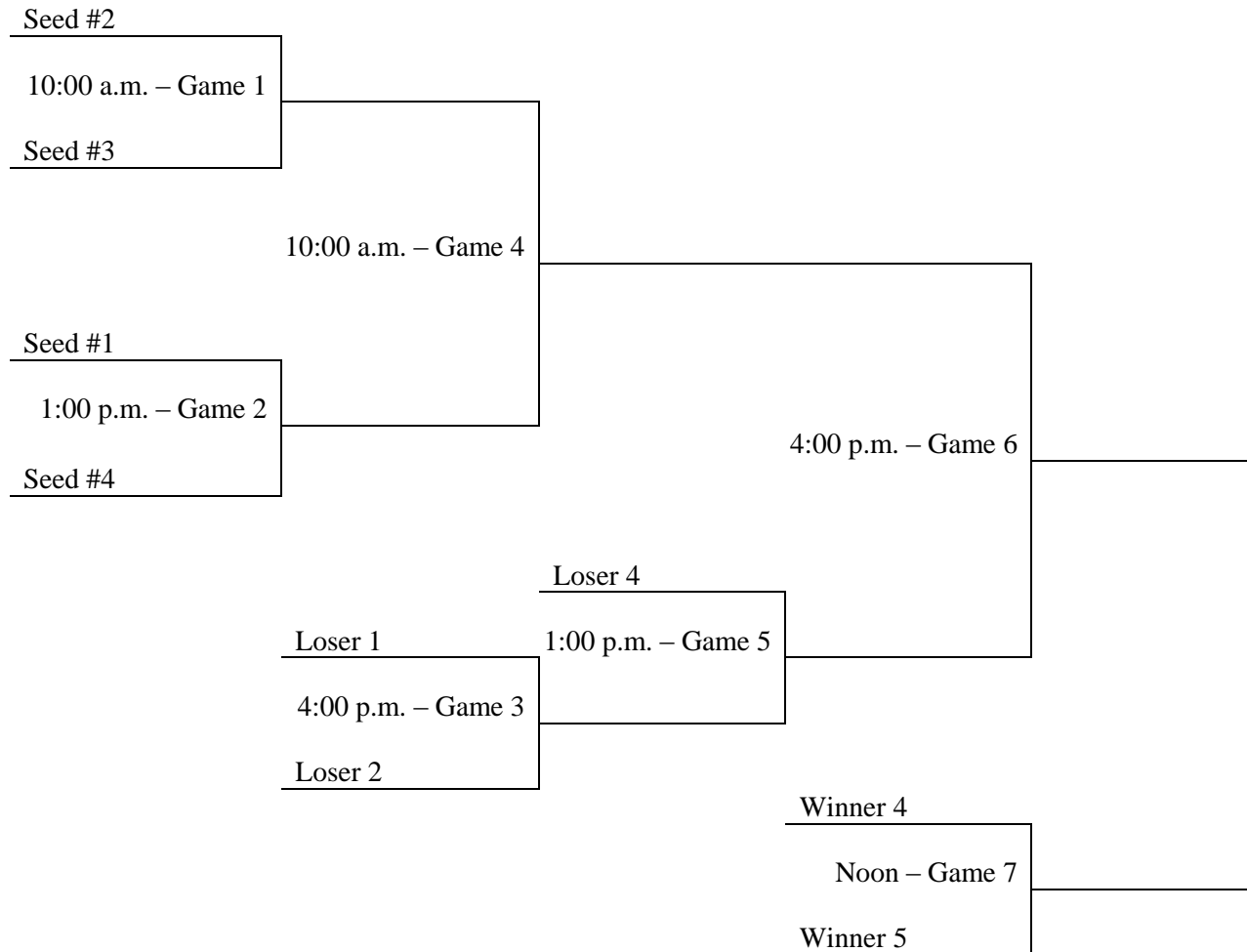
The annual Baseball Sport Committee meeting/telephone conference call will be held at the conclusion of the baseball season.

2020 SEASON

Postseason Tournament Date:	Thursday-Saturday, May 7-9, 2020
Site:	TBD (#1 seed)
Sport Chair:	Evan Brandt, Finlandia University July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
Athletics Directors' Liaison:	Duey Naatz, UW-Stout
NCAA Regional Advisory Committee Representative:	Kevin Tomasiewicz, UW-Oshkosh (term expires 9-2020)
Sport Committee Conference Meeting:	June 16, 2020, 10:00 a.m. Grand Chute, WI

WIAC BASEBALL POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT BRACKET

(Four-Team Double Elimination Bracket)



Day One: Games 1, 2 and 3

Day Two: Games 4, 5 and 6

Day Three: Game 7 (if necessary), if winner of Game 4 loses Game 6

All times are subject to change.

