

## BASEBALL GUIDELINES

### SECTION I. SEASON LIMITATIONS

- A. Open date - Practice may start Monday of week 35 and first contest may be played beginning the Monday of week 37.
- B. Non-conference baseball games may be played during the conference schedule, with a NO BUMP policy for originally scheduled non-conference. A non-conference game can be scheduled through Week 43 when a school has a bye. An open date is defined, as any date in which the participating school does not have a Conference game scheduled.
- C. After a team has completed its Conference season; they may schedule a non-conference game as long as they are within the IHSA guidelines.

### SECTIONS II. SCHEDULE

- A. Number of contests and methods – each school will be played in a two or three-game series on (1) consecutive days or (2) a Saturday double header with a single game on either Thursday or Tuesday. Two games (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> or DH) will be at one school and one game will be at the opposite site. Sites for hosting one or two game series will be rotated on a yearly basis.
- B. Type – two or three-game series.
- C. Make-up procedure: A contest may be postponed due to inclement weather or other emergencies. The host school must call the participating school prior to 1:30 on the day of the game. Rescheduling shall be arranged at the earliest possible open date for the two schools. The make-up of a Conference game will not bump originally scheduled non-conference games through Week 43 (Section I Paragraph B above). Beginning Week 44, make-up of Conference games will bump originally scheduled or make-up games involving non-conference schools. Conference make-up games should be played in the order they occur with a NO BUMP rule throughout the season.
- D. Changing of the original Conference date(s) or game(s) must be approved by a mutual consent of the schools involved for unusual circumstances.

### SECTION III. LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- A. There will be three levels of competition: Varsity, sophomore and freshman. A Junior Varsity or Freshmen B level can be scheduled if schools desire.
- B. The Junior Varsity game should be scheduled at the home site of the school that has only one home game in the series. This game should be scheduled the day after the last varsity game of a series. If a varsity game must be postponed, the junior varsity game would be postponed or canceled. Freshmen B shall be played the same day and same site as the varsity contest.

#### **SECTION IV. GAME MANAGEMENT**

- A. Each team is to have ten minutes of infield warm up; the home team being first, followed by the visitors. The home team should start its infield warm-up prior to or when the visiting team bus arrives at the playing site.
- B. Two umpires shall be employed for varsity games, and sophomore and freshman games shall employ one.
- C. Ground rules for each field is to be provided for both umpires and visiting teams, prior to game time. The head coach of each home team shall be responsible for providing such rules.
- D. Seven innings shall constitute a regulation game
- E. Varsity games tied or suspended in the first two of a three-game series will be made up at the end of the succeeding game, if possible. A varsity game tied in the third game of a series will be made up at the end of the Conference season if it has a bearing on the Conference championship. Lower level games that in a tie are to remain a tie.
- F. The official rules of the National Federation shall govern all games.
- G. The IHSA ten run rule shall apply in all Conference games.
- H. The designated runner rule of the National Federation and IHSA for pitchers and catchers shall be used. The nine starting players plus the designated hitter cannot be used as a designated runner.
- I. If a game is called before it becomes a regulation game; it shall be considered a suspended game and shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. The lineup and batting order of each team shall be exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension. Subject to the rules governing the game.
- J. In case a varsity game cannot be played at the scheduled site, the first option should be to switch the site for game one and game two; if game two cannot be played as rescheduled, the game should be played at the school that has a playable field. Game three should be played at the site that is playable. Every attempt should be made to schedule a home game for each team involved. The school that hasn't had a home game does not have the option to decline on the third game of a series, if the scheduled home team has an unplayable field. No option on games one and two.
- K. Game time is to be at 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and 10:00 a.m. for Double-headers on Saturday; the Athletic Director's should coordinate exceptions

#### **SECTION V. CHAMPIONSHIP DETERMINATION**

- A. Championships will be determined by Conference win-loss records. In the event the entire schedule is not completed on Friday of Week #46 unplayed games should be rescheduled up to the day of the post season meeting. The last Conference series should be on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday instead of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. If Conference games remain unplayed, the Conference championship will be decided on the basis of percentage point of the Conference games that were played.

Tie games will be a ½ game won and a ½ game lost. Every attempt should be made to play all games. The last conference play date shall be the day of the post season meeting.

- B. If two or more teams tie for the championship, the trophy will be shared for equal amounts of time for the coming year.

## **SECTION VI. CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT**

- A. There shall be no conference tournament.

## **SECTION VII. COACHES MEETINGS**

- A. The chairperson of the baseball coaches shall be the Athletic Director delegated this responsibility by the Conference.
- B. It is recommended that two meetings be held annually, one before the season begins and one following season play.
- C. Purpose
  1. Pre-Season: Review rules, procedures, and special concerns.
  2. Post-Season: Review any problems, game result, recommendation, and select the All-Conference Team.

## **SECTION VIII. ALL CONFERENCE TEAM SELECTION PROCESS**

- A. Selection shall take place during the IHSA regional week. The Athletic Director delegated the chairman of the baseball coaches shall host the meeting.
- B. Each varsity baseball coach, or his representative, can nominate one or more of his own players for each of the eight categories.
- C. Before voting, each coach will have the opportunity to elaborate upon his nominations.
- D. Voting shall take place on all nominations after the elaboration by member schools.
- E. Each coach must vote for opponents only.
  1. Twenty-four total nominations are to be selected.
  2. Players are to be selected from the following categories:
    - 4 Pitchers
    - 2 Catchers
    - 2 First Basemen
    - 2 Second Basemen
    - 2 Shortstops
    - 2 Third Basemen
    - 6 Outfielders
    - 5 Additional Players
- F. Each coach will vote for the same number of players as shown in each category above. A coach cannot vote for his own players.
- G. Each category will be voted on separately.
- H. The players with the highest number of votes will be selected. Tied votes will be re-voted until there is a selection.
- I. Players receiving ten (2002) will be listed as unanimous selections on the All-conference Team.

- J. Honorable Mention status will be given to those players who received at least one vote in the All conference selection process but not enough votes to be placed on the All conference team.
- K. Special Mention status will be awarded to players who were nominated by their coach but did not receive any votes in the All Conference selection process.

**SECTION IX. PUBLIC RELEASE OF ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM**

- A. The press release will take place the day following the last game of the State Regional Baseball Tournament.
- B. Member schools are not to release information regarding the All-Conference Team to the press, written or verbally, prior to the above release date.