

**SOFTBALL****1.0 ADMINISTRATION OF SPORT****1.1 MEETINGS.**

**1.1.1 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.** The annual business meeting shall be held via video on the third Wednesday in October at 10 a.m. *(revised 09/25)*

**1.1.2 PRESEASON MEETING.** The preseason meeting shall take place in January via video.

**1.2 AD LIAISON.** The AD Liaison is responsible for 1) Representing the AD Council at coaches meetings, 2) Communicating key information to coaches, 3) Representing coaches at AD Council meetings, including the presentation of minutes and action items.

**1.3 ADMINISTRATION.** MIAC Staff shall be responsible for chairing meetings and recording minutes. *(revised 5/25)*

**2.0 SPORTS SEASON**

**2.1 PLAYING & PRACTICE SEASON.** Follow NCAA Division III playing & practice season bylaws.

**2.2 CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT.** Weekend preceding the NCAA Regional Tournament. *(added 12/03)*

**2.3 SCHEDULING POLICY.** All conference games are to be scheduled as doubleheaders (two, seven inning games). A twenty (20) minute break between doubleheader games will be provided unless otherwise mutually agreed upon. The MIAC softball schedule ending date should be on the Saturday prior to the conference tourney. The schedule should include 5 Saturday's, 3 Sunday's, and alternating Wednesday and Thursday in-between until 11 dates are selected. No school will travel to the furthest two opponents in the same season. *(revised 12/2023, 12/14)*

**2.3.1 ASSIGNING.** The conference office will schedule all conference games. No institution will be scheduled for more than 2 home Sundays. *(revised 5/03)*

**2.3.2 DECLARATION OF NO-PLAY DATES.** Each school shall declare, by February 1 (of the current season), to the Conference office, their inability to play specific dates due to college policy (e.g. graduation, religious holidays, finals). *(revised 5/01, 5/00)*. Softball has a MIAC no-play policy for the following dates: April 5, 2026, March 28, 2027, April 16, 2028, April 1, 2029, April 21, 2030 (Easter). *(added 5/03, revised 12/07, 12/06, 05/06, 5/04)*

**2.4 POLICY FOR POSTPONEMENT/RESCHEDULING.** No school is required to play in more than two weekday conference doubleheaders in a defined week or more than three consecutive conference doubleheaders. Schools have 14 days to reschedule. If teams cannot reschedule their contest(s) within 14 days, they are required to make it up on the next available date both teams are not playing, following the 14-day window (no constraints will be considered following the 14 days). Spring trip dates are not to be included within the 14-day calculations. Any rescheduled games during the final 14 days of the regular season will be made up on the next available date with no constraints. In make-up games involving a second trip, the two participating schools shall share equally in the additional expenses (no overnight lodging). If such a trip involves a distance of over 150 (one way) miles, the two schools shall play at a neutral conference site midway between the two campuses. MIAC games must be completed on or before the Tuesday preceding the MIAC conference tournament to determine conference tournament seeding. If teams have not completed games by this deadline and the outcome has a bearing on the seeding of the conference tournament, then rule 7.1.1 will go into effect to break the tie. *(revised 12/2023, 12/19, 12/14, 12/06, 05/06, 5/04, 5/94, 12/91)*

**2.4.1 TIED GAME.** When a game is tied going into the 8<sup>th</sup> inning, the international tiebreaker rule will be implemented for regular season conference games. *(added 12/2023)*

**2.4.2 HALTED GAME.** If the first game of a doubleheader is halted, it will resume at exactly the point of being halted. If the second game of the doubleheader is halted prior to completion of the fifth inning (exception bottom of the fourth inning with the home team winning), it will be resumed at exactly the point of being halted; however if five or more innings are complete and the game cannot be finished that same day, the game will be considered final unless the score is tied (or bottom of the fourth inning with the home team winning, the game will be considered final, NCAA Softball Rule 6.19.1). *(revised 12/19, 5/04, 5/01, 5/00, 12/90 clarified 5/94)*

**2.4.2.1 HALTED TIE GAME.** If a game is tied after the fifth inning but cannot be completed, the NCAA halted game rule will be in effect, and the game will be played out to determine a winner. If mutually agreed upon by the involved coaches, the halted game may be played at an alternative location. Otherwise, the halted game will be played on the originally scheduled field, unless rule 2.6 is in effect. *(added 12/2012)*

**2.4.3 MAXIMUM DOUBLEHEADERS PER WEEK.** A team is not required to play three (3) MIAC weekday doubleheaders during a week. Travel to site, warm-up or halted games will be considered a date. *(revised 12/06, 5/00)*

