

KIAC SOFTBALL BYLAWS

APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 9/21/2010

Sport Chair: Todd Buckingham, Indiana University Southeast

1. REGULAR SEASON PLAY

- A. Each participating conference member must schedule and play every team in the Conference during the regular season.
- B. Regular season competition will consist of four games against each participating member, two games at home, and two away.
- C. Competitions will be held as doubleheaders consisting of two seven inning games.
- D. If two teams cannot agree on dates, the schedule will be set by the conference softball chair in consultation with the KIAC commissioner.
- E. **RAINOUT MAKE UP POLICY:** When a scheduled KIAC doubleheader is rained out, the two schools involved have FIVE CALENDAR DAYS (Sundays do NOT count) to MAKEUP the rained out doubleheader. If the two teams have doubleheaders scheduled with NON-CONFERENCE opponents within that five day window, they MUST cancel them to play the KIAC doubleheader, if that is the only day that works for both teams. If the doubleheader cannot be made up, the institution that cannot make it up must take the two games as FOREFIT LOSSES in the KIAC STANDINGS, but only for the purposes of the KIAC STANDINGS. Any OFFICIAL forfeits have to be decided upon by the NAIA itself, and this bylaw would not meet the NAIA standards for an official forfeit. This will ensure that all KIAC games will be counted toward standings and determination of the regular season champion.
- F. Teams must complete 75% of their conference schedule in order to qualify for the post-season KIAC tournament.
- G. All conference contests must be scheduled before the Monday prior to the conference tournament. The Tuesday prior to the tournament may be used as a rainout date.
- H. Except in the case of natural catastrophe or emergency, a visiting team will forfeit the first game of a doubleheader if they are more than 30 minutes late for the contracted start time of the first game as filed with the commissioner's office. After 75 minutes, both games are forfeited.

I. All rules and regulations for conference play will be those adopted by the NCAA with NAIA modifications.

J. The team with the best winning percentage in conference play will be the conference regular season champion, and the top seed for the KIAC tournament. If teams have not played an equal number of games, but have met the minimum standard for post-season qualification as set forth by Bylaw 1-F, the team with the best winning percentage in conference play will be declared the KIAC regular season champion. The KIAC regular season champion will be awarded a trophy for their accomplishment. If there is a tie in the KIAC winning percentage, the regular season champion will be determined using the following tiebreakers, in the order indicated:

1. Head-to-Head
2. Runs allowed in Head-to-Head
3. Overall season winning percentage
4. Coin toss

2. CONFERENCE POST-SEASON PLAY

A. A double elimination tournament will determine the KIAC tournament champion. A decision to change to a single elimination tournament because of inclement weather or any other reason should not be made. The tournament can be postponed because of inclement weather up to the date of the NAIA deadline. The KIAC tournament champion will receive a trophy for their accomplishment. A tournament runner up trophy will also be awarded. No team will be required to play more than four games in one day.

B. The date of the tournament will be the first weekend in May.

C. The site for the conference tournament will rotate among conference schools, ensuring that every institution has an opportunity to host. If the designated host school is unable to host the tournament, they must inform the KIAC prior to the start of the season in which they were scheduled to play host. If the KIAC commissioner concurs, then the tournament will pass to the next school on the list.

D. Sites for the next 4 playing seasons:

- 2010 Brescia
- 2011 Berea
- 2012 Midway
- 2013 Asbury
- 2014 Berea
- 2015 Brescia
- 2016 IUS
- 2017 Midway

E. Seeding for KIAC tournament will be determined by the final regular season standings. In the event of a tie for a position, the same tie-breaker method will be used as used in Bylaw 1-J. Disputed seedings will be resolved by the softball chair, in consultation with the KIAC commissioner.

F. The host institution will be responsible for assigning officials for the event, at the rate set by the Conference.

G. The following will be the operational/expenditure procedures for KIAC tournament play:

1. Officials fees will be paid by the KIAC.

2. The host institution is responsible for paying the conference host fee. All gate receipts, concessions, etc. are the property of the host institution. The same number of umpires used in regular season competition will be used in the tournament.

