

## **Baseball Operating Procedures**

### **I. Regular Season**

- A. All teams will play each other home and home triple headers according to a schedule made by the Conference Commissioner. The games will be scheduled typically as a single game Friday and a doubleheader Saturday; or a doubleheader Saturday and a single game Sunday; or as otherwise agreed on by the two teams. Single games are to be nine innings and double headers are to consist of a seven inning game and a nine inning game. If the first game goes over seven innings the second game automatically becomes a seven inning game.
- B. Umpires for conference baseball games will be furnished from the local baseball umpire association. Each year, prior to beginning the conference schedule, each coach is responsible for furnishing to the Commissioner a list of umpires from the association who are qualified and available to call GCAC games. The Commissioner shall furnish the other coaches with a copy of the list. By notifying the Commissioner, each coach may "cut" a maximum of two umpires who then may not be used to officiate the games with his team.

### **II. Policy on Make-Up Games**

- A. If a game of a three-game series is rained out in the first half of play, the game will be made up at the site of the next regular scheduled date with that team. A Friday game will be played with the travel team to be the home team and the game shall be a seven inning game. If a single game cannot be made up during the second half, the game will be lost and the best won/lost percentage will be used to determine the Champion and for seeding of the tournament.
- B. If rain is predicted on a scheduled playing date, every effort will be made between the coaches to move the games up or back.
- C. If a game is rained out in the second half of play, every effort should be made to complete the game at a date no later than Monday night at the agreement of both coaches.

### **III. Site and Format of the Tournament**

- A. The site of the GCAC Tournament will be determined by a rotating basis. The rotation is alphabetical. If a new team comes into the conference their school goes to the end of the rotation.

As of April 2008 the rotation belongs to Springhill College. The rotation will follow in 2009 to William Carey followed by Belhaven, Louisiana State University Shreveport, Loyola, Mobile, Springhill, Tougaloo. Schools have the option of hosting (if they meet GCAC hosting criteria) or not hosting. If a school chooses not to host, the next school in the rotation receives the option to host.

- B. Criteria for hosting a Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Tournament include the following. In order to host the:
1. Host must have lights.
  2. Host must have a tarp.
  3. Host must have adequate seating and restroom facilities (minimum of 300).
  4. Host must have adequate pre-game area for batting practice.
  5. Host must pay for cost of umpires (motels, per diem, etc.).
  6. Host must provide a banquet for teams.
- C. GCAC Post-Season Baseball Tournament is to include all baseball members with seeding determined by order of regular season conference finish. If there is a tie for a seed the following tie-breaking procedure will be observed.
1. Head to Head
  2. Record against top two ranked teams (if you are one of the top-ranked teams you will use the next ranked team.)
  3. If teams are still tied a coin flip will determine seed.
- D. The GCAC Post-Season Baseball Tournament will be double-elimination tournament with all nine inning games. (10-run mercy rule in the first round as determined by the NAIA Baseball Policy Manual). Policies in the NAIA Baseball Policy Manual will govern the tournament.

#### **IV. All Conference Selections**

- A. Coaches will submit names of players from their teams to the Chair of the Baseball Committee at the Conference Spring meeting.
- B. The Chair will organize a ballot. The coaches may not vote for his own players.
- C. Players will be chosen by position as stated by the NAIA Baseball Policy Manual
- D. Awards include: All Conference Team, Conference MVP, Conference MVP Pitcher, Coach of the Year, and Gold Glove Team.