

SOFTBALL

- 1.0 **ADMINISTRATION OF SPORT**
- 1.1 **PERSONNEL AND JOB DESCRIPTION:**
HOW SELECTED: The chairperson and recorder shall rotate in alphabetical order.
LENGTH OF TERM: Two (2) years.
HOW REPLACED: Should the chair position be vacated, the recorder would serve as chair until the group meets for another election.
- 1.2 **DUTIES OF CHAIRPERSON:** The chairperson shall call for agenda items, organize and conduct the annual meeting.
- 1.3 **DUTIES OF RECORDER:** The recorder will take the minutes of the meeting and distribute the minutes to the coaches and to the liaison Athletic Director. The recorder will also distribute copies of the "Motion Worksheets" to ALL Athletic Directors.
- 1.4 **DUTIES OF LIAISON:** To make sure the chair and recorder are appointed and assume their duties. To represent the Athletic Directors at the coaches meeting. To represent the coaches at the Athletic Directors meeting by presenting minutes and action items to the Athletic Directors.
- 1.5 **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:**
- 1.6 **DATE, TIME, PLACE OF MEETINGS:** The annual meeting will be held at one of the Twin Cities institutions each year. Date: In May, the Wednesday following the DIII Championships. (*revised 12/06, 12/90*)
- 1.6.1 An unofficial coaches meeting to correspond with the umpire rules meeting will take place on the last Tuesday of the month of January. (*added 5/03*)
- 2.0 **SPORTS SEASON**
- 2.1 **TRADITIONAL SEASON:** Begins February 1st and ends with the NCAA Division III Championship.
- 2.1.1 **PRACTICE GUIDELINES:** Formal practice is construed to mean organized team practice where the coach is present.
- 2.1.1.1 February 1--Official team practice may begin. (*revised 5/98, 4/92*)
- 2.1.2 **FIRST DATE FOR COMPETITION:**
- 2.1.3 **LAST DATE FOR COMPETITION:** The NCAA Division III National Championship.
- 2.2 **NONTRADITIONAL SEASON:** There shall be no intercollegiate competition during the nontraditional season and a limit (between the first day of classes and October 30); and there will be a maximum of 12 optional practice sessions, as defined by the NCAA during this time. Practices during the non-traditional season must be completed by October 30. (*NCAA 1/92*). MIAC institutions shall be allowed to use one of their 12 practice days in the fall to conduct an alumni game. No class time can be missed for this alumni game. (*revised 5/08, added 5/03*)
- 2.3 **NUMBER OF VARSITY CONTESTS:** 40 games not including MIAC and NCAA post season competition. A contest against alumnae will not be counted toward the maximum number of contests allowed. (*Revised 5/01 NCAA 8/92, 1/89*)
- 2.3.1 **NUMBER OF JUNIOR VARSITY CONTESTS:** 12 dates (*revised 5/94*)
- 2.3.2 No athlete can play in more than the total number of varsity contests allowed in a season; counting regular season varsity and junior varsity games. (*clarified 4/92*)
- 2.4 **CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT:** Weekend preceding the NCAA Regional Tournament. (*added 12/03*)
- 2.5 **SCHEDULING POLICY:** All conference games are to be scheduled as double headers (two, seven inning games). A fifteen (15) minute break between doubleheader games will be provided unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.
- 2.5.1 The assignment secretary will schedule all conference games. No institution will be scheduled for more than 2 home Sundays. (*revised 5/03*)
- 2.5.2 Each school shall declare, by April 1 of the preceding year, to the Conference office, their inability to play specific dates due to college policy (e.g. graduation, religious holidays, finals). (*revised 5/01,5/00*). Softball has a MIAC no-play policy for the following dates: April 12, 2009, April 4, 2010, and April 24, 2011 (Easter). (*added 5/03, revised 12/07, 12/06, 05/06, 5/04*)
- 2.6 **POLICY FOR POSTPONEMENT/RESCHEDULING, ETC.:** All MIAC games must be made up on the first available unscheduled date. In make-up games involving a second trip, the two participating schools shall share equally in the additional expenses (no overnight lodging). If such

a trip involves a distance of over 150 (one way) miles, the two schools shall play at a neutral conference site midway between the two campuses. MIAC games must be completed on or before the Thursday preceding the MIAC conference tournament to determine conference tournament seeding. If teams have not completed games by this deadline and the outcome has a bearing on the seeding of the conference tournament, then rule 7.1.1 will go into effect to break the tie. *(revised 12/06, 05/06, 5/04, 5/94, 12/91)*

2.6.1 If a game is halted prior to completion of the fifth inning, it will be resumed at exactly the point of being halted. *(revised 5/04, 5/01, 5/00, 12/90 clarified 5/94)*

2.6.2 A team is not required to play three (3) MIAC weekday doubleheaders during a week. Travel to site, warm-up or halted games will be considered a date. *(revised 12/06, 5/00)*

2.6.3 If complications occur on make-up dates, the MIAC Executive Director shall rule on such matters.

3.0 **GAME/MATCH/MEET/CONDUCT**

3.1 **STARTING TIME:** Weekday conference games will start at 3:00 p.m. (CST) and 4:00 (DST). Saturday games will start at 1:00 p.m., or other times mutually agreed upon.

