

# **SOFTBALL**

*All business conducted by sport committees must be submitted as recommendations to the Administrative Committee.*

## **I. Regular Season**

### **A. Schedule**

1. Beginning the fourth week of March, each conference team will schedule a doubleheader with each conference school, with two doubleheaders being played every week. The schedule will be alternated every two years. Home sites will be switched every year.
2. The conference regular season standings will determine points toward the MCC All-Sports trophy.
3. Places below first will be decided on a won-lost percentage basis regardless of number of games played. Each team should make every effort to complete all of their games.
4. No contracts will be required for conference games. Non-conference games will be managed by contract as normal.
5. Once all schedules are obtained by the Commissioner, he will release the final schedules to the Supervisor of Umpires. The Supervisor of Umpires will then assign umpires to each of those games.
6. Games may be scheduled on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Make-up dates will be scheduled on the first available date for each school involved. Games will consist of seven innings and starting time will be 3:00 pm on weekdays and 1:00 pm on Saturdays. Game times may be changed if both coaches mutually agree.
7. All games scheduled during spring breaks will be rescheduled by school agreement.
8. Softball coaches will meet in September to schedule conference games after the NFCA national meeting.

### **B. Rainout Policy – Regular Season**

1. All games that are cancelled because of inclement weather (snow, rain, or wind chill below 40 degrees and both coaches agree) will be made up on the first available date for each school involved. Balls and umpires' remuneration remain the responsibility of the home team.
2. If a game is suspended due to weather or darkness and 5 innings have not been completed, the game will resume at the point of stoppage.
3. To be consistent with the NCAA rulebook, a game will be considered complete after 5 innings due to darkness or weather.
4. A team must have played all conference teams twice to be considered for the conference tournament and championships. Cut-off for all conference games to be completed is the Sunday before the conference tournament. If any games are not completed by Sunday, each team will have a double loss.
5. Make-up conference games should take priority over non-conference games.

**II. Rules Governing Play** – NCAA rules shall govern play.

**III. Official Balls** – In regular season play, it is required that the official NAIA championship ball (Worth) be used. The official NAIA championship ball (Worth) will be used during the MCC postseason tournament. The host school(s) will be responsible to provide three dozen of the official NAIA championship ball (Worth). If available by contract these balls may be supplied by the NAIA National Office.

**IV. Umpires**

- A. Merri Taylor will be responsible for assigning umpires for the 2012 season.  
(317) 446-3108  
[merriuc@att.net](mailto:merriuc@att.net)
- B. Please note the MCC schools will be using a voucher system for umpire payments.
- C. Umpires will receive \$140.00 per doubleheader. A sum of \$85.00 will be paid per umpire during the MCC Tournament.

**IX. Conference Tournament**

- A. The MCC Tournament will be an eight (8) team double-elimination tournament, seeded by the standings at the finish of the regular season.
- B. The host of the MCC Tournament will be determined on a rotating basis in alphabetical order of school name. Indiana Wesleyan will host the 2012 MCC Tournament, followed by Marian, Spring Arbor, Taylor, Saint Francis, Bethel, and Goshen. It is required that the host school provides two fields of play available for simultaneous play throughout the tournament. If a school does not want to host the tournament, they need to inform the Commissioner at the annual fall meeting. In that case, the next school in line will have the option to host the tournament. The host school will absorb any costs associated with the renting of fields.
- C. In the event of ties, the following tie breakers will be used to determine conference finishing place:
  - 1. Head-to-head competition
  - 2. Run differential head-to-head
  - 3. Competition of those teams involved against 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place until the tie is broken.
  - 4. Competition of those teams involved using runs given up against 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place until the tie is broken.
  - 5. Coin toss between teams, to be administered by the softball sport chair.
- D. In the event of ties between three or more teams in the final conference standings, the same tie-breaker as above (Letter C) should be used with the following principle to be followed: Tiebreaker #1 will use the aggregate head-to-head record among the tied teams in an attempt to break the tie. Furthermore, once one team is eliminated via one of the first two tiebreakers, then the tiebreaking process should start over at Tiebreaker #1

between the remaining teams until all ties have been broken.

