

# SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN CONFERENCE: Girls' Softball: Sport Guidelines

## I. Season Limitations

- A. Practice may begin on Monday, March 1, 2010
- B. First contest may be held on Monday, March 15, 2010.
- C. Season ends on Saturday, June 12, 2010.

## II. Contest Limitations (Exclusive of the IHSA State Series)

35 games

## III. Levels of Competition

- A. Varsity
- B. Junior Varsity
- C. Sophomore (B optional)
- D. Freshman A (B optional)

## IV. Coaches Meeting

- A. Pre-season meeting will be hosted by Homewood-Flossmoor on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at Andrew as a part of the SWSC spring mega-meeting.
- B. Post- season meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2010, Homewood-Flossmoor High School at 7:00 p.m.

## V. Championships and Awards

- A. Division Standings
  1. A championship trophy shall be awarded to the winner at the Varsity level of each Division.
  2. An engraved plate will be awarded to the winner at the sophomore level of each Division.
  3. The Division champion will be recognized by the best won-loss record from **only the** games in the division.
- B. Individual Awards
  1. The All-Conference Team will consist of **twenty-four (24) players** in each **8-team** division (**22 in the 7-team division**). The criteria established for awarding these is as follows:
    - a. First place team will receive **five (5)** selections.
    - b. Second **and third** place teams will receive **four (4)** selections **each**.
    - c. **Fourth** place team will receive three (3) selections.
    - d. **Fifth through eighth** place teams will receive two (2) selections **each**.
  1. In the event of a tie for a place, head-to-head results determine team placement. In the event there is still a tie, the total number of selections for the teams involved will be averaged and rounded up to the next higher number.
  2. All-Conference selections will be voted on by the coaches at the post- season meeting.

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### **VI. Terms of Contests**

- A. Time of contests
  1. All levels weekday starting time is 4:30 p.m. or a time that is mutually agreed upon.
  2. Saturday games or games during spring break should start at 11:00 a.m. or a time that is mutually agreed upon.
- B. Scoring and game procedures
  1. Official softball scoring rules of the National Federation of High School Softball Rules will be in effect for scoring and record keeping.
  2. The IHSA ten-run rule shall be in force for all games.
  3. The Federation 15-run rule shall be in force after the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning.
  4. Games shall be seven (7) innings in length. (Four and one-half or five innings shall be considered an official game; the losing team must have completed five (5) official at bats).
  5. In the event of inclement weather, conference games will be suspended and resumed from the point of suspension. These games are re-scheduled to be resumed using the same criteria of make-up games.
  6. Make-up games must be scheduled in the order of cancellation on the first open date between the two teams. However, if the game is not played on the first re-scheduled date, no open date can be omitted including Saturday, but sequence of scheduled games may be interrupted. Conference games have priority over non-conference dates.
  7. No conference varsity games will be played while either team involved in playing in the IHSA state tournament series, unless mutually agreed upon. Once involved teams are eliminated from the IHSA state tournament series, the conference game(s) will be played on the next available date.
  8. Sites for rained/snowed out games shall be reversed, if the opponent's field is playable. The second scheduled game would be played at the originally scheduled site.
  9. Make-up games are not required if they do not determine the outcome of the conference championship.
  10. The host school shall have the responsibility for contacting the assignment chairman for securing umpires for any re-scheduled softball games.
  11. The host school temperature shall be 40 degrees or above by 2:00 p.m. in order to play ball, except by mutual agreement.
  12. The host school shall if possible notify the officials and the visiting school two hours before the scheduled game time if the game is cancelled.
  13. The visiting team shall be permitted fielding practice, starting 15 minutes before game time, for a period of ten minutes.
  14. Ground rules shall be discussed between coaches, team captains and umpires before game time.
  15. If the visiting team arrives late due to unavoidable circumstances, they shall be limited to ten (10) minutes to loosen up and five (5) minutes of pre-game fielding practice on the game field.
  16. The home team must provide two (2) new official (top grade) softballs for every home game.

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17. Freshman games shall be played with the "free substitution rule". A player may be inserted in and out of the lineup as long as he does not bat more than one time per nine batters.
18. Scheduling of non-conference games is permissible during conference dates, provided that any conference make-up game(s) must take priority over any non-conference game(s), including the assignment of conference officials/umpires. Conference games must be re-scheduled in the order of cancellation and must be played at the first site available for play.
19. Any game scheduled on either team's prom date shall be moved to the next available playable date.
20. Visiting teams must complete batting practice prior to arrival to field. No soft toss is permitted against fencing.

### **VII. Officials**

- A. Officials shall be hired as follows:
  1. Varsity - two (2)
  2. Junior Varsity- two (2)
  3. Sophomore - two (2)
  4. Freshmen - two (2)
- B. The home athletic director may move umpires between levels to insure that the highest level playing has the most umpires.

### **VIII. Reporting Results**

- A. Each varsity and sophomore coach (or their designee) will record their division conference home game scores on the SWSC conference website at [www.athletics2000.com/swsc](http://www.athletics2000.com/swsc).
- B. The Resource Athletic Director shall oversee the results of all league contests and compile the official standing for league records on the conference web site.
- C. The Division win-loss records and scores will be verified at the post-season meeting to determine the Division champions and final standings.
- D. The resource AD is responsible to enter conference team champions and all-conference players on the SWSC website.

### **IX. Miscellaneous Information**

#### Playing Sites

All schools will play on campus except the following:

Bradley – at Bradley-Bourbonnais Youth Softball League fields off Career Center Rd.  
Lockport Township- at Central campus