**2.4.4 LOCATION.** When rain or unplayable conditions do not allow play on the home team's field, by mutual consent, the games may be switched to the visiting team's field. Switching sites is not mandatory as games may be played on another date. When sites are switched, the transportation expenses are to be borne by the team on whose field the games are played. The originally scheduled home team will supply game balls and umpires. *(added 12/13)*

**2.4.5 DOME GAMES.** It is permissible to play a conference game inside a dome if mutually agreed upon by both head coaches. On-campus domes that meet NCAA specifications are permissible play sites for the two teams involved and do not require mutual consent. *(revised 12/2023, added 12/2022)*

**2.4.6 SHARED COST.** It is recommended that both schools share in the cost of dome rental when both teams fields are unplayable and dome rental is needed. The sharing of dome rental costs is not mandatory, as budgets do not always allow for this, but splitting the cost if preferred if possible. *(added 12/14)*

**2.4.7 SPRING GRADUATION NO PLAY DATE.** An institutions spring graduation date is a no-play date if it conflicts with Regular Season games. Institutions may choose to play on commencement if they desire. (added 5/2023)

**2.4.8 MAKE-UP COMPLICATIONS.** If complications occur on make-up dates, the MIAC Commissioner shall rule on such matters.

**2.5 TEMPERATURE POLICY.** Games will not be started at “feels like” temperatures of 35 degrees or colder unless both coaches agree. Games will not be played or will be halted when the “feels like” temperature reaches 25 degrees or below. The temperature will be based on National Weather Service data. See MIAC Weather Policy (Appendix F) for additional heat and cold policies. (added 12/2016, revised 5/19)

**2.6 FIELD PLAYABILITY.** When situations require, the host Athletics Director (or designated institutional administrator) shall decide whether a game shall not be started because of unsatisfactory conditions of weather or playing field, in consultation with the host head coach, visiting team head coach and officials (as necessary). ATC manages lightning and weather policy related items. (added 5/2024)

### 3.0 GAME/MATCH/MEET/CONDUCT

**3.1 STARTING TIME.** Weekday conference games will start at 3:30 p.m. with the exception for games at Concordia (4pm) and at Macalester (4:30pm CST). Saturday and Sunday games will start at 1:00 p.m. (revised 5/15, 12/2012, 12/2011).

**3.2 RULES TO GOVERN CONTEST.** NCAA rules.

**3.2.1 INTERNATIONAL TIE-BREAKER.** When a game is tied going into the 8<sup>th</sup> inning, the international tiebreaker rule will be implemented for regular season conference games. (revised 12/2023, 3/87)

**3.2.2 DOME GAME RULES.** For conference games played in a dome, if a ball hits a wire while in bounds, it will be treated as a live ball. (added 12/18)

**3.3 SITE PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS.** The field will be available thirty (30) minutes prior to game time, to be shared by both teams.

**3.3.1 PREGAME FORMAT.** Each team will have eight (8) minutes for infield/outfield warm up. The home team will practice first. (revised 12/2011, 5/03, 5/97)

Pregame Format

25 Minutes Prior to Game Time (Announcer announces one minute to home team infield)

24 Minutes Prior to Game Time (Home team take infield)

17 Minutes Prior to Game Time (Announcer gives one minute warning to home team)

16 Minutes Prior to Game Time (Visiting team takes infield)

9 Minutes Prior to Game Time (Announcer gives one minute warning to visiting team)

8 Minutes Prior to Game Time (Umpires and coaches meet at home plate for pregame meeting)

5 Minutes Prior to Game Time (Announcer begins introductions starting with the visiting team. They will line up on the foul line in front of their dugout. The first player will line up near first/third base with the last person being the closest to home plate – Home team will line up with first player near third/first base and last to be introduced closest to home. Umpires will then be introduced standing at home plate. National Anthem – if there is a flag)

0 Minutes: Game starts

**3.3.2 GROUND RULES.** The meeting for ground rules shall begin five (5) minutes prior to game time.

**3.3.3 INFIELD DRAG.** Infields shall be dragged between games of doubleheaders if possible.

**3.3.4 FENCES.** Portable outfield fences must fall within NCAA guidelines for distance and once established, they must remain at that distance for the entire season. (added 5/04)