3.2 **RULES TO GOVERN CONTEST:** NCAA rules.

3.2.1 If the score remains tied after nine complete innings, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat by placing the player who completed the last "at bat" in the ninth inning as a runner on second base. *(revised 3/87)*

3.3 **SITE PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS:** The field will be available thirty (30) minutes prior to game time, to be shared by both teams.

3.3.1 Each team will have eight (8) minutes for infield/outfield warm up. The home team will practice first. *(revised 5/03, 5/97)*

3.3.2 The meeting for ground rules shall begin five (5) minutes prior to game time.

3.3.3 Infields shall be dragged between games of doubleheaders if possible.

3.3.4 Portable outfield fences must fall within NCAA guidelines for distance and once established, they must remain at that distance for the entire season. *(added 5/04)*

3.4 **HOME TEAM SHALL:**

3.4.1 Provide two (2) new balls for each game -- an NCAA approved Fast-pitch ball (or two balls in satisfactory condition) agreed upon by the coaches.

3.4.2 Provide the visiting team with a locker room, if requested. Call in all scores to the local media.

3.5 **VISITING TEAM SHALL:**

3.6 **VISITING TEAM ROSTER LIMIT:** The conference visiting team roster limit shall be twenty-two (22) players maximum. *(revised 05/07)*

3.6.1 Each coach shall be responsible for posting their roster, including uniform number, position, and year in school on the team's website by April 1. *(revised 05/06, 5/00)*

3.7 **POLICY FOR VIDEO/MOVIES:**

3.8 **PRESS BOX PROCEDURES/ASSIGNMENTS:**

4.0 **GAME SUPPORT STAFF**

4.1 **GAME OFFICIALS:** Two NCAA qualified, non-student officials per game. *(revised 05/06)*

4.1.1 **POLICY TO ASSIGN OFFICIALS:** Officials will be assigned by the Executive Director through the International Softball Congress. *(revised 12/07, 5/01, 8/95, added 12/91)*

4.1.2 **POLICY FOR SELECTING/RATING OFFICIALS:** Each coach is responsible for submitting umpire evaluations per the ISC Website. *(revised 05/06, 5/98)*

4.2 **SECONDARY OFFICIALS:** The home team shall provide the official score keeper.

4.3 **SUPPORT PERSONNEL:** On-site administrator *(revised 5/03)*

4.4 **MEDICAL PERSONNEL:** An ATC/R will be on-site. *(revised 05/06)*

4.5 **OTHER**

5.0 **MIAC/NCAA STATISTICS:**

Each school must keep NCAA statistics for each conference game. The home team is responsible for calling scores into the two Twin Cities newspapers immediately after the game. Each school is responsible for updating the conference statistical web page within 24 hours following weekday games and 48 hours following weekend games. *(revised 05/06, 5/00, 12/90)*

6.0 **CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP**

6.1 **HOW DECIDED:** The conference champion will be determined from the results of the assigned MIAC schedule of doubleheaders. (All MIAC games must be played per rule 2.6) *(revised 05/06)*

6.2 **POLICY FOR TIE BREAKER:** Multiple champions will be recognized.

7.0 **POST SEASON POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

- 7.1 **AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER:** The winner of the conference post-season playoff will receive the automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship tournament. *(revised 5/03)*
- 7.1.1 **TIE BREAKER:** The following system will be used to break ties for seeding purposes into the conference playoff: *(revised 5/02, added 5/00)*
1. Head to head record against tied teams.
 2. Record of those teams tied versus teams .500 and above at completion of regular MIAC season. (MIAC contests only).
 3. Cumulative record against each team from the bottom up of those teams tied. (i.e. if two teams are tied and have split their doubleheader, the record against the #12 team will be considered. If teams are still tied, then record against the #11 team will be considered and so on until the tie is broken).
 4. Coin flip.

7.2 **EVENT DESCRIPTION:** 4-team, double-elimination post-season tournament on the weekend (Friday & Saturday) prior to the NCAA Regional tournament weekend.

7.3 **PROCEDURE:** 4-team format. The highest seed will be the home team for entire tournament.

