

# 2006-07 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Handbook

## BASEBALL Rules & Regulations

*Baseball Chair: Randy Stegall, Indiana Tech*  
*Sport Coordinator: Terry Bocian, Aquinas*

### 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. Weekend doubleheaders will be played versus the same conference school with one institution hosting Saturday and the other hosting Sunday.
    - a) Game one of the weekend doubleheaders will be a seven inning game. Game two will be a nine inning game.  
**Exception:** if game one goes extra innings, game two automatically becomes a seven inning game.
  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 2:00 pm
  5. Games will be scheduled for the Easter weekend (when applicable) to avoid playing on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The two institutions scheduled to play that weekend may have the option to play Thursday/Saturday or Saturday/Monday if they wish.
  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 rain-out make up date.
  8. Teams must play all 20 conference games.
- B. Rules of Play
1. Rules of play shall follow the NCAA 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 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 one 9 inning game and one 7 inning game. The 7 inning game will be played first. If first game goes extra innings game two automatically becomes a seven inning game.
- 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). For weekday games, **NO** pre-game on field batting practice, but BP in batting tunnels is permitted.
- 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.
  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 school's 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.

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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 dates of weathered out games should be mutually scheduled. It is imperative that WHAC games take top priority.

N. Visiting team will take batting practice and infield practice second.

### V. 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: Pitchers - 3, catchers - 2, infielder - 5, outfielders - 4, DH - 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 for the Regional Player of the Year honor.

G. WHAC Coach of the Year—Voted upon by WHAC Coaches.

### VI. POST SEASON PLAY

A. Format

1. The first automatic qualifier to the Region VIII Tournament will be the regular season champion.

B. 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 in 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 Toss

If 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 2007 season will be May 3-5 with May 6 as a rain date, if needed.

7. The winner of the WHAC Conference Tournament will advance to the Region VIII Tournament. If the winner is the same as the regular season champion, the tournament runner-up will get the WHAC's 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

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### C. Site

1. The Regional tournament will be hosted on a rotating basis by the WHAC and the MCC.
  - a. The 2007 tournament will be hosted by the WHAC and will be played at Bailey Park in Battle Creek, Michigan
  - 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).

### D. 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

### E. Dates

1. The 2007 Region VIII Tournament will be held May 10-13, 2007. May 14 is the rain date.
2. The 2007 Heartland Super Regional will be hosted by the Region VIII champion.

### F. Tournament Rain-out Policy

1. Every effort will be made to complete the tournament as structured
2. If rain-out occurs Monday, the tournament will be completed Tuesday and Wednesday.
3. If Monday and Tuesday are rained out the tournament will be completed Wednesday using a single-elimination format (times being subject to change as needed).
4. If Tuesday and Wednesday are rained-out, the champion will be the #1 seed, unless they have been beaten Monday. 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.

### G. Please refer to the WHAC website for tournament dates and times.

## VII. 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 2007 season. (Payment is expected at the event)
  - a) \$90 for a single game
  - b) \$145 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.

## IV. SPORTS INFORMATION

1. PLEASE REFER TO SPORTS INFORMATION GUIDELINES ON PAGES 15-16 OF THIS HANDBOOK

## X. ATHLETIC TRAINING

1. PLEASE REFER TO ATHLETIC TRAINING GUIDELINES ON PAGE 17 OF THIS HANDBOOK

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### WHAC POSTSEASON AWARD BREAKDOWN - BASEBALL

<u>Category</u>	<u># Awarded</u>	<u>Receive Plaque</u>	<u>Receive Certificate</u>
Player of the Year	1	YES	YES
Pitcher of the Year	1	YES	YES
Coach of the Year	1	YES	YES
First Team All-Conference	16*	YES	YES
Honorable Mention All-Conference	unlimited	NO	YES
Academic All-Conference	Unlimited	NO	YES
Champions of Character Team	5	NO	YES
Champions of Character Coach	1	NO	YES

*\*Player of the Year and Pitcher of the Year are included in first team total but DO NOT receive first team plaque, only POY plaque.*

Regular season champion and tournament champion will receive championship trophies.  
In the event of regular season co-champion, each team will receive championship trophy.

### **TROPHY DISTRIBUTION**

1. Team and individual awards will be distributed following **TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**.
  - a. Host of tournament championship game is responsible to distribute awards after final round.
  - b. Awards will be supplied by WHAC office and distributed to host of event.
  - c. Special attention should be paid to announce **ALL** award winners... starting with All-Academic team and moving up.
  - d. Script for awards ceremony will be supplied to host school by WHAC office prior to event.