**3.4 HOME TEAM SHALL.**

**3.4.1 OFFICIAL BALL.** The Rawlings softball (official NCAA Championship Ball) shall be used as the game ball for all MIAC games. Provide two (2) new balls for each game - a NCAA Championship approved fastpitch ball (or two balls in satisfactory condition) agreed upon by the coaches. (revised 12/2016, 12/08)

**3.4.2 LOCKER ROOM.** Provide the visiting team with a locker room, if requested.

**3.5 VISITING TEAM SHALL.**

**3.6 VISITING TEAM ROSTER LIMIT.** There is no visiting team roster limit for conference games. (revised 09/25, 05/13, 12/09, 05/07)

**3.6.1 ROSTER POSTING.** Each coach shall be responsible for posting their roster, including uniform number, position, and year in school on the team’s website by April 1. (revised 05/06, 5/00)

**3.7 POLICY FOR VIDEO.**

**3.8 PRESS BOX PROCEDURES/ASSIGNMENTS.**

**3.9 REPLAY REVIEW.** The MIAC will not automatically adopt any NCAA-approved instant replay rules. Any adoption of instant replay rules must be approved through the MIAC’s legislative process to take action in the conference. (added 12/2016)

**3.10 EJECTION POLICY.** All ejections from any contest will result in an automatic Incident Review. An institution that has a student-athlete or coach ejected from a contest is required to submit details of the incident, along with film (if available) of the ejection within 24 hours of the end of the contest. An Athletic Administrator must submit the information to the MIAC Commissioner. Information must include: a - written summary report of the ejection, b - film clip, c - any additional action the institution will be taking (if applicable).

### 4.0 GAME SUPPORT STAFF

**4.1 GAME OFFICIALS.** Two NCAA qualified, non-student officials per game. (revised 05/06)

**4.1.1 POLICY TO ASSIGN OFFICIALS.** Officials will be assigned by the MIAC Softball Coordinator of Umpires. (revised 12/07, 5/01, 8/95, added 12/91)

**4.1.2 POLICY FOR SELECTING/RATING OFFICIALS.** Each coach is responsible for submitting umpire evaluations. (revised 05/06, 5/98)

- 4.2 SECONDARY OFFICIALS.** The home team shall provide the official score keeper.
- 4.3 SUPPORT PERSONNEL.** On-site administrator *(revised 5/03)*
- 4.4 MEDICAL PERSONNEL.** A Certified Athletic Trainer will be on sidelines. *(revised 05/06)*

## 5.0 MIAC/NCAA STATISTICS

- 5.1 STATISTICS.** The home team must keep NCAA statistics for each conference game. *(revised 05/06, 5/00, 12/90)*

## 6.0 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

- 6.1 HOW DECIDED.** The conference champion will be determined from the results of the assigned MIAC schedule of doubleheaders. (All MIAC games must be played per rule 2.6) *(revised 05/06)*
- 6.2 POLICY FOR TIE BREAKER.** Multiple champions will be recognized.

## 7.0 POST SEASON POLICY AND PROCEDURE

**7.1 AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER.** The winner of the conference post-season playoff will receive the automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship tournament. *(revised 5/03)*

**7.1.1 TIE BREAKER.** The following system will be used to break ties for seeding purposes into the conference playoff, with teams sorted by winning percentage: *(revised 12/08, 5/02, added 5/00)*

1. Head-to-head record amongst all teams tied.
2. Cumulative record against each team from the top down of those teams tied. (i.e. if two teams are tied and have split their doubleheader, the record against the #1 team will be considered. If teams are still tied, then record against the #2 team will be considered and so on down through the standings until the tie is broken). *(revised 12/2012)*
3. Record of those teams tied versus teams .500 and above at completion of regular MIAC season. (MIAC contests only).
4. Coin flip.

**7.2 EVENT DESCRIPTION.** The conference playoff is a six team single elimination tournament conducted the week prior to the NCAA Regional Tournament. If unable to play quarterfinal on Thursday, teams must exhaust all options to play on Friday, including playing at the visitor or neutral site. If Friday is unplayable, games 1-4 will be played at the #1 seed on Saturday, with the championship game on Sunday at 1 p.m. *(revised 12/19, 12/14)*

**7.2.1 PLAYOFF QUALIFICATION.** To qualify for conference playoffs, a team must have completed a minimum of 18 conference games. *(added 12/18)*

**7.3 PROCEDURE.** Six-team format. The highest seed in each game will be the home team. The home team will be in the third base dugout, select their jersey color (visitors must wear contrasting or agreed on colors), take infield first. *(revised 12/19, 12/15, 12/14, 05/06, 12/03)*