3. The host institution and softball chair are responsible for filling out paperwork to pay officials.

4. The host institution is responsible for providing scorers, scoreboard operators, statisticians, sports information personnel, athletic trainers, and other auxiliary personnel.

3. POST-SEASON PLAY (NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT)

A. Qualifications for post-season tournament play (national tournament) will be awarded to the winner of the KIAC tournament, provided the KIAC maintains the NAIA minimum of six teams. If the KIAC grows to 10 members, then the KIAC will be awarded TWO automatic bids to the national tournament (per NAIA Bylaws), at which time, the tournament champion AND the regular season champion will receive the two bids. If the same team wins both, then the KIAC tournament runner up would receive the second automatic bid. The NAIA does NOT reward any automatic bids to conferences with less than 6 teams. In the event of the entire KIAC tournaments cancellation due to inclement weather, the automatic berth to the nationals will be awarded to the KIAC regular season champion.

4. STATISTICAL REPORTS

A. All conference teams are required to use the DAKSTATS program to report scores based on NAIA Guidelines.

B. If an institution has issues with DAKSTATS or other concerns on statistical reporting, they need to contact the conference SID immediately to avoid NAIA sanctions.

C. The conference SID will be responsible for releasing weekly reports and players of the week. He/she will also be responsible for making sure the website is updated.

4. AWARDS

A. The KIAC provides awards for softball listed below. Awards will be ordered by the conference commissioner in time to ship to the host site. It is the responsibility of the softball chair to give the list of award winners to the commissioner and the conference SID by no later than the Monday after the tournament.

B. An All-Conference team of 17 (according to NAIA rationale) members will be elected by a vote of the conference coaches. The team will consist of eight position players, a designated player, a utility player, 4 pitchers, 1 infield "at-large", 1 outfield "at-large", and 1 any position "at-large". A Player of the Year, a Pitcher of the Year, and a Coach of the Year will also be determined by a vote of conference coaches.

C. Blank nomination forms will be distributed to all conference head coaches in mid-April. Completed forms must be re-submitted to the softball chair no later than 6:00 pm the Monday prior to the conference tournament.

D. The following nominating and voting procedures will be used:

1. Nominations

a. When coaches arrive at the pre-tournament meeting, the Softball Chair will provide a listing of ALL TEAMS STATS for each player, pulled directly from the DAKSTATS website.

b. Each coach will have an opportunity to nominate his/her players as the meeting progresses, making reference to the stats provided, as well as any other pertinent information.

2. Voting

a. Voting will begin with Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, and Coach of the Year awards. All coaches will have an opportunity to nominate any non-pitching player from their nomination sheet for Player of the Year, and any of their pitchers on the nomination sheet for Pitcher of the Year. Each coach will have

the opportunity to speak on their player's behalf. Voting will then be done by secret ballot, and there must be a designated person to tally votes prior to the beginning of voting. If there is a tie, only those players involved will be voted on again. **AT NO TIME CAN COACHES VOTE FOR THEIR OWN PLAYERS.** Once we have the two P.O.Y. awards, and the C.O.Y. award, we will move to the All-Conference voting. Whoever wins the Player of the Year and the Pitcher of the Year awards will be removed from consideration for All-Conference Team voting, as they have received the highest award possible.

b. Voting will proceed with the voting for the All-Conference first baseman. The same procedure used for P.O.Y. voting will be used.

c. Voting will then proceed for each position.

d. Voting for the "at-large" positions will be done last. Any infielder nominated but not winning their respective position is eligible for the infield "at-large" position. Likewise, any outfielder not winning their respective position is eligible for the outfield "at-large" position. Any player, regardless of position, who does win their respective position, is then eligible for the any position "at-large" pick.

5. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- A. Outfield fence distances for tournament play must meet NCAA distances.
- B. The official ball for the KIAC will be the same as the official ball for the NAIA.
- C. Sunday play policy will follow section L of the NAIA handbook.