

## **CHAPTER 1—BASEBALL REGULATIONS**

### **1. Playing Season Policies.**

#### **a. Championship Determination.**

The team with the highest won-lost percentage for all Conference games shall be the Conference champion and shall represent the Conference in the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. This shall apply even in the event one or more teams do not play the full Conference schedule. If that percentage is shared by more than one team, a co-championship shall exist. (12/85, 8/89, 8/90, 6/91, 6/94, 6/95, 8/98, 9/98, 10/12)

#### **(1) Championship Ties.**

In the event of a percentage tie for the Conference championship, the following procedure shall be used to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier for the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. (2/99)

(a) The regular-season Conference record of each of the tied teams against the other team(s) with which it is tied shall be determined. The team with the best record in this competition shall participate as the Conference's automatic qualifier for the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. If a team is eliminated as a result of this procedure, this procedure shall be reapplied to the remaining tied teams. (2/99, 10/02)

(b) If a tie still exists, the tied teams' record in regular-season Conference play against the next highest placed team(s) in the Conference standings shall be determined, including any team(s) already eliminated through the tie-breaking procedure. This procedure shall continue through an evaluation of competitive records of the tied teams against all teams in the Conference in the order of their placement in the standings until the tie is broken. In the event of a tie among two or more teams lower in the standings when comparing records, each team's combined record against the two or more tied teams shall be determined. If a tied team is eliminated as a result of this procedure and a tie still exists, the tie-breaking procedure shall revert to step (a) above. (2/99, 10/02)

(c) If a tie still exists, then the Conference's automatic qualifier for the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship shall be determined by a coin flip conducted by the Commissioner. (2/99)

#### **b. Conference Schedule.**

The Conference schedule shall occur at the end of the regular season. Each team shall schedule one three-game series against each other team in the Conference. Only these games shall count in the Conference standings. (8/98, 10/10)

All games shall be scheduled for nine innings. Single games shall be scheduled on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, except that no Conference games shall be scheduled on Easter Sunday. Any three-game series occurring during Easter Weekend shall be scheduled as single games on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The final series of the season may be moved to Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and other changes to the schedule may be made if they are mutually agreed upon by the two participating institutions. (1/87, 8/98, 12/13)

A series may be scheduled to begin on the Friday that final examinations end provided the institution completing those final examinations is scheduled to play at home. Otherwise, no games shall be scheduled during final examinations week or other periods of conflict with academic schedules, and play shall start whenever necessary to accommodate this provision. Conference games shall take priority over non-Conference games. Mutual agreement by institutions to create open weekends for non-Conference play shall occur only after the Conference schedule has been created. (5/82, 11/84, 6/92, 12/92, 6/95, 12/96, 8/98, 10/10, 10/11)

**(1) Rescheduling Policies.****(a) Extension of Series.**

A Conference series may only be extended by one day if two official games are not completed during the scheduled three-day series. (8/98, 12/14)

**(b) Priority of Contests.**

Extension of a regularly scheduled Conference series to a fourth day shall take priority over a postponed or halted game which must be rescheduled using the policies outlined in sections (c) and (d) below. (2/99)

**(c) Postponed Game.**

If a scheduled game never begins due to inclement weather, darkness, light failure, curfew or other reasons, it shall be considered a postponed game. Inclement weather shall include a temperature that has dropped below 32 degrees Fahrenheit (or wind chill of 25 degrees Fahrenheit). The home team shall make Internet resources indicating the local temperature available to the umpires to use as a reference regarding weather conditions. If a game is postponed during a series between traditional rivals, the contest shall be rescheduled on a date mutually agreed upon by the competing institutions. A postponed game may be rescheduled as a single game if significant additional travel costs are not incurred by the visiting team and no additional class time is missed by either of the competing teams. If the postponed game cannot be rescheduled under these parameters, the following policies shall be applied: (12/92, 12/93, 8/98, 2/00, 10/12)

- i. If the game on the first day of a three-day series is postponed, it shall be rescheduled as one of two games for the second day. If a game is postponed on the second day of a series, it shall be rescheduled as one of two games for the third day. Postponed games which are rescheduled as a doubleheader may have a separate admission charge for each game.
- ii. If at the conclusion of the third day, a game(s) remains to be played, the series shall be extended to a fourth day. The visiting team shall not be required to remain in the area of the game site if the competing institutions mutually agree that weather conditions are such that the field will be unplayable beyond the third day. (4/90, 4/91, 6/96, 8/98)
- iii. If a game(s) scheduled between Team A (visitor) and Team B (home) is postponed and cannot be rescheduled under paragraphs i, and ii above, and Team A is traveling to the area of Team B to play a series against Team B's traditional rival (Team C), a maximum of one game between Teams A and B shall be played at Team B's site on the day following the regularly scheduled series between Teams A and C. The roster for Team A for the postponed game against Team B shall be identical to the traveling roster for the series against Team C. The roster for Team B for the postponed game against Team A shall be identical to the roster for the Conference series immediately preceding the rescheduled postponed game. An exception to this rule shall be if either team is in final examinations week or if one of the teams is playing a three-game Conference series while the other is not, in which case the postponed game shall not be played at that time and site. (2/99, 3/12)
- iv. If a postponed game cannot be rescheduled using the provisions of i, ii, and iii above, the Commissioner, in consultation with the directors of athletics or designated administrative representatives (non-coaches) of the involved institutions, will determine the date and site for the game. (1/87, 4/91, 8/98, 2/99)