### Schedule of Games

#### Thursday

Game 1 - 4:30 p.m. #5 seed @ #4 seed

Game 2 - 4:30 p.m. #6 seed @ #3 seed

#### Friday

Rain date for quarterfinals @ high seeds

#### Saturday

Game 3 - 11:00 a.m. #1 Seed vs. Winner of Game 1 @ #1 Seed

Game 4 - 1:30 p.m. #2 Seed vs. Winner of Game 2 @ #1 Seed

Game 5 - 4:00 p.m. Winner of Game 3 vs. Winner of Game 4 @ #1 Seed

#### Sunday

Rain Date @ #1 Seed

**7.3.1 RULES FOR THE MIAC TOURNAMENT.** The MIAC tournament will adhere to all rules used during the normal conference season, unless noted in the exceptions. Teams are to follow the pre-game warm-up options from the regular season. *(added 12/09)*

**7.3.1.1 EXCEPTIONS:** For MIAC Playoffs, the international tiebreaker rule is not in effect. *(added 12/2023)*

**7.3.2 ROSTER LIMIT FOR MIAC TOURNAMENT.** The roster limit per game shall not exceed twenty-two (22) players in uniform in the team's bench area at the start of the contest. Each team shall indicate a maximum of 22 student-athletes eligible for competition, identified at the plate umpire meeting prior to each playoff contest. The roster may change per game. (see MIAC General Code 3.4.6 for definition of Visiting Team Roster Limit and applicable penalties). *(Revised 05/13, added 12/09)*

**7.4 LOCATION.** Seeds #3 & 4 host quarterfinal games; seed #1 hosts semifinals and final *(revised 12/19, 12/14, 12/12, 12/06)*

**7.4.1 FIELD REQUIREMENTS.** The host institution for the MIAC Playoffs will follow what is recommended for field requirements by the NCAA. *(added 12/08)*

**7.5 POLICY FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER.** If the tournament is not played or completed, #1 seed receives AQ until completion of game 4; high seed remaining receives AQ following completion of game 4. All games should be completed. If a game(s) is halted, it should be continued at the spot where it was halted as per the NCAA rule book concerning halted games. All tournament games need to be completed by the NCAA deadline for NCAA tournament selection. *(revised 12/19, 5/04)*

**7.6 ALL-PLAYOFF TEAM.** See bylaw 8.5. *(revised 08/22, 05/07, 05/06, added 5/04)*

**7.7 UMPIRES.** All MIAC softball playoffs contests will have three (3) umpires staffed *(added 12/2014)*

**7.8 PRE-GAME TIMING.** Follow regular season procedures.

## 8.0 AWARDS

**8.1 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS.** A championship plaque will be provided by the conference for the team(s) that finishes first at the conclusion of the conference schedule.

**8.2 ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM.** The All-Conference team will consist of 36 players. Only conference statistics will be used in determining placement on the All-Conference team. All-Conference certificates for customization and printing may be downloaded from the MIAC administrator website. (revised 12/15, 12/90)

**8.2.1 TEAM STRUCTURE.** The All-Conference team will consist of 36 players, regardless of position. Ties are accepted.

**8.2.2 HONORABLE MENTION.** After the All-Conference Team has been established, any players who were not named All-Conference but still received at least three votes in the balloting will receive Honorable Mention distinction. (revised 5/22, 12/15, 5/06)

**8.3 INDIVIDUAL HONORS.** All nominating and voting will be conducted by the conference office using the online awards system. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own players for All-Conference, but may vote for their own players for individual awards. Coaches will vote using separate online ballots for each award and use the same timeline as All-Conference voting. Each vote is worth one point. The individual receiving the most votes in each category will receive the honor. Ties are accepted.

**8.3.1 COACH OF THE YEAR.** Each conference head coach will be on the ballot for Coach of the Year. Coaches may not vote for themselves.

