

2006-07 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Handbook

SOFTBALL Rules & Regulations

Softball Chair: Laura Klutsartis, Siena Heights
Sport Coordinator: Larry Bos, Cornerstone

I. Season Defined

- A. WHAC softball teams will follow NAIA guidelines regarding:
 - 1. Length of season: 24 weeks
 - 2. Weeks of contact: 24 weeks
 - 3. Number of contests: 28 playing dates
 - 4. Number of scrimmages: 2
- B. Teams selected for postseason competition may participate beyond the guidelines established above.

II. Schedule

- A. WHAC schedule will be a double round robin format (20 games).
- B. During the 2007 season conference playing dates will be Saturday and Sunday (Friday for those schools who can not play on Sundays).
- C. Mondays and Wednesdays are to be used as rain-out days
- D. Rainout dates are as follows: Sunday (Friday) games to following Wednesday, Saturday to following Monday. It is mandatory to play these rainout dates. Games scheduled with non-conference teams must be changed to play conference rainouts.
- E. 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 dates.
- F. The official conference schedule is only to be changed to accommodate Spring break and final exam schedules.
- G. Conference championship qualifying games are to be completed on or before May 7, 2006. Conference games may be played during final exam week, if mutually agreed upon by both institutions.
- H. During Easter weekend, games will be played on Thursday before Easter and Monday after Easter.

III. WHAC Championship defined - (Regular season winner is WHAC Champion)

- A. In order to qualify for the WHAC championship a team must complete a minimum of 18 games in conference play with a minimum of one date with each WHAC opponent.
- B. After double round-robin schedule is complete, the team with the most wins in WHAC play is the WHAC Champion.
- C. The regular season WHAC Champion will receive the #1 seed; the second and third place finisher's will receive the #2 and #3 seed berths in the NAIA Region VIII Tournament.
- D. If after May 7, 2006, the two top teams have the same number of wins; co-champions will be declared/awarded. The following championship criteria will be used to identify the team receiving #1 seed to Regional Tournament:
 - 1. Fewest losses in conference games
 - 2. Head to Head competition in conference games.
 - 3. Head to head run differential.
 - 4. Net runs scored in conference games (max. 8 runs per game).
 - 5. Fewest runs allowed in conference games.
- E. If there is a tie for either second or third place in the regular season standings the criteria in III. D. 1-5 will be used to determine the seed and/or qualification for the NAIA Region VIII Tournament.

IV. NAIA Regional Tournament

- A. The top three regular season finisher's will represent the WHAC at the NAIA Region VIII Tournament.
- B. The WHAC regular season champion will host the NAIA Regional Tournament in odd years and the MCC champion in even years.
- C. The Regional Tournament is to be held May 10 & 11, 2006; rain date is May 12th.
- D. The NAIA National Tournament is to be held May 19 to May 25, 2006.

V. Contest procedures

- A. NCAA rules with NAIA modification 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 times (in a 7-inning game)
- D. WHAC weekday doubleheaders will start at 3:00pm (2:00 pm before Daylight Savings) and 1:00 pm on Saturdays.
- E. All bats used must be on the most recently published NCAA approved list.
- 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.
- H. Rainout procedures: visiting coach will call to verify games before departure. If raining while traveling, stop and call to confirm.

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I. A game that has been suspended due to weather or darkness after 4.5 innings (home team 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 scheduled 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.

J. If a coach wants to file an official protest in a regular season WHAC contest, the following procedures must be followed:

1. The protest must be filed in regards to a rules situation. All judgment 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 of the game.
5. The WHAC President 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 or regional qualification.

K. Officials selected by the assignor will umpire WHAC games.

L. Forfeiture: A game(s) may be forfeited if:

1. A team fails to show up for a scheduled game(s)
2. A team does not have enough players to compete (per ASA rules)
3. 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

VI. SPORTS INFORMATION

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

VII. ATHLETIC TRAINING

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

VIII. Awards

A. Selection of the WHAC All-Conference team

1. The All-Conference team may consist of up to 18 players
2. Coaches or a representative must be present at the WHAC coaches meeting to have players eligible for selection. (Sunday, May 5, 2007) Date may be changed to accommodate completion of conference championship qualifying games.
3. Coaches must provide current stats of WHAC and overall games
4. A verbal vote will be taken to select All-WHAC Conference team
5. Coaches will not be allowed to vote for their own players
6. Players who are nominated but do not receive All-WHAC honors, will receive honorable mention award
7. Coaches may nominate up to 5 players.
8. Fax or email nominations in rank order to sport chair, Ronda Varnesdeel, by noon on April 30, 2007 - Responsibility of coach to bring line stats of each nominated player to meeting.

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 will be chosen by a verbal vote of all WHAC coaches

E. Academic All-WHAC honors for juniors/seniors carrying a minimum 3.25 GPA

SOFTBALL Rules & Regulations Continued

WHAC POSTSEASON AWARD BREAKDOWN - SOFTBALL

<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	18*	YES	YES
Honorable Mention All-Conference	unlimited	NO	YES
Academic All-Conference	Unlimited	NO	YES
Champion of Character Team	6	NO	YES
Champion of Character Coach	1	NO	YES

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

Regular season 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 conclusion of regular season.
 - a. Awards will be supplied by WHAC and distributed to each coach.