

NCC SPORT REGULATIONS, ARTICLE 19**BASEBALL**

(New provisions for 2007-2008 in **bold**)

19.1 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

- (a) Baseball is an official sport of the Conference and all members who sponsor a team are required to participate for the Conference Championship unless excused by official Conference action.

19.2 SCHEDULE

- (a) Conference teams shall be allowed to play fifty-six (56) games in the spring. (Permissible according to NCAA Bylaw 17.4.7.1)

1. Informal practice scrimmages with outside competition are permissible but must be counted toward the total number of games scheduled.

- (b) For the regular-season, conference games are to be played as scheduled as per Appendix C. Except that the two teams involved in a conference weekend series may mutually agree to move Saturday/Sunday games to Friday/Saturday. If the two teams cannot mutually agree on such a change, then the games must be played as scheduled in Appendix C. Also, during the Easter weekend, two teams may mutually agree to play Saturday/Sunday instead of Friday/Saturday but if they cannot mutually agree on this change, then the games shall be played as scheduled (i.e., Friday/Saturday). Wednesday games shall be played on Wednesday unless inclement weather causes them to be played on Thursday. All NCC games must be scheduled for Friday and Saturday on the last weekend of the regular-season prior to the NCC Baseball Championship Tournament.

- (c) In the event of inclement weather:

If no travel has occurred for weekend games, then the teams have until through the next Tuesday to get the games played or they shall be cancelled. The exception to this shall be on the last weekend of the regular season when the games must be played by Sunday or they shall be cancelled because of conflicts with final exams.

If travel has occurred for weekend games, then the visiting team must stay one (1) extra night to try and complete the series.

For Tuesday conference games, whether travel has occurred or not, games must be completed by the next Thursday, or they shall be cancelled.

For Friday and Sunday conference games,

1. If travel has occurred teams are required to stay one night to attempt to play games.
2. If no travel has occurred and the games on Friday and Saturday are rained out then the Sunday game will be played as scheduled and the scheduled Friday game will be played Monday or Tuesday.
3. If no travel has occurred and games are rained out Friday, Saturday and Sunday and no games are played then games will be played in the same order on Monday and Tuesday.

4. If no travel has occurred for Friday games and a team travels Saturday but is rained out then the team must stay one night and the Sunday game would be moved to Monday or Tuesday.
 5. All games must be rescheduled by Tuesday. If travel occurs for a Tuesday game and it is rained out then the traveling team must stay one night, but the game must be completed by Wednesday. If no travel has occurred and the games are not played by Tuesday they are lost.
- (d) A six (6)-team double elimination tournament shall be played the last week of the season at the site of the regular-season winner to determine the Conference Champion. **The 2008 NCC Baseball Championship Tournament will be held Thursday, May 8th; Friday, May 9th; and Saturday, May 10th (with Sunday, May 11th as a rain-date).** To be eligible for the tournament a team must play a minimum of 50% of their conference schedule.
- (e) On the weekend of April 18-20, 2008 teams can play at either home site on any two of the three days upon mutual agreement.

19.3 INDIVIDUAL SERIES

- (a) Two (2) seven (7)-inning games shall be played on each day. If a game ends in a tie and cannot be resumed it will count as a game played but not be part of the won/loss record.
- (b) Each home institution shall be allowed to determine game starting times for regular-season conference games based on game management needs.
- (c) No regular-season conference games can begin after 10:00 p.m. local time.
- (d) In the case of a suspended or halted regular-season conference game, no game will be resumed after 10:00 p.m. local time.
- (e) Schedule adjustments necessitated because of conflicts with academic calendars may be undertaken subject to mutual consent of the involved coaches and approval of the institutional representatives.
- (f) There shall be twenty (20) minutes between games of a doubleheader for regular-season games.
- (g) During the NCC regular-season, teams may not play a tripleheader on any day unless there is mutual consent of both coaches. (Note: Tripleheaders are prohibited during the NCC Championship Tournament.)
- (h) The NCAA halted game rule will be in effect for all NCC conference games.
- (i) Conference games will take precedence over non-conference games when a conflict occurs.
- (j) When all involved institutions mutually agree to change the site(s) of games, the home team(s) shall provide the visiting team(s):
 - (1) On travel-only days: a minimum of \$8.00 per day meal money for at least **24** players and 5 others; or, on game-days: a minimum of \$10.00 per day meal money for at least **24** players and 5 others.
 - (2) A maximum of **9** motel rooms.

- (3) Transportation will be determined by mutual agreement of the involved institutions. The visiting team(s) shall furnish the baseballs for each game that is played and the visiting team(s) shall be responsible for payment of the umpires.
- (k) Should institutions choose to play at two (2) separate sites during a scheduled weekend series, then the sequence of sites shall not be affected by playing conditions and when the second game on the first day is a halted game, it will be continued the next day at the other site. The new site will provide umpires. The travel team will provide baseballs. If the halted game is not continued at the very next opportunity, then it will be a cancelled game.

