

## **OCCAC SOFTBALL GUIDELINES**

### **I. MEMBERS**

- A. Division II: Cuyahoga Community College, Lakeland Community College, Owens Community College
- B. Division III: Lorain County Community College

### **II. RULES**

- A. All NCAA rules shall be followed except where local ground rules require modifications.
- B. The local ground rules shall be given to the visiting coach and to the umpires before the games start.
- C. Current NCAA rules will be used with the following exceptions:
  - 1. Catchers are required to wear helmets as well as batters, runners, and on-deck batters.
  - 2. No international tie-breaking rule shall be used in any game.
  - 3. The NCAA eight run rule shall be used in all games.
  - 4. The NCAA halted game rule shall be used in all games.
- D. **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**
  - 1. The use of all tobacco products by any coach or player participating in any NJCAA sanctioned or sponsored regular season or post-season play is prohibited. Any individual not in compliance shall be disqualified from further participation in that contest. The game officials shall enforce this rule in each conference game. Each conference school must notify their contracted officials of this rule and their duty to enforce the same.

### **III. SCHEDULE**

- A. The conference schedule will consist of a 12 game season playing each team in a home and away doubleheader.
- B. Games will be played on Wednesdays and two Saturdays. Make-ups will be on Saturdays and Sundays or alternative days can be used if agreed upon by both athletic directors at competing colleges.
- C. No more than two games may be started in one day unless teams agree to do so. A suspended game may be completed and two games started in one day.
- D. The conference will follow the NCAA rules in regards to a regulation game.

### **IV. UMPIRES**

- A. The umpires must be registered and certified NCAA umpires.
- B. Two umpires must be used on all conference games.
- C. A person employed by, or a student at a conference college, shall not be appointed as an umpire at the college's events.

### **V. BALL**

- A. The official ball for conference play is the NJCAA National Tournament approved ball.
- B. The host site conference school is responsible for supplying two new game balls per game.

### **VI. CONFERENCE CHAMPION**

- A. The Conference champion will be determined by the team with the best conference win – loss record (highest winning percentage) providing a minimum of 75% of their conference schedule is completed (nine games) preceding the Division II District Tournament.

- B. The following tie breaker will be used, in the order listed, to determine the conference champion:
  - 1. The conference champion will be the team with the best winning percentage in conference games.
  - 2. If there is a tie, the team with the best record in head to head competition will be the champion.
  - 3. If teams have the same conference record and the same head to head record, then teams will be declared co-champions of the conference.

**VII. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

- A. Division II – The following tiebreaker will be used in order listed to determine the Division II District representative:
  - 1. Head to head competition against tied teams (best winning percentage against tied teams).
  - 2. Winning percentage against all Division II conference teams.
  - 3. A one game playoff to be played at least three days before the beginning of Division II District tournament and at a neutral site.
  - 4. If #3 above is not possible then go to the lowest number of runs allowed between tied teams.
  - 5. If still tied, a coin flip by the commissioner (or his/her designee) will determine the District representative.

**VIII. HOST TEAM SITE**

- A. The host team site is responsible for providing each school, prior to the start of conference play, the following:
  - 1. A contract stating the date, time, and location of play.
  - 2. Directions to the site of play.
  - 3. Restaurant and lodging information in the area.
  - 4. Team rosters, including name, class, position, and number of the players.
  - 5. Water for each bench area throughout the weekend of play.
  - 6. It is highly recommended that a certified NATA athletic trainer be at the site of play.
- B. The host team is responsible for scheduling and paying the umpires.

**IX. OCCAC AWARDS AND PROCEDURES**

- A. Each college will nominate a certain number of players for All Conference based on their schools conference finish. (First Place: 5 nominations, Second Place: 4 nominations, Third Place: 3 nominations and Fourth Place: 2 nominations.)
- B. Each college can also nominate a Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year and Coach of the Year. The conference softball chair will coordinate this process and send out the awards after the spring season.
- C. All nominations, which must include statistics from conference games only, must be sent to the conference softball chair who will coordinate the process and send out the results and awards.
- D. The conference softball chair will coordinate and distribute the following OCCAC softball awards:
  - 1. Certificates to the 14 members of the OCCAC All Conference Team
  - 2. Plaque to the OCCAC regular season champion
  - 3. Plaque to the OCCAC Coach of the Year
  - 4. Plaque to the OCCAC Player of the Year
  - 5. Certificate to the OCCAC Pitcher of the Year
  - 6. Certificates for Player of the Week