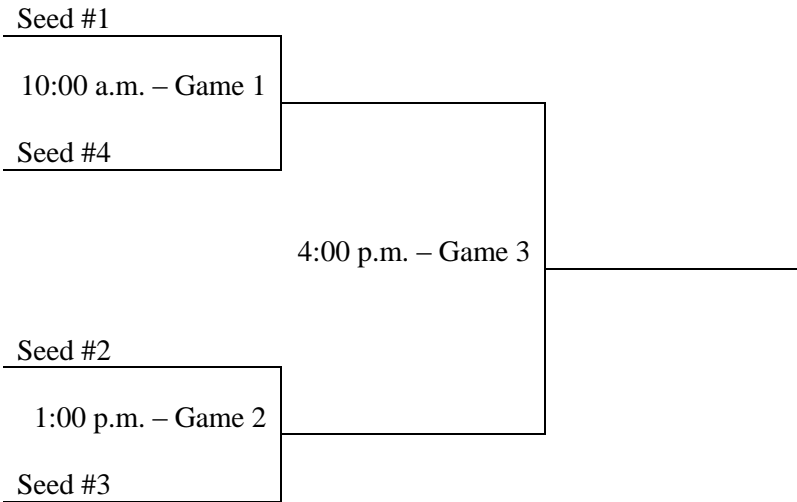
WIAC BASEBALL POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT BRACKET

(Single unlighted field – if day one is cancelled)



Day One: Games 1, 2 and 3
Day Two: Games 4 and 5*
Game 5 (if necessary) if winner of Game 2 loses Game 4
All times are subject to change.

**WIAC BASEBALL POSTSEASON
TOURNAMENT BRACKET**
(Single unlighted field – if Day 1 and Day 2 are cancelled)
(Four-Team Single-Elimination Bracket)



All times are subject to change.

**WIAC Postseason Baseball Tournament
Batting Practice Schedule**

DAY ONE

Game #1 – 10:00 AM

Home Team (7:50 – 8:30)

Visiting Team (8:30 – 9:10)

Game #2 – 1:00 PM

Home Team (10:30 – 11:10)

Visiting Team (11:10 – 11:50)

Game #3 – 4:00 PM

Loser Game #1 (Optional)

Loser Game #2 (N/A)

DAY TWO

Game #4 – 10:00 AM

Home Team (7:50 – 8:30)

Visiting Team (8:30 – 9:10)

Game #5 – 1:00 PM

Winner Game #3 (11:20 – 12:00)

Loser Game #4 (N/A)

Game #6 – 4:00 PM

Winner Game #4 (2:20 – 3:00)

Winner Game #5 (N/A)

DAY THREE (If Necessary)

Game #7 – Noon

Home Team (9:50 – 10:30)

Away Team (10:30 – 11:10)

**WIAC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT
PREGAME FORMAT***

DAY ONE**Game #1 (10 AM)**

Infield Practice
Field Preparation
National Anthem
First Pitch

Home Team

9:25 – 9:35
9:45 – 9:55
9:57
10:00

Visiting Team

9:35 – 9:45

Game #2 (1 PM)

Field Preparation
Infield Practice
First Pitch

Home Team

Upon conclusion of preceding game
20 minutes prior to start
45 minutes upon completion of
Game #1.

Visiting Team

10 minutes prior to start

Game #3 (4 PM)

Field Preparation
Infield Practice
First Pitch

Home Team

Upon conclusion of preceding game
20 minutes prior to start
45 minutes upon completion of
Game #2.

Visiting Team

10 minutes prior to start

DAY TWO**Game #4 (10 AM)**

Infield Practice
Field Preparation
National Anthem
First Pitch

Home Team

9:25 – 9:35
9:45 – 9:55
9:57
10:00

Visiting Team

9:35 – 9:45

Game #5 (1 PM)

Field Preparation
Infield Practice
First Pitch

Home Team

Upon conclusion of preceding game
20 minutes prior to start
45 minutes upon completion of
Game #4.

Visiting Team

10 minutes prior to start

Game #6 (4 PM)

Field Preparation
Infield Practice
Introductions
First Pitch

Home Team

Upon completion of preceding game
25 minutes prior to start
5 minutes prior to start
45 minutes upon completion of
Game #5.

Visiting Team

15 minutes prior to start

DAY THREE (If Necessary)**Game #7 (Noon)**

Infield Practice
Field Preparation
Introductions
National Anthem
First Pitch

Home Team

11:20 – 11:30
11:40 – 11:50
11:50
11:57
Noon

Visiting Team

11:30 – 11:40

*Pregame will be adjusted in the event teams elect not to take infield practice and/or an artificial surface field is in use. Game times may also begin prior to the stipulated start time provided both teams agree and approved by the commissioner (or designee).