

## **SOFTBALL OPERATING PROCEDURES**

### **I. Regular Season Play**

Each school will play home and away games with all other conference schools. The participating schools will determine the playing dates, but games must be completed by the last Wednesday in April.

### **II. Conference Tournament Champion**

The conference tournament champion will be determined by a double elimination tournament, which is played the last Friday and Saturday in April. Brackets with times and days will be approved by a majority vote of conference coaches before the spring season begins. Each fall the coaches will approve the bracket, which will be used for the following spring tournament. All games will use the international tiebreaker in the eighth with the exception of the championship game. In any event if there is a tie the conference commissioner will make the decision regarding the competition of conference play including post-season competition. An entry fee will be charged to each team. The host institution will be responsible for an expense report for the tourney. The report will be distributed to all schools in the tournament.

### **III. Tournament Site**

The tournament site will be determined by a rotation format. The field must be regulations and comply with NAIA regulations (200 ft to 225 ft fences, skinned infield, etc.) Adequate facilities should be provided with are: bullpen area for pitchers, one or more fields for pre game warm-up, including but not limited to: infield, outfield, and live batting practice.

### **IV. Inclement Weather**

In case of not being able to play the tournament due to weather or any other catastrophic event, the number one seed of regular season play will be designated as conference tournament champion. Seeding for the remainder of the tournament will be determined by regular season competition.

### **V. Seeding**

The tournament will be seeded according to regular season play based on

1. Overall conference record
2. Head to head with the teams involved with the tie
3. Runs give up against the teams involved with the tie
4. Total runs given up against conference schools
5. Coin toss

### **VI. Rules**

NCAA rules with NAIA modification are used.

### **VII. Officials**

The host institution will provide officials. There will be a 3-man crew for all conference matches. We will rate officials after every conference game to insure umpire quality at conference tournament. The highest rating umpires will be selected to call the conference tournament.

## **VIII. Awards**

1. 16 member All Conference Team
2. Pitcher of the Year
3. Player of the Year
4. Freshman of the Year
5. Coach of the Year

Awards will be voted on at the spring conference meeting by the coaches excluding your own players. The chair is responsible for send the championship results and names of all conference winners to the commissioner and sports information director. Each participating team will receive 3 all conference tournament team awards to be presented at the discretion of the head coach after completion of the tournament. Stats for each athlete being nominated for all conference should be sent to all conference coaches by the Wednesday before the spring conference meeting. Each coach will rank the top 16 players in the conference including: a player of the year, pitcher of the year, freshman of the year, and coach of the year. Votes will be tallied by #1 receiving 16 points, #2 receiving 15 points, etc. If there is a tie for coach of the year, the tie will go to the regular season conference champion.