



SPORT GUIDELINES for BASEBALL

ARTICLE I: Season of Competition Information

NAIA 24 Week Rule with KCAC Modifications:

- Per NAIA guidelines, Baseball shall have a maximum 24-week practice and competition season as established by each member institution. For the KCAC, frequency of play, practice and scheduling policies shall be restricted to the following period of time: beginning on Monday of the week in which August 15 falls and ceasing no later than May 15 per NAIA guidelines.
 1. Frequency of play, practice, and scheduling outside of this period (beginning the Monday of the week in which August 15 falls until May 15 each year) is governed by each member institution and will not be regulated by the NAIA.
 2. Member institutions may be engaged in conditioning activities beginning on August 1 in preparation for the fall season of competition. However, no practice or outside competition is allowed between August 1 and the start of the practice and competition season, which begins on Monday of the week in which August 15 falls.
 3. There shall be no more than three break periods during the 24 weeks. NAIA approved postseason participation shall not be counted as part of the 24-week period. A week is defined as Sunday (12:01 a.m.) through Saturday (11:59 p.m.). Any practice or competition during this period shall constitute one of the 24 weeks permitted.

Specific Rules on Contact:

- Athletic-related contact , which includes practice, conditioning, and/or competition activities, will be limited to 20 hours per week once classes have begun for the fall semester at the specific KCAC institution.
 - Prior to classes beginning for the fall semester, specific to each KCAC institution, the 20 hour contact rule will not apply.

- Each contest, which includes games, exhibitions, and scrimmages, will be counted as 2 hours within the 20 hours of contact during the week.
- For all KCAC teams, there will be one day per week with no athletic-related activities, which includes practice, conditioning, or competition.

ARTICLE II: Sport-Specific Rules for KCAC Baseball

NAIA Coaching Manuals:

- **WEBLINK:** [NAIA Baseball Coaches' Manual](#)

Sport-Specific Rules for the KCAC:

- The official edition of the NAIA Baseball Rules from the NAIA Baseball coaches' handbook and the MLB game rules shall be applied to KCAC conference games.
- Conference games should try to schedule to limit the out-of-class time for the players involved. Games will have to start in the early afternoon when a host team does not have access to lights. Otherwise with lights, games should be started later in the afternoon (4:00-5:00 p.m.).
- If KCAC Conference games are rained out, they are to be made up on the next available day and in the order of their rainouts. If rainouts occur during the last week of the first half of the season, the makeup game(s) can be carried over until the first available date in the second half. Preferably the game(s) should be attempted to be made up the first week of the second half.
 - Regular season games may not be scheduled after the Saturday preceding the week of the post-season tournament. All rainouts or other rescheduled games must be completed by the Sunday preceding the KCAC Tournament.
 - KCAC teams must complete the conference regular season game schedule prior to the KCAC post-season tournament in order to be eligible to participate in the KCAC post-season tournament or be eligible for a championship. Extenuating circumstances are to be resolved by the commissioner.
- **DUGOUT RULE:** Umpires and coaches are strongly encouraged to keep players and coaches in the dugout when they are not directly involved with on-field play responsibilities. This is for safety reasons and for ensuring non-interference with play.
- The starting lineup should be filled out prior to the game and given to the public address announcer and the official scorekeeper of the game or

tournament. The lineup should have last names, position played and uniform number.

- The lineup for the umpire will be given just prior to the game while the umpires go over the ground rules.
- All conference coaches are responsible for sending a current team roster and season schedule to each coach of all competing KCAC schools.
- The official ball for the conference is the Diamond D1-PRO. The KCAC is under contract with Diamond through June 30, 2012.

ARTICLE III: Championship Event Information

Automatic Qualifiers to NAIA National Tournament:

- Procedure to Determine Qualifiers for the NAIA National Tournament:
 - The winner of the conference tournament will be the KCAC automatic qualifier to the *Avista-NAIA World Series*.

Seeding and Brackets:

- Seeding and brackets for the post-season tournament will be determined by the baseball chair in conjunction with the KCAC Commissioner.
- The seeding and tournament bracket will be released on KCACsports.com as soon as possible following the completion of all regular season games.
- For the KCAC Championship Tournament, the top five teams will compete in a double-elimination tournament format – See Appendix A
- If there are regular season conference co-champions, the conference approved tie-breaking procedures will determine which team is the #1 seed.

