

2007-08 WHAC HANDBOOK - SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

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I. SEASON DEFINED

- a. WHAC softball teams will follow NAIA guidelines regarding:
 - i. Length of Season – 24 weeks
 - ii. Weeks of Contact – 24 weeks
 - iii. Number of Contests – 28 playing dates
 - iv. Number of Scrimmages – 2

II. SCHEDULE

- a. WHAC schedule will be double round robin format (24 games)
- b. During the 2008 season conference playing dates will be Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday (Friday in case where school can not play on Sunday)
- c. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday are to be used as make-up days
- d. Rainout dates are as follows: Sunday (Friday) games to following Tuesday, Saturday games to following Monday, Wednesday games to following Thursday. Games scheduled with non-conference opponents must be cancelled to accommodate conference make-ups.
- e. The final regularly scheduled weekend of WHAC doubleheaders will be played on Friday and Saturday so that Sunday and Monday will be available for conference makeups as needed.
- f. A week of conference play is from Monday through Sunday. During a week of play, no team shall be required to play more than 4 conference doubleheaders.
- g. Conference championship qualifying games are to be completed on or before April 28th, 2008.
- h. Conference games may be played during final exam week, if mutually agreed upon by both institutions.
- i. All conference games must be played unless the WHAC championships committee agree the game will have no bearing on conference standings or championship qualification.
(The WHAC championships committee shall be made up of three rotating AD's based on which schools are involved)
- j. If two teams are suspended during play of their first doubleheader, they will resume the game on their next scheduled date and pick up where the game left off.
- k. If a game must be resumed, the original host institution will be in charge of paying the officials for the additional cost.

III. WHAC CHAMPIONSHIP DEFINED

- a. In order to qualify for the WHAC Championship and the WHAC Conference Tournament, a team must complete a minimum of 22 games in conference play.
- b. After double round robin schedule is complete, the team with the most wins in WHAC play is the WHAC Champion.
- c. In the event that teams do not complete all 24 conference games, the teams who have completed at least 22 games will be ranked based on winning percentage.
- d. The top four seeds which have completed at least 22 games (winning percentage being the final criteria if teams have played uneven amounts of games) will advance to the conference tournament and will be seeded according to conference finish as stated above.
- e. If after April 28th, any teams have the same number of wins and/or winning percentage (if teams play only 22 or 23 games), a tie will be declared and awarded. The following format will be used to identify the top four seeds in the conference tournament:
 - i. Head to Head in Conference Games
 - ii. Head to Head Run Differential
 - iii. Net runs scored in conference games (maximum eight per game)
 - iv. Fewest Runs allowed in conference games
 - v. Coin Toss
 - vi. If a tie of more than two teams exists once one team is eliminated from the tie, revert back to tie breaker i above to break the tie between the two remaining tied teams.
- f. The same procedure listed above will be used for all ties.

IV. CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT DEFINED

- a. WHAC Conference Tournament will be held Wednesday April 30th, Thursday May 1st, Rain date of Friday May 2nd.
- b. A four team double-elimination tournament will take place with teams being ranked 1-4 based on final regular season conference standings as defined in section 3 above.

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- c. Location – will be hosted at the regular season champions home field
- d. Assignment of Officials
 - i. The tournament director (host school coach and/or conference chair) will secure all officials for the tournament from contracted WHAC assignor.
- e. Tournament Protests
 - i. Tournament protests will be handled by a committee of three
 - ii. Committee shall consist of two coaches (not directly involved in outcome of specific game) and the sport coordinator
 - iii. The 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.
- f. Schedule – Games will begin at 10:00 am on Day 1, played in two hour time slots. Games 1-4 played on day 1. Games will begin at 12:00 pm on day 2, played in two hour time slots. Games 5-7 played on day 2.
- g. Tournament Rain-Out Procedures
 - i. Every effort shall be made to complete the tournament as scheduled
 - ii. If rainout occurs on day 1, the tournament shall be completed on day 2 and day 3 (rain date)
 - iii. If rainout occurs on day 1 and day 2, the tournament will be completed on day 3 (rain date) using a single elimination format with times subject to change
 - iv. If day 2 is rained out, tournament will be completed on day 1 and day 3 (rain date)
 - v. If day 2 and 3 are rained out, the champion will be the #1 seed unless they have been beaten on day 1. Should the #1 seed be in the losers bracket, then the highest remaining undefeated seed will be declared the tournament champion.
 - vi. If the tournament is completely rained out, the #1, #2, and #3 regular season conference placers will advance to the Region VIII tournament and seeded accordingly.
 - vii. In the event of a single elimination tournament – the tournament winner will be the #1 seed at the regional tournament, the regular season WHAC champion will be the #2 seed at the regional unless they are the tournament champion. If the regular season champion also wins the WHAC tournament, the tournament runner-up becomes the #2 WHAC seed at the regional. The 3rd seed at the regional will be the remaining WHAC tournament participant that won at least one game in the tournament.
 - viii. Coin flip will determine the home seed for each game
- h. Regional Qualification
 - i. The conference tournament champion will receive the automatic #1 seed to the Region VIII tournament
 - ii. The #2 seed to the Region VIII tournament will be the WHAC regular season champion unless they are the WHAC tournament champion. If the regular season champion also wins the WHAC tournament, the tournament runner-up becomes the #2 WHAC seed at the regional.
 - iii. The #3 seed to the regional tournament will go to the following team
 - 1. The runner up in the conference tournament if the WHAC regular season champion does not win the conference tournament and is not the runner up in the tournament OR
 - 2. The 3rd place team from the conference tournament. This will be the team who is not in the championship game that has not been eliminated in their first two games played.
 - iv. Each school will be responsible to provide one new game ball for each game (the home team of each game – as determined by coin toss) – will be required to supply a 3rd game ball as necessary.
 - v. The official book will be kept by the host school.