19.4 POST-SEASON NCC CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

- (a) The top six (6) teams following the regular-season will participate in the NCC baseball championship tournament. (NCC Baseball Championship Tournament Bracket will be distributed). The winner of NCC Tournament will receive the automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.
- (b) The tie breaker procedure for the conference championship is as follows:
 - 1. Head to Head competition (As long as the tied teams each played at least one game against each other. If not, then move to No. 2 below.)
 - 2. Combined record against all teams above you in the standings.
 - 3. Power rating index.
 - 4. Flip of coin.
- (c) The six (6) team NCC baseball championship tournament is designed to be played over three (3) days (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). The championship tournament also is designed to allow all of the games to be played at two (2) sites. All games will follow the NCAA Championships rule book and will be nine (9) innings with no speed up rules. However, if necessary, the tournament committee is responsible for determining changes in starting times, location and sequence of games played.
- (d) The NCC Baseball Championship will follow the NCAA Division II Baseball Championships policy if the Tournament cannot be completed except that if Game 7 of the NCC Baseball Championship cannot be played because of the prohibition against any team playing a tripleheader on the same day or due to inclement weather or other reason, then the two teams remaining with one loss each shall be declared conference co-champions.
- (e) The NCC baseball championship tournament committee shall include the participating head coaches, the host team sports information director, the tournament director and the NCC conference office representative or designee.
- (f) The host team may elect to play either in Game No. 1 or Game No. 2 of the Tournament. The starting times for Game No. 1 and Game No. 2 will be set by the home team administration in consultation with the Conference office. Generally, the start times for the games on Thursday and Friday will be 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (on two fields) and on Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The if-necessary game would be noon on Sunday. If necessary, all game start times may be modified by the tournament committee.

- (g) All tournament games will begin at the designated starting times, however, if the prior game is running late, the next game will start forty-five (45) minutes after the conclusion of that game (Time should be provided to drag the infield after both teams have taken infield for each tournament game). Starting times may be modified by the tournament committee.
- (h) For the conference tournament, the higher seed will be home team for the first two games. For games 3 and 4, if either team has not been the home team then they will be. If both teams were home or both teams were visiting, then the higher seed will be the home team. For games 5, 6, and 7, the home team will be decided by coin toss with the higher seed calling it heads or tails.
- (i) The NCC will follow the NCAA Baseball Championships policy for determining the home and visiting teams for each NCC Championship game. Unless officially modified at the pre-tournament meeting, the home team will occupy the 3rd base dugout, take infield first, and wear white uniforms.
- (j) The following shall be required for hosting the NCC Baseball Tournament:
 - a. Playing field specifications reasonably similar to NCAA recommendations.
 - b. A lighted baseball field or availability of a lighted facility within 40 miles.
 - c. Suitable batting practice sites.
 - d. Suitable locker room and restroom facilities.
 - e. Rain tarps at least for the pitcher's mound and batting areas.
 - f. Adequate work force (e.g., game management, sports information, athletic trainers, grounds crew, etc.)
 - g. Capability to charge and collect admission.
 - h. Suitable spectator seating.
 - i. Assistance in reserving motel rooms for visiting teams.
- (k) The Conference office shall make arrangements each year to use umpires from the Northwest Umpires Association for the NCC Baseball Tournament if the games are hosted by MSU, SCSU, UND, UMD, or AC. If the tournament is hosted by UNO, then the NCC will use the Nebraska Umpires Association. Umpires shall be provided \$100 per game plus .40 cents per mile mileage (two way) and the necessary motel rooms.

19.5 GUARANTEES

- (a) There shall be no exchange of financial guarantees between member institutions for divisional play.

19.6 CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS

- (a) The highest standards of sportsmanship and conduct are expected of players, coaches, and others associated with the game. NCAA coaches' and players' code of ethics should be the basis of NCC standards.
- (b) It is the duty of the coach to be in control of his players at all times in order to prevent any unsportsmanlike act towards opponents, officials, or spectators.
- (c) Coaches are expected to comply wholeheartedly with the intent and spirit of the rules.

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- (d) Coaches should confine their discussion with game officials to the interpretations of the rules and not challenge umpire decisions involving judgement.
- (e) The home administration is responsible for crowd control, including taking appropriate action to prevent profane language by individuals in the crowd.

19.7 GAME OFFICIALS

- (a) An umpire-in-chief and a field umpire shall be used in Conference games.
- (b) Umpires are obliged to conduct the game under conditions conducive to the highest standards of good sportsmanship and are required to enforce each section of the Official NCAA Baseball Rules unless exceptions are specified in the Sports Regulations of this Conference.
- (c) Each home institution shall send the visiting institution the names of the umpires at least two (2) weeks prior to the games. The visiting institution shall inform the home institution of any refusals at least one (1) week prior to the game. The home institution shall inform the visiting institution of any changes to umpires as soon as possible before a game.
- (d) The expense of game officiating is to be paid by the home team and the fee determined by the home management.
- (e) If an umpire declares a Conference game forfeited, he shall report to the athletic director of the host institution and they shall transmit a written report to the Commissioner of the Conference including complete details and citing the rule or rules under which the forfeiture was declared.
- (f) If action is taken by umpires resulting in disqualification of players, clearing a bench, or ejection of a coach from the field, the umpire-in-chief shall report to the athletic director of the host institution and they shall submit a written report of the incident to the Commissioner of the Conference within 24 hours.

