

SOFTBALL GUIDELINES

SECTION I. SEASON LIMITATIONS

- A. Opening date - practice may start the Monday of Week 35 and first contests may be played the Monday of Week 37.
- B. Non-conference softball games may be played during the conference schedule, with a NO BUMP policy for the month of April. During the month of May, originally scheduled non-conference games exclusive of Saturday must be canceled or postponed only during weeks 45 and 46 if no other open dates are available, Make-up of conference games bump rescheduled non-conference games during both April and May.
- C. After a team has completed their conference schedule they may schedule non-conference games as long as they are within the IHSA guidelines.

SECTION II. SCHEDULE

- A. Double Round Robin (No scheduled double headers)
- B. Days: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday
- C. Make-up Procedure
 - 1. In case of cancellation, the opponent will be called by 1:30 p.m., or as soon as possible, with an acceptable reason to both schools.
 - 2. The athletic office will do rescheduling as soon as possible
 - 3. Contests must be made up before the end of the season.
 - 4. Contests 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- (2) schools. Makeup games should be played in the order established by the original conference schedule
 - 5. Changing of the original conference date(s) or game(s) will be approved by mutual consent of the schools involved for unusual circumstances.

SECTION III. LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- A. Varsity
- B. Junior Varsity
- C. Freshman

SECTION IV. GAMES/CONTEST MANAGEMENT

- A. Format of meet
 - 1. IHSA Rules
 - 2. Conference Rules
 - 3. Current National Federation Softball Rules
- B. Starting times and warm-up periods
 - 1. Starting time will be 4:30 p.m. Exceptions should be coordinated by the assistant athletic directors
 - 2. 15 minutes on-field practice prior to starting time.
 - 3. Changing site because of weather or fields is optional.

- C. Uniforms - According to Federation Rules
- D. Equipment
 1. Host school should provide the best regulation field with backstops.
 2. Host school should provide staked-down bases.
 3. Host school should provide regulation game balls
 4. Each school provides own practice balls and regulation game bats.
 5. Host school will provide official scorer who is responsible for telling the umpire whenever there is a substitution for both teams.
 6. Each school provides own first-aid equipment
- E. Officials
 1. Host school will provide officials.
 2. Two (2) IHSA registered officials at the varsity level if possible, one (1) when not possible. One (1) registered official at the lower level
- F. Order of events
 1. Varsity games will be played at one site and Junior Varsity and Freshman games at the opposite site.
 2. Host schools will always take the field first.
 3. Games will end at the termination of five (5) innings if one team is ahead by ten (10) runs.
 4. Lower level games that end in a tie are to remain a tie.
- G. General rules to be used - not applicable
- H. Coaching
 1. Coaching is permitted from the sidelines by the coach
 2. Base coaches should be in uniform, designating them as coach.
 3. Base coaches should be
 - a. a member of the team (girls) and must be on the eligibility list and/or
 - b. an adult certified employee of the district
- I. Dressing facilities will not be provided

SECTION V. CHAMPIONSHIP DETERMINATION

- A. Championships will be determined by conference win/loss records. In the event the entire conference schedule is not completed on Friday of Week # 46, unplayed conference games should be rescheduled up to and including Tuesday of regional week - Week #47. If conference games remain unplayed, the conference championship will be decided on the basis of percentage points of the conference games that were played. Tie game count as a ½ game won and a ½ game lost.
- B. If two (2) teams tie for the championship, the trophy will be shared for equal amounts of time for the coming year.

SECTION VI. CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

Not applicable

SECTION VII. CONFERENCE MEETINGS

- A. Two (2) mandatory coaches meetings.
 1. Pre-season to go over season and answer questions.
 2. Post-season to review finished season, make proposals for the next season, and pick All-Conference Teams.

- B. The chairperson of the softball coaches' meeting will be the coordinator delegated this responsibility.

SECTION VIII. SPECTATOR CONTROL

- A. Responsibility of the host school.

SECTION IX. REPORTING SCORES

- A. Coaches will report scores each week to the assistant athletic director in charge of this sport.
- B. Coaches must bring their win/loss record to the post-season meeting (ALL LEVELS).

SECTION X. ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM SELECTION

- A. Nomination process
 1. One week prior to the post season meeting coaches may submit names of player from their own team for All-Conference consideration.
 2. Coaches must submit the batting average, fielding percentage, runs batted in and stolen bases statistics for the players nominated.
 3. Any coach nominating his/her own pitcher must include the earned run average, strike outs, and walk statistics.
 4. Coaches may bring to the meeting additional statistics and pictures of their nominations.
 5. At the post-season meeting, coaches may nominate players from other schools for All-Conference selection. Nominations are closed at the start of the post season meeting.
- B. Selection process
 1. Each coach will be given the opportunity to discuss the candidates from their school.
 2. Each coach shall receive the same number of votes as the number of positions to be filled
 3. If the coach or an authorized representative is not represent at the post-season meeting, there will be no proxy vote.
 4. If the coach sends nominations of players, they will be voted on whether a representative of the school is there or not.
- C. Voting process
 1. A player must receive five (5) votes to be placed on the All-Conference Team.
 2. Those players receiving 10 votes (2002) on the first ballot will be given special recognition on the All-Conference certificate.
 3. If a second ballot is required, discussion of players may be re-opened.
 4. On a second ballot vote, coaches will receive the number of votes of the remaining positions to be filled.
 5. Twenty-six (26) positions, one of which will be designated "Most Valuable Field Position Player" and one of which will be designated "Most Valuable Pitcher".
 6. Honorable Mention.

- D. Press
1. Coaches shall be responsible for releasing the All-Conference Team to their local newspaper.
 2. A date for the press release will be decided upon at the post-season meeting.