

## **Region XIV Athletic Conference Softball By Laws**

### **Rules:**

Region XIV softball teams will follow the Official NCAA Softball Rules for all games.

Region XIV Rules and Sports Producers shall be the latest rules published by the National Junior College Athletic Association Handbook and Casebook.

### **Softball Committee Chairperson:**

We will have one representative votes on by the all the softball conference institutions.

Their duties are as follows:

- Schedule and Conduct Sport Committee Meetings
- Prepare/deliver sport reports for President and AD meetings.
- Feedback from coaches on NJCAA committee work/polls
- Propose schedules (including playoff formats)
  - Timelines
- All-Region Voting
- Make recommendations for sport code and bylaw changes.

### **Student Financial Assistance:**

Student financial assistance (scholarships) shall be administered by the institution, through the office which administers financial aid funds for enrolled students. Member's institutions shall monitor the number and type of scholarships allowable by Region XIV. The scholarship limits for your sport will be seventy-five percent of the maximum scholarships allowed by the NJCAA. Responsibility for the observance of the rules contained shall be the responsibility of the institution.

### **Sport Procedures:**

Sport procedures guidelines stated in the current NJCAA Handbook and Casebook regulate each NJCAA certified sport for each season.

### **Bat Testing:**

1. Mandatory for games
2. Follow all NCAA protocol for bat testing.
3. Must designate person to do bat testing for all conference games.
  - a. Same person for all games
  - b. Completed in front of the opponent's representative/coach (not allowed to be a student coach)
  - c. Both must agree on the passing of the bat.
  - d. Both must initial the sticker.
  - e. Any questionable bats will be tested by the umpires and their decision is final.
  - f. Each team will name 1 person to complete the bat testing for the entire season.

**Conference Schedule:**

The Region XIV Softball Chairperson will submit a conference schedule for the north conference, and the south conference to the Presidents of the Region.

The schedules will be reviewed by the conference athletic directors and their recommendations will be reported to the presidents at the spring meeting.

All conference games must be played and completed by the last Saturday prior to the Regional Tournament.

**Rescheduling games**

1. Must be agreed upon by both coaches.
2. Must be reported to the Committee Chairperson
3. Conference games have priority over non-conference games.

**Rainouts**

1. In the event of a rainout, coaches must contact each other and reschedule the games within 48 hours of the original game date.
2. A conservative effort must be made to play the game within two weeks of the original date, if possible.
3. A neutral site can be used to make sure all conference games are completed.
4. All rainouts rescheduled must be reported to the appropriate representative. A lack of effort to reschedule games will be reported to the committee member and both institutions' Athletic Directors will be contact to help reschedule the games.

**Assigner of Umpires:**

Game umpires shall be assigned by the Assigner of Umpires for all season games (Region XIV Umpires Association).

The North will have an assigner that will assign all fall and spring games.

The South will have an assigner that will schedule all fall and spring games.

The Presidents will determine the fees to be paid to the commissioner.

**Reporting Statistics:**

Each Region Coach is expected to report weekly statistics as determined by the NJCAA, which is no later than 2 pm on Monday. Repeated violations of not reporting statistics will not be tolerated. After the third time not reporting statistics, your Athletic Director will be notified. After the fourth violation, your President will be notified. The representative from each conference will verify stats are up to date.

**Post-Season Format:**

The NJCAA Region XIV Softball Tournament will be an eight-team double elimination tournament involving the top four teams from each conference.

First Round Pairs are as follows:

- #1 East vs. #4 South
- #3 East vs. #2 South

#2 East vs. #3 South  
#4 East vs. #1 South

In even number years, the tournament will be hosted by the South Conference and in odd number years, the tournament will be hosted by the North Conference.

To host the Regional Tournament, a college must have:

1. A regulation size field and a tarp.
2. Field must follow all NCAA field regulations and rules.
3. Must have lights.
4. Must have bull pens.
5. Must have batting cages.

The Commissioner of Umpires will assign six umpires for the tournament. Umpires will be selected based on a rating system that will include input from the coaches.

A crew of three umpires will call each game.

The following post-season tie breaker will be used to determine placement in the tournament and/or to determine first place:

1. Head-to-head competition
2. How you did against #1
3. How you did against #2
4. How you did against #3
5. How you did against #4
6. How you did against #5
7. How you did against #6
8. Coin flip\*

\*A coin flip may be used to determine seeding but if a tie must be broken to determine entry into the post season play, then there will be a single game playoff system at a neutral site if time permits (do we want to use this??)

Tie Breaker Procedure for Three or More Teams:

1. Consider the collective head-to-head results of deadlocked teams, against only teams involved in the tie (round robin results for only teams are tied)
2. If there is no clear winner after this process, compare records against the teams outside of those deadlocked, beginning with the highest seeded team not involved in the tie and moving to the lowest, not including the tie.
3. The process is cyclical, meaning that as a team(s) is eliminated, based on round robin results, the tie breaker process begins over again with all the teams still tied, using the tiebreaker process appropriate for the number of teams remaining.

If the tournament cannot be played due to weather, the following will be used to determine which teams will go to national tournament:

1. If tournament does not start, then both #1 seeds will advance to the World Series

2. If the first day games are played, and then weather hits, we will drop the loser bracket and move to single elimination.
3. If we get the first day in and then cannot finish the tournament, you take the highest remaining seeds.
4. If there is a tie on seeding when tournament is canceled, then you go head-to-head, if head-to-head does not work, we will go highest seed to lowest seed on their side. (#1-#8 seed)
5. If we do not get a full day in, we revert to the previous day standings (for example if you do not get day 3 fully in, you revert to day 2 standings).

## **Annual Coaches Meeting**

### Region XIV Meeting

The committee chairperson for the conference will call a meeting for all respective coaches on the night before the beginning of the Regional Tournament. All head coaches are required to attend the meeting. If the head coach cannot attend, an assistant coach or an employee of their institution may represent the head coach. A head coach may use other means to attend such as: conference call, face time, Skype to participate in the meeting. Non-attendance will result in their players being ineligible for All-Regional Honors.

### North and South Conference Coaches Meeting

The chairperson will call for a coach's meeting for each conference on the Monday prior to the start of the regional tournament. All head coaches are required to attend the meeting. If the head coach cannot attend, an assistant coach or an employee of their institution may represent the head coach. A head coach may use other means to attend such as: conference call, face time, Skype to participate in the meeting. Non-attendance will result in their players being ineligible for All-Conference Honors.

## **All-Region and All-Conference Team Voting**

### All-Conference Teams

Will be voted on by the coaches at their respective coaches meeting. All teams must have the statistics up to date per the NJCAA rules. All coaches must have finalized statistics on each player in order to be eligible. All-Conference teams (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>) will be comprised of 2 pitchers, 2 catchers, 5 infielders, 4 outfielders, 1 designated player and 1 utility player. Each conference will also have a pitcher of the year and a player of the year.

### All-Regions Team

Will be voted on by the coaches at the Region Coaches meeting. To be eligible for the All-Region Team, players must have been selected to the 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Conference. All teams must have the statistics up to date per the NJCAA rules. All coaches must have finalized statistics on each player to be eligible. All-Region Team (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>) will be comprised of 2 pitchers, 2 catchers, 5 infielders, 4 outfielders, 1 designated player and 1 utility player. The region will also have a pitcher of the year and a player of the year. Coaches will vote on coaching staff of the year.

## **Sportsmanship: Article XVIII of the NJCAA By-Laws.**