**(d) Halted Game.**

i. If a game is stopped due to inclement weather, darkness, light failure, or curfew before nine innings are completed and if one team leads by 12 or more runs after at least seven full innings of play (or if the home team leads by 12 or more runs after six and one-half innings), it shall be ruled a completed game and shall not be resumed. (11/81, 8/98)

ii. If a game is stopped due to inclement weather, darkness, light failure, or curfew before nine innings are completed and if neither team leads by 12 or more runs after at least seven full innings of play (or if the home team does not lead by 12 or more runs after six and one-half innings), it shall be ruled a halted game. Games which are tied when play is halted shall be considered halted games. (11/81, 8/98)

(i) If a game is halted during a series between traditional rivals, it shall be resumed on a date mutually agreed upon by the competing institutions. (12/93, 8/98)

(ii) If a game is halted during a series between teams that are not traditional rivals, it shall be resumed the following day prior to any scheduled contest unless the game was halted on the fourth day of the series. If the game was halted on the third day of the series it shall be ruled a completed game if the specifications in Rule 5-8 of the NCAA Baseball Playing Rules are met. (6/93, 12/93, 6/94, 8/98, 2/99, 10/12, 12/13)

(iii) If a halted game cannot be rescheduled using the provisions outlined in (i) and (ii) above and has no bearing upon the Conference championship, it shall be "no contest" and not made up. If the contest does have a bearing on the Conference championship, the Commissioner, in consultation with the directors of athletics or designated administrative representatives (non-coaches) of the involved institutions, will determine the date and site for the game. (2/99)

**2. Game Policies.****a. Competition Site.**

All Conference games are to be played on the field of the scheduled home team, except by mutual agreement of the athletics administration of the competing teams. (11/81, 8/98)

**b. Playing Rules.**

Games shall be conducted under the NCAA Baseball Playing Rules, except as modified below. (6/92, 8/98)

**(1) Bench Jockeying.**

No comments of any kind may be directed at the opposing team. The Conference office shall notify the umpires that this rule is to be strongly enforced. (6/91, 8/98)

**(2) Doubleheaders.**

Each game of a Conference doubleheader shall be scheduled for nine innings. The length of time between games of a split doubleheader shall be limited to a minimum of 30 minutes and a maximum of 60 minutes to be determined at the discretion of the home team. (11/84, 12/92, 8/98)

**(3) Game Ball.**

Baseballs used for Conference play shall meet the specifications established by the NCAA Baseball Committee. The official ball used for all Conference contests shall be manufactured by Rawlings. (11/88, 8/98, 4/01)

**(4) Official Scorer.**

The official scorer shall be designated by the home team and shall be seated in the press box. The official scorer is responsible for providing the visiting team a copy of the official box score. (5/70, 4/85, 6/92, 12/92, 8/98)

**(5) Pitch Clock.**

The third base umpire shall track time between pitches. (10/10)

**(6) Protests.**

If a protest is filed in accordance with the NCAA Baseball Rules, the plate umpire shall notify the Conference Umpire Coordinator immediately following a protested game. In consultation with the Commissioner, a course of action will be determined using the NCAA Baseball Rules Book, the rules of organized baseball, precedents from baseball and other sports decisions, and Conference policies. (4/67, 5/69, 6/92, 8/98, 10/12)

**(7) Time Limit.**

If the visiting team is traveling by commercial air, a time limit (minimum four hours) from the scheduled start time shall be established, with no new inning beginning after the time limit. If a regulation game (per NCAA rules) has been played when the time limit is reached and one team holds a lead, it shall be declared an "official game". If a tie exists when the time limit is reached, the visiting team may leave the competition site, and the game will end in a tie. (10/03, 10/04, 10/05, 10/12, 12/13, 12/14)

**c. Pre-Game Protocol.**

The home team shall make its batting cages available exclusively to the visiting team during the visiting team's allocated 40-minute batting-practice time and shall provide batting-cage balls. There shall be a minimum of ten minutes for the visiting team to warm-up between the allocated time in the batting cages and the time designated for the visiting team's infield/outfield warm-up. The visiting team's infield/outfield time shall begin no later than 25 minutes before the scheduled start time. (10/08, 10/11)

