

# 2007-08 WHAC HANDBOOK - MEN'S BASKETBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

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## I. SEASON DEFINED

A. WHAC baseball teams will follow NAIA national guidelines in regard to;

1. Number of contests: 55 maximum
2. Teams are allowed 2 scrimmages

## II. SCHEDULE

A. The league schedule will be devised by the conference scheduler and disseminated by the league President.

1. Each WHAC school will play six conference games versus every other WHAC school
2. Two doubleheaders will be played versus the same conference school with one institution hosting Saturday and the other hosting Sunday.
  - a) All league games will be seven inning contests.
3. A Wednesday doubleheader will be played per the WHAC schedule so that every school plays every other conference school once on a Wednesday. The home sites will alternate annually.
4. Game Times
  - a) Saturday and Sunday doubleheaders begin at 1:00 pm
  - b) Wednesday doubleheaders begin at 1:30 pm
5. Games scheduled for the Easter weekend (when applicable) will be played on Saturday and Monday to avoid playing on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
6. If agreed upon by both teams, one team can host both weekend doubleheaders with the opposing team hosting both the next year. This can only be done with one opponent annually.
7. Mondays should be left open as a conference rain-out make up date. League rain-outs **MUST** be played on the next calendar day following the rainout. If the rainout occurs on a weekend game, then Monday is to be used as the make-up. If the rain-out occurs on a Wednesday game, then Thursday is to be used as the make-up.
  - a) Conference makeup days will take precedence over scheduled non-conference games. If necessary, non-conference games must be cancelled to accommodate a conference make-up.
8. Teams must play all 24 conference games.
  - a) Exception to 24 game rule: If a cancellation occurs on the final weekend of league play and the games in question **DO NOT** impact the league standings or playoff seeding the Athletic Directors have the right to not require the games to be made up.

B. Rules of Play

1. Rules of play shall follow the Major League Baseball (American League) Rule Book with NAIA modifications as defined in the NAIA Baseball Coaches Handbook.
2. All WHAC games will be played according to the suspended game rule.
3. A complete game is five innings (or 4 and a half if the home team is winning).
4. If a game is stopped before it reaches the full seven innings because of rain, darkness, etc., it will be considered a complete game if it has reached five complete innings (or 4 and a half if the home team is winning).
5. A tie game that is stopped before it reaches the full seven innings because of rain, darkness, etc., must be completed at a later date. There will be no tie games.

## III. CHAMPIONSHIP DEFINED

- A. The WHAC Baseball regular season championship shall be awarded on the basis of having the most victories in conference games.
- B. A minimum of 20 conference games must be played in order to be eligible for championship.

## IV. CONTEST PROCEDURES

- A. All conference double-headers will be 7 inning games.
- B. The host school will be the home team for both games of the double header
- C. The home team will furnish game balls and pay the umpires
- D. Home team should provide communication to visiting team regarding pre-game schedules, procedures, and umpires.
- E. Suspended game guidelines listed above.
- F. The home plate umpire (along with both coaches) will make decisions in regard to stoppage of play.
- G. A date may be played on a neutral site or at the opposing site if the host site is unplayable. The change must be agreed to by both schools.
- H. Each team will be allowed 40 minutes of batting practice and 10-15 minutes of infield practice (if conditions allow).
- I. Starting times will be 1:30pm on weekdays and 1:00pm on weekends.
- J. If an umpire faces problems in administering a game, due either to improper or inadequate facilities or unsportsmanlike player or coach behavior, the umpire should contact the league commissioner immediately.
- K. If a coach wants to file official protest in a regular season WHAC game, the following procedures must be followed:
  1. The protest must be filed in regards to a rules situation. All judgement calls or interpretations are deemed to be final.
  2. The protest must be filed prior to the next pitch or play of that game.

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3. The protest must be registered with the home plate umpire (umpire in chief) and recorded in each scorebook.
  4. The protest must be filed in writing by the protesting schools athletic director to the WHAC commissioner within 48 hours.
  5. The commissioner will then contact the umpires involved, the supervisor of officials for that sport, and any resources he/she deems appropriate.
  6. If the protest is denied, the game will stand as played. If the protest is upheld, the game in question will be played from the spot of protest. Games protested will only be rescheduled if they have a bearing on the WHAC championship and/or a bearing on the selection of teams for the WHAC Tournament.
  7. In WHAC Postseason play, the games committee will deal with the protest immediately and make a decision based upon the information available. The game will be stopped until a ruling can be made.
- L. Teams should share numerical rosters and schedules with fellow WHAC schools.
- M. Make up of league rain-out games are to be rescheduled on the next calendar day. Wednesday rain-outs to be played Thursday, Saturday/Sunday rainouts to be played Monday. Rescheduled WHAC games take priority over non-conference scheduled games.
- N. Visiting team will take batting practice and infield practice second.

## V. POST SEASON PLAY

### A. Post-season WHAC Tournament

1. Will include the top 3 WHAC schools according to regular season conference finish.
2. The tournament bracket will follow the brackets set forth in the example provided below

#### **BRACKET EXAMPLE (3-team tournament)**

Day 1: #1 team receives first bye; Game 1: #2 vs. #3; Game 2: #1 vs. winner Game 1; Game 3: #1 vs. loser Game 1

Day 2: If three teams left, #1 seed receives first bye; One one team is eliminated, remaining teams play until two teams are eliminated with two losses. Remaining team is crowned conference champion.

