

SOFTBALL

Revised February 2024

I. RULES

A. CIAC

1. The CIAC Softball Committee governs all rules
2. Maximum number of games per season (exclusive of CIAC sponsored games and conference playoffs is twenty (20)
3. Limit of three (3) games per week, exclusive of postponements
4. Opening date of practice – determined by the CIAC
5. All Sports Teams and individual athletes must have a minimum of 10 physical exertional school practice days before the date of the first scheduled competition
6. No team/athlete shall practice/compete with their school more than 6 consecutive days to provide a day of rest. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays may be used unless prohibited by local board policy.

B. FCIAC

1. Except for other rules herein stated, conference play shall be governed by High School Federation Rules
2. Game length – seven innings
3. **In the event that the umpire prior to the completion of seven innings calls a game, five (5) innings shall constitute a complete game or four and one-half (4 ½) if the home team is ahead. If the game is suspended prior to being considered a completed game, the game will be started over on the next available date.**
4. **In the event of a tie game, full innings will be played to break the tie. A tie game not completed due to suspension by the umpire shall be completed under the Rules for Suspension**
5. Written rules are to be available for inspection of the game site
6. Starting time will be 4:00 PM. A departure from this will require mutual consent of the coaches involved. In the event that a team arrives late to a game they will have 30 minutes from the time the bus pulls in before the first pitch is thrown.
7. The ball used is the same as the ball for the CIAC championships.
8. Batting helmets with a double earflap are to be worn by all batters
9. Bases must be tied down with two spikes or inserts.
10. Player substitution – any starting player, including the pitcher, may be removed and re-enter in the game once, providing that she re-enters in her original spot in the batting order. (Pitcher may be shifted to another position on the field and then returned to the pitching mound as long as she maintains her original batting position)

II. DETERMINING SCHEDULING

- A. Makeup of the divisions will be as determined as written in the FCIAC League Operations; 3. Scheduling; e. Establishment of divisions.
- B. The softball schedule will follow the league two-year scheduling policy when all 16 schools' field a team and will flip home and away in second year.

- C. Postponements – in case of postponements, both teams involved must play the game on the next open date of both teams. Saturday may be utilized if mutually agreed upon by both coaches. Saturday’s must be used the last two weekends of the season so the schedule can be completed to start the postseason tournament. Sunday’s may be used by mutual consent of both teams.

III. DETERMINATION OF A CHAMPION

- A. Each school will play all other schools in the league. All league games must be played or the team declaring the cancellation shall lose by default.
- B. Tournament: 8 team tournament, rank order #1 to 8 by record (see IV below), #8 plays @ #1, #7 plays @ #2, #6 plays @ #3, #5 plays @ #4. The semi-finals and finals follow at a predetermined site.
- C. The highest remaining seed after the quarterfinals will have the option to play in the first or second game of the semi-finals.

IV. TOURNAMENT – 8 TEAM TOURNAMENT

- A. Resolving a tie between 2 teams
 - a. Competition with each other
 - i. If game won by one team, they are the higher seed.
- B. Resolving ties in points between 3 or more teams
 - a. If one team defeated all other teams, they will be seeded highest.
 - b. If two teams remain, they will be ranked by competition with each other (see a. above)
 - c. If not resolved by (a.) then
 - i. all teams in the league are placed in rank order.
 - ii. team which defeated the highest seeded team will be seeded highest of the teams in the tie.
 - iii. If number is now reduced to two team, team winning the game between the two teams is seeded next highest.
 - iv. If a tie can still not be broken a coin flip will be used to determine the rank order for the playoffs which could include eliminating a team from the top 8.
 - 1. Once a team is eliminated from a three way tie you go back to (A.) to determine further order.
 - v. This procedure is also used to determine division champion.

IV. OFFICIALS

- A. Assignment of Umpires
 - 1. Umpires will be assigned by the Commissioner’s Office for all contests
 - 2. Postponements – umpiring assignments of the postponed game is the responsibility of the home team. Reassignment shall be offered first to the umpire originally assigned from the Commissioner’s Office. If the umpire does not receive notice of the postponement before leaving for the game, he is to be paid in full.
- B. Rating
 - 1. Umpires are to be rated on conference cards by all coaches for every game. The rating card is to be sent to the Commissioner immediately.

V. AWARDS

A. Trophies

1. The Eastern and Western Division Champions will be awarded an FCIAC sponsored trophy
2. The FCIAC Champion will be awarded an FCIAC sponsored trophy

B. Medals

1. Twenty medals will be awarded to the FCIAC Champion team members

VI. ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

- A. By a date set by the chairperson all coaches will submit a list of their nominees to the chairperson
- B. The selection chairperson will then call a meeting of all softball coaches, at which first, second and honorable mention teams will be determined
- C. Selected players will receive All-Conference Certificates and a picture will be taken of the All FCIAC 1st Team