Friday Game 1: #1 vs #4, 3:00pm
 Game 2: #2 vs #3, 3:00pm
 Game 3: Winner game 1 vs Winner game 2, 5:00pm
 Game 4: Loser game 1 vs Loser game 2, 5:00pm
 Saturday Game 5: Loser game 3 vs Winner game 4, 11am
 Game 6: Winner game 3 vs Winner game 5, 1:30pm
 Game 7: Winner game 6 vs Loser game 6, 4:00pm *(if necessary)*

Friday: Game 1 and 3 at site A
 Game 2 and 4 at site B
 Saturday: Games 5-7 at site A or B (one site only) *(revised 05/06, 12/03)*

7.4 **LOCATION:** Future sites and host institutions for the MIAC Conference Tournament will be as follows *(revised 12/06):*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Host Institution(s)</u>	<u>Site(s)</u>
2009	Saint Mary's	Saint Mary's/Winona Cotter H.S.
2010	Gustavus	Caswell Park (Mankato)

7.5 **POLICY FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER:** If the tournament is not played; the highest seed would receive the AQ. All games should be completed. If a game(s) is halted, it should be continued at the spot where it was halted as per the NCAA rule book concerning halted games. All tournament games need to be completed by the NCAA deadline for NCAA tournament selection.

IF THE TOURNAMENT IS STARTED, BUT CANNOT BE COMPLETED:

- 0 games played= highest seed
- 1 game played= highest seed
- 2 games played= highest seed
- 3 games played= highest remaining seed
- 4 games played= highest remaining seed
- 5 games played= highest remaining seed
- 6 games played= winner of game 6
- 7 games played= winner of game 7 *(revised 5/04)*

7.6 A twelve player all tournament team will be selected by the four participating coaches, ties will be allowed. The tournament MVP will be the player with the most votes. Coaches will email ballots to the conference office by Monday at noon following the conference tournament. *(revised 05/07, 05/06, added 5/04)*

8.0 AWARDS

8.1 **CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS:** The conference champion will receive the team trophy.

8.2 **ALL CONFERENCE CERTIFICATES:** Twenty-two (22) players receive All Conference recognition with ties being allowed. Those athletes nominated but not selected shall be named Honorable Mention provided they receive at least one vote. *(revised 05/06)*

8.4 **COACH OF THE YEAR:** The MIAC coaches will vote for and recognize a coach of the year with a plaque provided by the MIAC.

8.5 **MIAC PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Each coach may nominate up to one (1) player. Each coach will rank order the top 3 on ballot; (1=3 pt, 2=2 pts, 3=1 pt) Player with most points receives award. Ties will be allowed. *(added 5/02)*

- 8.6 **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:** Each institution has the option to nominate one (1) Rookie of the Year on All-Conference form. Rookie of the Year is defined as: 1st collegiate softball season. *(added 5/02)*
- 8.7 **PITCHER OF THE YEAR:** Each institution may nominate a Pitcher of the Year, using the All-Conference Form. The nomination will reflect pitching and defensive stats only. *(added 5/03)*
- 8.8 **MIAC SPORTSMANSHIP TEAM:** Teams will elect one member from their team who displays good sportsmanship throughout the season to be a member of the All-MIAC Sportsmanship team. These individuals will be selected by the team and head coach, with the head coach bringing the selection to the coaches meeting (where applicable or sent to conference office at the end of season). Only one student-athlete from each team may be selected. All institutions will have one representative, with final team choice selected by the head coach. The award will be publicized with other conference awards at the end of the season. This award is in name only, no certificate or plaque provided (no ties allowed). *(added 12/06)*

9.0 **ALL CONFERENCE TEAM SELECTION**

- 9.1 Each team submits a maximum of seven (7) players using the MIAC Softball All-Conference Nomination form and including only regular season MIAC statistics. *(revised 12/06, 05/06, 5/00, 5/98, 1995)*
- 9.2 All-Conference nominations will be e-mailed to the conference softball chairperson by Monday at 5 p.m. following the MIAC conference softball playoffs. The chairperson will gather all materials and disperse to all MIAC softball coaches by 5 p.m. on Tuesday. Coaches will return ballots to softball AD liaison by Wednesday at 5 p.m. Nominations must include the following information: Player Name, Player Rank, Other Designation if desired (Player of the Year/Pitcher of the Year/Rookie of the Year), Hometown, Year in College, Position, and Optional Brag Box. Each coach will then pick the best 22 players without regard to positions. Those athletes nominated but not selected for All-Conference shall be named Honorable Mention provided they receive at least one vote. Coaches may not vote for their own players. If a conference school does not vote its athletes cannot be awarded All-Conference recognition. *(revised 12/07, 12/06, 5/00, 5/98, 1995, 12/90)*

10.0 **MISCELLANEOUS**