3. Seeding in the conference tournament will be determined by each teams finish in the WHAC regular season. In case of a tie, the following will be used to determine order of finish:
  - a. Most WHAC victories in regular season.
  - b. Head to head competition.
  - c. Victories vs. first place team, second place team, through last.
  - d. Most WHAC road victories
  - e. Coin TossIf more than two teams are tied, once one team is eliminated based on tie breaker, revert back and start process again from number one with remaining tied teams.
4. The winner of the WHAC regular season will host the tournament. Arrangements should be made to have a second field available if necessary.
5. All teams will be responsible for their own travel, hotel, and meal money expenses.
6. Tournament dates for the 2008 season will be May 1-3 with May 4 as a rain date, if needed.
7. The winner of the WHAC Conference Tournament will advance to the Region VIII Tournament as the number 1 seed. The regular season conference champion will be the #2 seed. If the WHAC tournament winner is the same as the regular season champion, the tournament runner-up will get the WHAC second automatic bid to the regional tournament
8. All games will be 9 innings with a ten run rule for the first round games in effect.
9. The home team will sell tickets for the tournament at the following prices to help offset the cost of umpires and field maintenance incurred by the host school.

Adults: \$5 for a day pass and \$10 for an all tournament pass  
Students: \$3 for a day pass and \$6 for an all tournament pass

### B. Site

1. The Regional tournament will be hosted on a rotating basis by the WHAC and the MCC.
  - a. The 2008 tournament will be hosted by the MCC
  - b. On years when the WHAC hosts the Regional (odd numbered years currently), the host must have TWO fields that meet all requirements in order to host. It is recommended you have fields available for the first two days of tournament (rain).

### C. Funding of the tournament will be determined by the region.

1. All teams are responsible for travel, lodging, and meal costs.
2. Umpire costs and field rental are the responsibility of the host school.
3. If a neutral site is used, costs are divided amongst the participants.
4. Any gate receipts will be divided amongst the participants

### D. Dates

1. The 2008 Region VIII Tournament will be held May 7-9, 2008. May 9 is the rain date.
2. The 2008 Heartland Super Regional will be hosted by the Region VIII champion.

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## E. Tournament Rain-out Policy

1. Every effort will be made to complete the tournament as structured
  2. If rain-out occurs Day 1, the tournament will be completed Day 2 and Day 3.
  3. If Day 1 and Day 2 are rained out the tournament will be completed Day 3 using a single-elimination format (times being subject to change as needed).
  4. If Day 2 and Day 3 are rained-out, the champion will be the #1 seed, unless they have been beaten Day 1.  
Should the #1 seed be in the loser's bracket, the highest undefeated seed will be declared the tournament champion.
  5. If the tournament is completely rained out, the #1 seed will advance to the NAIA Region VIII Tournament.
- F. Please refer to the WHAC website for tournament dates and times.

## VI. OFFICIALS

### A. General Policy

1. Each regular season WHAC doubleheader will be officiated by two umpires
2. Umpires will be assigned by Bruce Doane
  - a) Telephone (616) 451-9530; Cell (616) 822-9503
  - b) E-mail address: notarat@juno.com
3. Umpires will be paid as follows for the 2008 season. (Payment is expected at the event)
  - a) \$95 for a single game
  - b) \$155 for doubleheaders
4. Host institution should make every effort to provide a comfortable environment for the umpires including:
  - a) Changing area (where available)
  - b) Water during and between games of a doubleheader
  - c) Food between games of a doubleheader (when available)

### B. Payment Policy - Weather Situations

1. In the event of a game cancellation, the following format shall be used for umpire pay.
  - a) If umpire does not leave home before notified of cancellation, no pay is awarded.
  - b) If umpire is en route to game when notified of cancellation, they will be paid fee for ONE game worked.
  - c). If umpire gets to site and game is not played, or is partially played, they will be paid in full.

## VII. AWARDS

- A. Regular season and tournament championship trophies will be awarded by conference.
- B. Player/Pitcher of the week. Chosen by Media Director. Certificates awarded to weekly winners.
- C. All-Conference team.  
The team will be selected by position with the following breakdown: Startig pitchers- 3, catchers- 2, infielder- 5, outfielders- 4, DH- 1, utility player - 1, Relief pitcher - 1.  
Coaches may nominate own players for consideration. Coaches will ballot and are allowed to vote for own player.
- D. WHAC Player of the Year: Coaches will nominate one player for this honor. Coaches will ballot as above.
- E. WHAC Pitcher of the Year: Coaches will nominate a maximum of one pitcher from their team for this honor. Coaches will ballot as above.
- F. Since the NAIA recognizes only one Player of the Year at the Regional and National Levels, the coaches must together decide whether it will be the WHAC Player of the Year or the WHAC Pitcher of the Year who will be nominated as the Regional Player of the Year.
- G. WHAC Coach of the Year. Voted upon by WHAC Coaches.

## VIII. TROPHY BREAKDOWN

- A. 1st Team All-Conference receive plaque (17), with exception of Player and Pitcher of the Year
- B. Honorable Mention All-Conference receive plaque (unlimited)
- C. Player and Pitcher of the Year receives sepearate plaque (2)
- D. Coach of the Year receives plaque (1)
- F. All-Academic and Champion of Character team receive certificates
- H. WHAC Coach of Character receives certificate
- H. WHAC Regular Season Champion receives championship trophy (1).
- I. WHAC Tournament Champion receives tournament championship trophy (1).
- J. Team and individual awards will be distributed at WHAC tournament championship.
  1. Host of tournament championship is responsible to distribute awards.
  2. Awards will be supplied by WHAC office and distributed to host of event.

## IV. SPORTS INFORMATION

PLEASE REFER TO SPORTS INFORMATION GUIDELINES ON PAGES 11-15 OF THIS HANDBOOK

## X. ATHLETIC TRAINING

PLEASE REFER TO ATHLETIC TRAINING GUIDELINES ON PAGE 16 OF THIS HANDBOOK