Tie Breaking Procedures:

- To break ties for tournament seeding, the following criteria shall be used, in the presented order as needed:
 - Head to head competition
 - Result of records from the top team and work down
 - The least total runs scored against
 - Coin flip

Location:

- The KCAC Championship Tournament will be determined each year by the KCAC Commissioner.
 - Input will be sought from the coaches.
 - Approval is required by the Governing Council and the Board of Presidents.

Operating Costs:

- All KCAC institutions sponsoring baseball will be assessed a \$500 sport fee to cover the cost of operating the conference championship. This fee will help cover the cost of umpires, sports information, facility rental, etc.

- Sixteen dozen baseballs for use in the tournament will be provided by Diamond as stipulated in the current contract.
 - *One of the intents of this sport fee is to have the conference office cover the operational costs of the championship finals for Baseball.*

Contingency Plan:

- To be used only in the event that the KCAC Championship Tournament is unable to be started and/or completed.
- The tournament site must have an infield tarp, which is one of the requirements to be able to host the KCAC Championship Tournament. This will help with any weather-related issues in getting the tournament completed.
- The tournament will be played early enough each year to have several days as a buffer to meet the NAIA qualification deadline.
- Ultimately, if the tournament cannot be started and/or completed by the qualification deadline, then the KCAC will send the regular season champion as its automatic qualifier.

ARTICLE IV: Awards

Team Awards:

- Plaques will be awarded to the Regular Season Champion Team, the Conference Tournament Champion Team, and the Conference Tournament Runner-Up Team

Selection of All Conference Teams and Other Individual Awards:

- KCAC Baseball coaches will select a first and second team All-KCAC Baseball consisting of (1) first baseman, (1) second baseman, (1) third baseman, (1) shortstop, (1) utility infielder, (2) catchers, (1) designated hitter, (4) outfielders, (4) pitchers, and (1) relief pitcher. An honorable mention team can also be chosen.
- The voting will take place at the conference meeting. Each school is to have a baseball representative at the conference meeting.
- The KCAC Baseball Chair will select a date, location, and time for the conference meeting.
- Completed, comprehensive DANstats must be made available at the meeting for players to be eligible for 1st team honors.
- The coaches will also vote on the "Conference Player of the Year," "Conference Pitcher of the Year," and "Coach of the Year". The submitted "Coach of the

Year” will be the coach eligible for advancement to the NAIA for consideration as the National Coach of the Year.

ARTICLE V: Duties of the Sport Chair

- The duties of the KCAC Baseball Chair are as follows:
 - Help determine the proper policies and procedures at the conference level.
 - Serve under the direction of the KCAC Commissioner:
 - Assist the KCAC Commissioner when requested
 - Represent the KCAC coaches to the KCAC Commissioner
 - Keep the KCAC Commissioner informed and updated of proposals and concerns
 - Send a copy of the KCAC Baseball Guidelines to each conference coach prior to the start of the season.
 - Chair the meetings of the KCAC Baseball coaches.
 - Serve on the Games Committee at the KCAC Baseball Championships.
 - Inform the KCAC Baseball Championship Tournament Director of all procedures and guidelines.

ARTICLE VI: Miscellaneous

- **Pre-Game Protocol:**
 - Host institutions should closely follow the recommended procedures as agreed upon by the KCAC Baseball Coaches and Athletic Directors.
 - Two hours before game time, the home team starts hitting practice and continues for 40 minutes. The visiting team follows immediately with 40 minutes of hitting practice. The next 5 minutes are used to remove equipment from the field. At 35 minutes before game time the home team takes pre-game for 10 minutes, followed immediately by 10 minutes of pre-game by visiting team. Fifteen minutes before game time field repair is conducted for 10 minutes. At 5 minutes prior to game the umpires cover ground rules with the coaches, followed by the home team taking the field to prepare for the start of the game.

NAIA Conference Raters:

- One coach will be selected by vote of the conference coaches to be a member of the NAIA rating committee for Baseball. The conference rater will be confirmed each summer at the KCAC Sport Management Conference and reported to the conference commissioner and the NAIA.