- E. Date of Tournament – The MCC Tournament will be held on the Wednesday and Thursday following the last week of league play. Dates for the MCC Tournament are May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, with the rainout date on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- F. Seeding will be determined on the Saturday before the tournament starts. The official roster will be faxed to the chairperson on the following Monday.
- G. Tournament Management
  - 1. Tournament Committee to serve as advisory committee to tournament director will include chairman Ryan Bolyn (Saint Francis), Scott Fleming (Marian), and Anna Welsh (Bethel).
  - 2. Tournament Director will be the host school representative. The host coach of the tournament may fill this role as Tournament Director only after his/her team has been eliminated from the tournament.
- H. Rainout Policy (MCC Tournament)
  - 1. Every effort will be made to complete the tournament as structured.
  - 2. If rainout occurs Wednesday, the tournament will be played with the same double elimination format starting Thursday and using Friday to finish.
  - 3. If rainouts occur on Thursday or Friday, the champion will be the Number 1 seed unless they have taken a loss in the conference tournament. The highest undefeated seed will be named the tournament champion.
  - 4. If the tournament is completely rained out, the highest seed will be named the MCC Tournament champion, and will represent the MCC at the NAIA National Tournament.
  - 5. The softball Tournament Director reserves the right to adjust times of the schedule as needed due to weather considerations.
- I. Miscellaneous Information
  - 1. NCAA Rules will be used throughout the tournament.
  - 2. In the first round of the tournament, the highest seeded team is home. After the first round, a coin flip will determine the home team for the rest of the tournament games.
  - 3. The home team will be the official scorer.
- J. All-Tournament Team
  - 1. The All-Tournament Team will be selected by the coaches and not to exceed 18 players regardless of position. The following format will be used to select the All-Tournament team:
  - 2. The winning team will have 5 players on the All-Tournament Team.
  - 3. The runner-up team will have 4 players on the All-Tournament Team.
  - 4. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place team will have 3 players on the All-Tournament Team.

5. The 4<sup>th</sup> place team will have 2 players on the All-Tournament Team.
6. The 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> place teams will have 1 player each on the All-Tournament Team.
7. If play has been cancelled due to weather and two or more teams are tied in wins/losses, the higher ranked team will receive the extra placement of players on the All-Tournament Team.

K. The host athletic director in conjunction with the softball chair will coordinate the MCC Softball Tournament.

L. **Financial Report Form** – Host school(s) for all MCC Postseason contests will use the supplied Financial Report Form to report expenses and gate revenues to the Conference Commissioner. Revenue (net) and the Financial Form are to be forwarded to the Conference Office one week after the MCC postseason is complete.

**VI. NAIA Postseason Qualification** – The winner of the MCC Tournament will receive an automatic bid to the 2012 NAIA National Championship.

**VII. All-Conference Team**

A. Each coach will have the opportunity to nominate their best players for consideration on the All-Conference team. The All-Conference team will consist of 18 players.

B. The conference will use DakStats for reporting statistics. Each coach should e-mail to [rbolyn@sf.edu](mailto:rbolyn@sf.edu) on Monday, April 30, 2012 by 9:00 am. Coaches should send the names and complete statistics for the five players they wish to nominate. All conference and overall statistics should be included. If a coach has a nomination for the “Newcomer of the Year” award (a first year player or a first time transfer player), they should also include her statistics.

C. Coaches or designated representatives must be present at the selection meeting in order for their players to be considered for All-Conference awards.

D. The selection meeting will take place on Monday, April 30, 2012 before the start of the tournament.

E. One player will be chosen as Pitcher of the Year and one as Player of the Year. One Newcomer of the Year award will be presented to an individual who is a first year player or a first-time transfer.

F. After Player & Pitcher of the Year, the next 16 players will be ranked from 16 – 1.

G. Any player (after the top 18) with at least 2 votes will be Honorable Mention.

H. **Coach of the Year** – The softball coaches will cast ballots for the Coach of the Year, with the majority vote being declared the winner.

I. Voting results for All-Conference teams will be made available to all MCC Softball coaches. If votes are taken by ballot, the ballot results will be shown to all MCC Softball coaches. If the votes are taken verbally, the verbal results will be documented for all MCC Softball coaches to see.

**VIII. Sport Chair** – The position of Sport Chair will be voted upon every two years. No term limitations will be set, but individuals must be nominated and voted into the position of Sport Chair every two years.

**MID-CENTRAL COLLEGE CONFERENCE  
2012 SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT  
FINANCIAL REPORT FORM**

**DATE:**

**LOCATION:**

**OPPONENTS:**

**SESSION: Finals**

**INCOME**

**Students: \_\_\_\_\_ (Number of students) @ \$2.00 each      \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ (Number of adults) All-Day pass @ \$5 each day or \$5 at each location      \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL INCOME      \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**EXPENSES**

**Umpires: 2 @ \$85.00 per game      \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL EXPENSES      \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**REVENUE (Net)      \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Host schools are responsible for all expenses other than umpires.**

**Gate receipts and the financial report form are to be forwarded to the Conference Office one week after the tournament is completed.**