**8.3.2 PLAYER OF THE YEAR.** Coaches will vote using an online ballot with the same timeline as All-Conference voting. Coaches may only nominate one player. If there is a tie for the most votes, co-winners will be recognized. (revised 12/15, added 5/02)

**8.3.3 PITCHER OF THE YEAR.** Coaches will vote using an online ballot with the same timeline as All-Conference voting. Coaches may vote for their own player. The nomination will reflect pitching and defensive stats only. (added 5/03)

**8.3.4 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR.** To be eligible for nomination, the student must be a true college first-year student (not a transfer from another institution or an academic sophomore/junior/senior who has not used eligibility). (added 5/02)

**8.4 ATHLETES OF THE WEEK.** A Softball Player and Pitcher of the Week will be chosen each week of the conference regular season. SIDs will nominate and the MIAC office will select the winners. (added 12/09)

**8.5 ALL-PLAYOFF TEAM.** A 13-player All-Playoff Team will be selected. Each playoff-qualifying coach will submit their honorees from their own team. The two teams eliminated in the quarterfinals will each submit one (1) player, the two teams eliminated in the semifinals will each submit two (2) players, the second place team will submit three (3) players, and the champion will submit four (4) players. The team will honor a total of 13 players. The deadline to submit honorees is 5 p.m. the Monday following the MIAC Playoff Championship. The All-Playoff Team will be announced on the Tuesday following the MIAC Playoff championship. (added 8/2022, revised 12/2022)

## 9.0 AWARDS SELECTION PROCESS

**9.1 NOMINATIONS.** Coaches will nominate deserving players from their own team using the MIAC's online awards system. Each coach may submit a maximum of eight players for the All-Conference ballot. Nominations should include only regular season MIAC statistics from the official MIAC website. Nominations must include the player's name, rank, hometown, year in college, and optional supporting information. Nominations will be open the Wednesday prior to the MIAC Playoffs and close at 5:00 p.m. on the Monday following the Playoffs. (revised 12/2015, 12/08, 12/06, 05/06, 5/00, 5/98, 1995)

**9.2 VOTING.** Coaches will vote using the MIAC's online voting system. Voting will open at 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the MIAC Playoffs and will close at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Each coach will select the best 36 players without regard to positions and in no specific order. One vote equals one point. Coaches may not vote for their own players for All-Conference, but may do so for individual awards. If a conference school does not vote, its athletes cannot be awarded All-Conference recognition. (revised 12/2015, 12/07, 12/06, 5/00, 5/98, 1995, 12/90)

**9.3 ANNOUNCEMENT.** The conference office will publicly announce the award recipients on the Tuesday after voting closes. The conference office will work with coaches and SIDs to proof and release the awards list.



# PRE-GAME PROTOCOL

## SOFTBALL

Host will consult with opponent(s) regarding the pregame schedule. The host will keep teams notified of changes in the schedule and of any adjustments to game time(s). **Note: Option A is the default option. Options B, C, and D are available if mutually agreed upon.**

Option A	
Time Prior to First Pitch	Protocol
75 Minutes	Visiting Team Bat Testing
55 Minutes	Home Team Bat Testing
25 Minutes	Announcer: 1 Minute to Home Team Infield
24 Minutes	Home Team Infield/Outfield
17 Minutes	Announcer: 1 Minute Warning to Home Team
16 Minutes	Visiting Team Infield/Outfield
9 Minutes	Announcer: 1 Minute Warning to Visiting Team
8 Minutes	Umpire and Coaches Meeting at Home Plate
5 Minutes	Starting Lineups/National Anthem
0 Minutes	First Pitch

Option C	
Time Prior to First Pitch	Protocol
60 Minutes	Visiting Team Bat Testing
45 Minutes	Home Team Bat Testing
35 Minutes	Shared Field Time for Opponents
9 Minutes	Announcer: 1 Minute Umpire/Coach Meeting Warning
8 Minutes	Umpire and Coaches Meeting at Home Plate
5 Minutes	Starting Lineups/National Anthem
0 Minutes	First Pitch

Option B (* From 55 minutes to 9 minutes is shared field times between teams)	
Time Prior to First Pitch	Protocol
75 Minutes	Visiting Team Bat Testing
55 Minutes	Home Team Bat Testing
9 Minutes	Announcer: 1 Minute Warning to Visiting Team
8 Minutes	Umpire and Coaches Meeting at Home Plate
5 Minutes	Starting Lineups/National Anthem
0 Minutes	First Pitch

Option D	
Time Prior to First Pitch	Protocol
60 Minutes	Visiting Team Bat Testing
45 Minutes	Home Team Bat Testing
25 Minutes	Announcer: 1 Minute to Home Team Infield
24 Minutes	Home Team Infield/Outfield
17 Minutes	Announcer: 1 Minute Warning to Home Team
16 Minutes	Visiting Team Infield/Outfield
9 Minutes	Announcer: 1 Minute Warning to Visiting Team
8 Minutes	Umpire and Coaches Meeting at Home Plate
5 Minutes	Starting Lineups/National Anthem
0 Minutes	First Pitch