19.8 EQUIPMENT

- (a) Rule 1 of the Official NCAA Baseball Rules shall apply, except that baseballs and bats approved for Conference play are as follows:
 - 1. Baseballs: The ball adopted by the NCC and approved by the NCAA.
 - 2. Bats: The bats adopted by the NCC, if applicable, and approved by the NCAA for the NCAA Championship.

19.9 FACILITIES

- (a) The NCAA rules and regulations regarding playing fields shall apply and the home team's ground rules shall be in effect if agreeable with the visiting team. Where the teams do not agree, ground rules shall be determined by the umpires.
- (b) It is the responsibility of the home administration to provide a field in good playing conditions in the case of a double-header series, for "floating" the infield between games.

19.10 GAME PROCEDURES

- (a) NCAA rules will be used and applied in all conference contests and in the conference post-season baseball championship tournament, except as amended by NCC Bylaws or Sport Regulations.
- (b) Rule 5 of the Official Baseball Rules of the NCAA shall be in effect.
- (c) Pre-game batting practice shall be a minimum of thirty (30) minutes with the home team hitting first unless agreed by both teams.
- (d) Pre-game fielding practice shall be limited to ten (10) minutes with the home team taking the field thirty (30) minutes prior to game time and the visiting team twenty (20) minutes prior to game time.
- (e) Pre-game practice will be eliminated if necessary due to late arrival, wet grounds, etc.
- (f) Games shall start on time unless the home team has given notice that the game has been postponed or will be delayed in starting. A revised starting time must be agreed upon by the visiting coach.
- (g) The home team coach shall decide as to whether a game shall not be started because of unsatisfactory conditions of weather or playing field, except for the second game of a double-header.
- (h) The umpire-in-chief of the first game shall be the sole judge as to whether playing conditions permit the start of a second game of a double-header.
- (i) Should bad weather or unfit conditions prevail during a game, the umpire-in-chief shall be the sole judge as to the suspension, resumption, or termination of play.
- (j) Home team will furnish twenty-four (24) cans of soda-pop for the visiting team.

19.11 PROTESTED GAMES

- (a) No protest shall be permitted on judgment decision by an umpire.
- (b) A protest may be made regarding an umpire's decision considered to be in violation of the Official NCAA Baseball Rules.
- (c) Protests of rule interpretations must be entered with the umpire-in-chief at the time of the play by the respective coach.
 - 1. A protest, to be considered, must be made prior to the next pitch following the disputed play.
 - 2. A protest of rules interpretation may be resolved by a conference of the coaches and the umpire-in-chief on the field.
- (d) The umpire-in-chief shall file a report of the protest with the Commissioner of the Conference within 24 hours.
- (e) The Commissioner shall appoint two Conference athletic directors to serve with him on a Protest Committee and rule on the protest.

- (f) The Protest Committee's decision shall be final.

19.12 SQUAD LIMITATIONS

- (a) Visiting travel squads shall be restricted to twenty-four (24) players, in accordance with NCAA Championship squad size rules. These limitations shall prevail throughout the individual series. Each coach shall exchange the names of those players he intends to have counted prior to the first game of the series and there shall be no substitutions or changes made on those lists during the balance of the series.
- (b) The home team may dress as many players as it wishes, however, the home team can only play the twenty-four (24) players on the list the home coach gives the visiting coach.
- (c) For the Conference Tournament, both the home team and traveling squad shall include no more than twenty-four (24) rostered players that may play for the duration of the tournament. The home team may dress an unlimited number of players.

19.13 STATISTICAL RECORDS

- (a) Complete statistics for each Conference series of games shall be sent to the NCC Director of Media Relations immediately after each game is completed along with the electronic stat file.
- (b) Statistics of games played in NCAA post-season competition will be included in the final statistics of Conference baseball competition.
- (c) A scorebook must be kept by the Sports Information office or that office's representative outside the dugout.

19.14 COACHES MEETING

- (a) The conference baseball coaches meeting shall be conducted via telephone conference call at 10:00 a.m. Central on the Monday following the NCC baseball championship tournament (i.e., Monday, May 12, 2008). The conference office shall coordinate with the baseball chair to determine agenda items for the coaches' telephone conference call.

NCC SPORT REGULATIONS, ARTICLE 19
BASEBALL APPENDIX - A

**NORTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE
BASEBALL ALL-CONFERENCE NOMINATION FORM**

Name of Institution _____

[You may nominate only your own student-athletes.]

INFIELDER NOMINEES

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

OUTFIELDER NOMINEES

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

RELIEVER NOMINEE

1. _____

COACH OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

All coaches are automatically nominated.

CATCHER NOMINEE

1. _____

DH NOMINEE

1. _____

PITCHER NOMINEES

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

MOST VALUABLE PITCHER NOMINEE

1. _____

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER NOMINEE

1. _____

Signature of Head Coach: _____ Date: _____

FAX these nominees
by **5:00 p.m. on Monday prior to the Tournament** to:
North Central Conference
FAX: (605) 338-1889