

# GSAC SOFTBALL POLICIES

## I. SCHEDULING POLICIES

- A. Maximum 28 playing dates
  1. Tournament days regardless of the number of games played equals one playing date.
  2. Doubleheaders are considered one playing date.
  3. Teams are allowed two scrimmage dates over the 28 playing dates.
  4. Teams are allowed more than two scrimmages as long as the total dates played do not exceed 30, counting all scrimmages.
- B. Home and away doubleheader against all GSAC teams. Refer to softball schedule criteria.
- C. Conference opponents must be kept in the same order but allow flexibility in changing dates as long as the sequence is followed. A date change outside of sequence must be approved in advance by the GSAC Executive Committee. Any schedule change must also be approved by both Athletics Directors.

## D. RAIN-OUT GUIDELINES (1/9/2008)

The coaches involved in a rainout and reschedule must follow the criteria in order beginning with:

1. The two coaches involved come to an agreement no later than midnight the next school day. If they cannot agree, the respective athletics directors will make the decision.
2. The rescheduling must follow the GSAC policy of utilizing the first available date for a doubleheader (if needed). In most cases, this would be Monday.
3. Schedule changes should be compiled so an updated master schedule can be distributed just before the GSAC schedule begins so possible rain adjustments can be reliable. Conference schedule changes necessitated by rain must be reported immediately to the GSAC Commissioner. This report will best be done by e-mail. The Athletics Director is responsible for getting the official institutional softball schedule to the Conference SID prior to the start of GSAC play.

## II. GUIDELINES FOR PLAY

- A. Played under ASA rules with the following modifications approved by the NAIA-SCA.
  1. Pitching Distance: Pitching distance will be at 43 feet.
  2. Skinned Infields: All infields must be skinned for regional and national championship play.
  3. Outfield Fence Distance: Outfield fence distance should be a minimum of 200 feet and a maximum of 225 for all NAIA regional and national competition with the recommendation of 200 feet down the lines and 225 in center field for all NAIA conference, regional, and national competitions.
  4. The NCAA has changed to a .47 core Wilson ball. The NAIA will remain with .50 core Wilson ball until further notice. Therefore, home games vs. DI, DII, DIII will use .50, away will use .47.
  5. Coaches need to print the approved bat list and the banned bat list and have a current list at all contests. Each list is updated on Mondays on the ASA website. The banned bat list is the most important to have available, but coaches need to make sure new bats are stamped with 204, are on the approved list, or have a letter from the manufacturer stating that it is approved. It is encouraged to post these lists visibly for umpires, so they do not have to track coaches down in order to clear the bats for competition.
- B. Line-ups are to be presented prior to the start of competition.
- C. A complete game will be called if one team is ahead by 8 runs after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.
- D. International tie-breaker will be used in conference play. International tie breaker will not be used in post season play.

**E. Darkness Policy (1/9/2008)**

1. Games ending in a tie due to darkness shall be continued at the next scheduled playing date for the two schools or at the next available date.
2. All darkness delayed games will be made up starting with the same line-up that was in effect when the game needed. Any alteration in this line-up must be in accordance with ASA regulation and approval from the umpire.
3. Any score or inning played prior to the darkness must be documented by host institution and play will continue from that point.
4. The host school of the tie game shall be responsible for the paying of the additional umpire fees when the game is resumed.

**III. DUTIES OF THE HOST SCHOOL**

- A. Provide a safe competitive field environment.
- B. Provide regulation softballs, water, and athletic trainer availability.
- C. Report results to newspapers.

**IV. PRE-GAME PROTOCOL FOR HOST SCHOOL**

- A. Designate allotted warm-up area of the field for visiting team.
- B. Line-up exchange prior to start of game.
- C. Warm-up prior to competition allows for the visiting team to take 8-10 minutes infield practice followed by an 8-10 minute infield for the home team. Warm-up is dependent on when visiting team arrives. Doubleheaders start at 1:30 prior to daylight saving time and 2:00 after daylight savings time.
- D. Conduct meeting for coaches and umpires that provides information regarding playing field stipulation with ruling procedure for regulation play provided by the umpires.

**V. OFFICIALS**

**A. The Supervisor of Softball Officials will:**

1. Assign all game officials.
2. Provide evaluation of officials.
3. Prepare preferred list of officials. Each coach will be allowed to redline 20% of the officials list. If there is a disproportionate amount redlined in any one geographical area such that it becomes impossible to assign, the Supervisor of Officials will be allowed to adjust as necessary.
4. Handle any disputes which involve officials.
5. Gather input from coaches on officials.
6. Arrange for officials to travel out of area for league games with the mileage costs being assessed at the end of the season and sent to each institution. Mileage will be paid for travel for both men's and women's officials who travel more than 60 miles one way. It will be paid at a rate of \$.25 per mile one way.
7. Acquaint officials with any NAA or conference rules.
8. Provide for the officials' evaluation of coaches' conduct.
9. Provide uniformity of assignment - trust, consistency, conference control.