**d. Scouting Reports.**

A Conference baseball coach shall not send film or videotape or give a written or verbal scouting report on a Conference member to any institution outside the Conference. (8/98)

**e. Sportsmanship Advisory.**

Prior to the first game of each Conference series, the umpire-in-chief shall present the coaches and captains of the competing teams with the following sportsmanship advisory: (11/96, 8/98)

The members of the Conference value quality competition for their student-athletes, fair play, and good sportsmanship. Accordingly, during this series players may not engage in verbal abuse of opponents or other acts of poor sportsmanship. The Conference has directed that any such conduct is to result in the immediate ejection of an offending player from the game in which it occurs. The Conference will review any such incident to determine whether additional penalties are warranted. (11/96, 8/98)

**f. Squad and Bench Limits.**

For games that do not involve traditional rivals, each team shall designate 27 student-athletes who may compete in a given Conference series. The visiting team's travel squad shall consist of these 27 student-athletes. These 27 student-athletes shall be included in the limit of 35 individuals who may be in the visiting team dugout or other visiting team area during a game. The home team may have an unlimited number

of student-athletes and other team personnel in the home team dugout or other home team area during a game, but only the 27 student-athletes designated to compete may participate in the series. (12/76, 11/79, 5/82, 5/83, 4/85, 6/92, 12/95, 6/96, 8/98, 6/01, 10/03, 10/05, 6/07, 10/07, 6/09, 10/09, 10/10)

For games that involve traditional rivals, there shall be no student-athlete squad limit for either team. Each team may have an unlimited number of student-athletes who may play and other team personnel in its dugout or other team area during a game. (12/76, 11/79, 5/82, 5/83, 4/85, 6/92, 12/95, 6/96, 8/98, 6/01, 10/03, 10/05, 6/07, 10/07, 10/10)

**(1) Lineup Cards.**

Standardized lineup cards which include space for the 27-man rosters shall be used in Conference games, with the lineup card to be provided to the umpire-in-chief and opposing coach each day of the series. (5/83, 12/95, 8/98, 10/10)

**(2) Other Personnel.**

Team personnel not included in the bench limit must leave the field of play, including dugouts, bullpens, and batting cages, at least five minutes prior to the game(s). (8/98, 10/07)

**g. Starting Time.**

Non-televised game times shall be set by the home team. The game(s) played on the final day of the series shall be scheduled to begin no later than 1:00 p.m. (6/91, 9/97, 8/98, 12/13)

**h. Tickets for Professional Scouts.**

Scouts for professional baseball teams may not be provided complimentary admission to games. They may purchase tickets only for the general seating area. (6/92, 8/98)

**i. Umpire Policies.**

See AR 6 and AR 6-14.

**3. Awards.**

The Conference baseball coaches shall select recipients for all Conference awards. Coaches shall not be allowed to vote for themselves or for their own players for any of the awards. (6/92, 8/98)

**a. All-Conference Team.**

The all-Conference team shall consist of 32 players (three starting pitchers, three infielders, three outfielders, two relief pitchers, one catcher, one first baseman, a designated hitter, and 18 others at any position) and each shall be provided an award from the Conference. Players who are nominated for the all-Conference team and receive at least one vote shall be accorded honorable mention in a Conference media release. (6/92, 8/98, 2/99, 10/05, 6/07, 10/10, 12/13)

**b. All-Defensive Team.**

The all-defensive team shall consist of nine players (one pitcher, one catcher, one first baseman, one second baseman, one third baseman, one shortstop, and three outfielders). The defensive player of the year is automatically on the all-defensive team representing his position. Each shall be provided a certificate from the Conference. (6/12, 12/14)

**c. Individual Awards.**

Individual awards from the Conference office shall be provided to the Coach of the Year, the Player of the Year, the Pitcher of the Year, the Freshman of the Year, the Defensive Player of the Year, and the batting champion in the Conference. The Player of the Year and the Pitcher of the Year need not be members of the all-Conference Team. Balloting conducted for individual awards shall use a weighted voting method. (6/92, 12/93, 5/97, 9/97, 8/98, 2/99, 10/00, 10/05, 6/11)

**d. Individual Batting Championship.**

In order to qualify for the Conference batting championship, an individual must participate in 75 percent of his team's games and have a minimum of 2.5 at bats per game played by his team. (12/95, 8/98)

**4. Meetings of Coaches.**

There shall be an annual fall meeting of the head baseball coaches with the date and site to be established by the Conference office. The attendance of each head coach is mandatory. (5/72, 6/91, 6/92, 8/98, 10/07)