V. NAIA REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

- a. The three teams who will advance to the regional tournament and represent the WHAC are described within the conference tournament
- b. The MCC will host the Region VIII tournament in 2008
- c. The regional tournament will be held the week of May 5th – May 9th, dates and location to be finalized at a later date.
- d. The NAIA National Tournament will be held May 16-21, the winner of the Regional Tournament will advance to the NAIA National Tournament.

VI. CONTEST PROCEDURES

- a. NCAA rules with NAIA modifications are to be used in conference play
- b. The Wilson softball (A901010 B-NAIA) is to be used in all WHAC doubleheaders
- c. The 8-run rule will apply after trailing team has batted five time (in a 7-inning game)
- d. WHAC weekday doubleheaders will start at 3:00 pm (2:00 pm before Daylight Savings) and 1:00 pm on weekends.
- e. All bats used must be on the most recently published NCAA approved list, must have the ASA 2004 certification, and may not be on the non-approved bat list on the NCAA or ASA website
- f. Host school will be the “home” team for both games of a WHAC doubleheader
- g. Any procedures not covered or non-conformance to WHAC rules shall be turned over to the conference commissioner for action.

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- h. Rainout procedures: visiting coach will call to verify games before departure. If raining while traveling, stop and call to confirm.
- i. A game that has been suspended due to weather after 4.5 innings (if the home team is ahead) or 5 full innings will be treated as a completed game. If a game is suspended before this point, it will be restarted at the suspended point. If a suspended game is on the first WHAC date between these schools, it will be completed on the second WHAC date between these schools and be played prior to the start of the official doubleheader. If the suspended game is part of the second regularly scheduled date and the game has a bearing on the WHAC Championship and/or regional qualification or ranking, the game must be completed on a mutually acceptable date by both schools. If the game is required and not completed, the team unwilling to complete the game will be charged with a forfeit if the WHAC championship committee so decides.
- j. If a coach wants to file an official protest in a regular season WHAC contest, the following procedures must be followed:
 - i. The protest must be filed in regards to a rules situation. All judgment calls or interpretations are deemed to be final.
 - ii. The protest must be filed prior to the next pitch or play of that game.
 - iii. The protest must be registered with the home plate umpire (umpire in chief) and recorded in each scorebook.
 - iv. The protest must be filed in writing by the protesting school's athletic director to the WHAC commissioner within 48 hours of the game.
 - v. The commissioner will then contact the umpires involved, the supervisor of the officials for that sport, and any resources he/she deems appropriate.
 - vi. 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 or regional qualification
- k. Officials selected by the assignor will umpire WHAC games
- l. Forfeiture: A game(s) may be forfeited if:
 - i. A team fails to show up for a scheduled game(s)
 - ii. A team does not have enough players to compete (per ASA rules)
 - iii. A team uses ineligible player(s) per NAIA eligibility rules or commits any other infraction of NAIA rules and/or WHAC rules
- m. Playing field must be regulation according to NCAA rules

VII. AWARDS

- a. Selection of the WHAC All-Conference Team
 - i. The All-Conference team may consist of up to 18 players
 - ii. Coaches or a representative must be present at the WHAC coaches meeting to have players eligible for selection (date to be determined by April 1st, 2008)
 - iii. Coaches must provide current stats of WHAC and overall games
 - iv. A verbal vote will be taken to select All-WHAC Team
 - v. Coaches will not be allowed to vote for their own players
 - vi. Players who are nominated but do not receive All-WHAC honors will receive Honorable Mention award
 - vii. Coaches may nominate up to 5 players
 - viii. Fax or e-mail nominations in rank order to Laura Klutsarits at predetermined date (to be decided after meeting date is decided)
 - ix. All 18 all-conference players will receive a all-conference plaque, with the exception of the Player and Pitcher of the Year who each receive a separate plaque for those awards only.
- b. Player of the Year Award will be chosen by a verbal vote of all the coaches
- c. Pitcher of the Year Award will be chosen by a verbal vote of all the coaches
- d. Coach of the Year Award will be chosen by a verbal vote of all the coaches
- e. Champions of Character Coach Award will be chosen by a verbal vote of all the coaches
- f. The Champions of Character Team will be one player from every school nominated by their own coach
- g. Academic All-WHAC honors for juniors/seniors carrying a minimum 3.25 cumulative GPA

VIII. TROPHY BREAKDOWN

- A. 1st Team All-Conference receive plaque (18), with exception of Player and Pitcher of the Year
- B. Player and Pitcher of the Year receives separate plaque (2)
- C. Coach of the Year receives plaque (1)
- D. HM All-Conference/All-Academic & C of C receive certificates
- E. WHAC Regular Season Champion receives championship trophy (1).
- F. WHAC Tournament Champion receives tournament championship trophy (1).
- G. 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.