**B. Schedules must be sent to the assignor in September for the spring season.**

**C. The Supervisor of Softball Officials will:**

1. Assign all game officials.
2. Provide evaluation of officials.
3. Prepare preferred list of officials. Each coach will be allowed to redline 20% of the officials list. If there is a disproportionate amount redlined in any one geographical area such that it becomes impossible to assign, the Supervisor of Officials will be allowed to adjust as necessary.
4. Handle any disputes which involve officials.
5. .Gather input from coaches on officials.

#### IV. CHAIR AND PROTEST COMMITTEE

- A. The GSAC Softball Chair position will be a 2-year term. The chair may serve consecutive terms if selected by majority vote.
- B. Protest Committee. A rotation alphabetically of three teams (coaches) will compile the protest committee annually. If one or more coaches on the protest committee are involved personally with the protest, then the Baseball Chair will appoint the coaches next in order to substitute on the committee. (1/9/2008)

2008	APU	BU	CBU
2009	CUI	HIU	PLNU
2010	VUSC	APU	BU
2011	CBU	CUI	HIU
2012	PLNU	VUSC	APU

#### C. Procedure for Protest: (1/9/2008)

When a game is completed under protest, (NOTE: The protesting school must state the intent to PROTEST to the Head Umpire about the play in question prior to a new play beginning.) after the completion of the contest the protesting school must:

1. Document the following information:
  - a. The date, time, and place of the game.
  - b. The names of the umpires and scorers.
  - c. The rule and section of the official rules or local rules under which the protest is made.
  - d. The information, details, and conditions pertinent to the decision to protest.
  - e. All essential facts involved in the matter protested.
2. Notify by noon the next day the Athletics Directors of the two schools involved, the conference officials assignor, and the Conference Commissioner.
3. When a game is protested, the Protest Committee will rule one of the following:
  - a. The protest is considered to be invalid and the game stands as played.
  - b. The protest is determined to be valid because of the misinterpretation of a playing rule. The decision will be corrected and the game shall be replayed from the point at which the incorrect decision was made.
4. Athletics Directors must agree on the next available playing date to conclude the game.
5. In the event the ruling calls for a replay of the game, either partial or full, teams will follow the following guidelines.
6. If there is a game(s) remaining at the same site later in the year, then it will resume prior to the scheduled game. If there is a game remaining with the same team but at the opposing site then the game may be finished there as long as it is not more than four innings. If the game is longer than four innings, then the team has the option to play the game as home team prior to the game at the opposing site or they may choose to have the game played at their own site. With the later the date the game will be played will be turned over to a schedule arbitrator who will determine the date of the game.

#### VI. CONFERENCE TEAM SELECTION AND HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Selection - The GSAC teams will be selected based on their final GSAC regular season standings. The tie-break policy will involve the use of three criteria in descending order:
  1. The first criterion is head-to-head competition between the teams involved.
  2. The second criterion involves head-to-head competition versus the rest of the GSAC in order of finish beginning with the first place finisher(s). Note that if more than one tie occurs in the conference final standings, ties will be broken in descending order.
  3. If teams are still tied following the first two criteria, then a coaches' vote will decide the seeding of the tied teams.

- B.** Host selection and responsibilities will include the following:
  - 1. Host team is designated by Conference Playoff Plan.
  - 2. Provide one regulation softball field in compliance with ASA and NAIA-SCA modifications and stipulations.
  - 3. Provide athletic trainer service and water.
  - 4. Report results to newspapers.
  - 5. Send expense/income projection to the GSAC Commissioner 30 days prior to the tournament.
  - 6. Send expense/income report to the GSAC Commissioner within seven days after the tournament.
  - 7. Host coach will act as tournament director unless a replacement is appointed.
  - 8. Provide media guide, award ceremony for Conference honorees, opening prayer, national anthem, scorekeeper and announcer.

**VII. AWARDS**

- A.** Eighteen players to be on the All-GSAC team, without regard to position.
- B.** Coach of the Year
- C.** Pitcher of the Year
- D.** Player of the Year

**VIII. CONFERENCE MEETINGS**

- A.** Fall meeting for all coaches
  - 1. Review the GSAC schedule.
  - 2. Review the Conference tournament plan.
  - 3. Recommend selection and seeding for Conference tournament.
  - 4. Teams Review and propose umpire fee structure.
- B.** Postseason meeting
  - 1. Determine GSAC player awards.
    - a. Each coach may nominate nine of their own athletes.
    - b. Nominations are to be sent to the Sport Chair.
    - c. Information should include: name, school, position, GSAC offensive and defensive stats, and picture.  
(No overall stats will be used.)
  - 2. Determine GSAC Coach of the Year.
  - 3. Determine GSAC Player of the Year.
  - 4. Determine GSAC Pitcher of the Year.
  - 5. Review schedule for the following year.