

# AMERICAN MIDWEST CONFERENCE

## *Baseball*

<b>ACADEMIC YEAR:</b>	Spring 2012
<b>CONFERENCE LIAISON:</b>	Tom Smith – Athletic Director Missouri Baptist University
<b>CONFERENCE SPORT CHAIR:</b>	Clay Biggs – Hannibal-LaGrange College
<b>CONFERENCE RATER:</b>	Clay Biggs – Hannibal-LaGrange College
<b>OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:</b>	Eddie Uschold – Missouri Baptist University Clay Biggs – Hannibal-LaGrange College Dave Estes – Harris-Stowe State University
<b>TOURNAMENT DATE(S):</b>	April 27, 28, 30 and May 1, 2012 <i>(Rain Date – May 2, 2012)</i>
<b>TOURNAMENT SITE:</b>	Robin Roberts Park – Springfield, Ill.
<b>TIME(S):</b>	TBA
<b>NAIA PLAYOFFS/ WORLD SERIES– NATIONAL TOURNAMENT DATES:</b>	NAIA Opening Round: May 11-14, 2012 (site TBD) NAIA World Series: May 25 – June 1, 2012
<b>NAIA WORLD SERIES SITE:</b>	Lewis-Clark State College – Lewiston, Idaho
<b>TIME(S):</b>	TBA

### **AMC BASEBALL POLICIES -- I. SCHEDULING POLICIES**

- A) Four-game series, with doubleheaders on Friday and Saturday. Games must be scheduled on or before the last weekend prior to postseason play.
- B) Game times will be 1 p.m. on Friday and noon on Saturday. Visitor pre-game begins at 11 a.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday. Home pre-game begins at 11:45 a.m. on Friday and 10:45 a.m. on Saturday. Home team wears home uniforms on Friday and road uniforms on Saturday.
- C) Each coach must submit a 30-player roster to the opposing coach, site administrator and the chief umpire prior to the start of each four-game series. Only the players listed on that roster are active for competition during the series. The roster must have correct player names. If numbers are inadvertently incorrect, they will be corrected without penalty. If an inactive player (Player A) participates in a game, and the opposing coach notifies the chief umpire, that game results in a forfeit. Player A must be **officially** in the game when the opposing coach notifies the chief umpire. Previous games, in the same series, in which Player A was a participant, will not result in a forfeit. Subsequent

games without violation of the 26-player roster, in the same series, also will not result in a forfeit. Any discrepancies not covered in the aforementioned bylaw will be settled in protest format by a committee assigned by the AMC commissioner.

- D) The Monday following the last weekend of conference play will be used only if it will affect the postseason tournament seeding. Regardless, all conference games must be started by 12:01 a.m. Wednesday morning or the tie-breaking criteria will factor into the seeding of the AMC conference tournament.
- E) In the event of inclement weather or ties, all efforts will be exhausted to complete the conference schedule for rescheduled contests.
- F) Games one, two and three of each four-game series will be continued from the point of stoppage, if stopped by weather, darkness or other act of God. Game four will be considered complete after 4 ½ innings if the home team is leading, or 5 innings if the visiting team is leading.
- G) Should a fight occur between two teams during a regular season series causing disqualification of players to the point where that game cannot be completed due to a lack of eligible players, this game plus the next scheduled game will be declared a forfeit.
- H) A total of 55 + 2 scrimmages for the entire school year.

## **II. NAIA 10-RUN RULE**

- A) The NAIA 10-run rule will be in effect for all regular season AMC games.

## **III. PRE-GAME PROTOCOL**

- A) Saturdays: Visitors batting practice on Saturdays will be determined by the coaches of the two teams.
- B) Weekday Game Batting Practice: Visitors batting practice for weekday games will be determined by the two teams.

## **IV. CONFERENCE REGULAR SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP**

- A) Teams must play a minimum of 18 games in regular season conference play to qualify for the AMC tournament.
- B) The conference regular season champion will be determined by overall conference winning percentage.
- C) Should a tie exist between two or more teams, the following methods will be used to break the tie:
  1. The school with the best record in head-to-head competition in conference games between the tied schools.
  2. The difference in runs scored in head-to-head competition in conference games between tied schools. Ten run limit.
  3. The difference in runs scored in all conference games. 10-run limit.
  4. The difference in runs scored in games against common opponents.
  5. Use a coin toss between tied teams.

## **V. CHAIR AND PROTEST COMMITTEE**

- A) Protest Committee. A rotation alphabetically of three teams (coaches) will compile the protest committee annually. If one or more coaches on the protest committee is involved personally with the protest, then the Baseball Chair will appoint the coaches next in order to substitute on the committee.

2011 - TBD

### **B) Procedure for Protest:**

When a game is completed under protest, (NOTE: The protesting school must state the intent to PROTEST to the Head Umpire about the play in question prior to a new play beginning). After the completion of the contest the protesting school must:

1. Document the following information:

- a. The date, time, and place of the game.
- b. The names of the umpires and scorers.
- c. The rule and section of the official rules or local rules under which the protest is made.
- d. The information, details, and conditions pertinent to the decision to protest.
- e. All essential facts involved in the matter protested.

2. Notify by noon the next day the Athletics Directors of the two schools involved, the conference officials assignor, and the Conference Commissioner.

3. When a game is protested, the Protest Committee will rule one of the following:

- a. The protest is considered to be invalid and the game stands as played.
- b. The protest is determined to be valid because of the misinterpretation of a playing rule.  
The decision will be corrected and the game shall be replayed from the point at which the incorrect decision was made.

4. Athletics Directors must agree on the next available playing date to conclude the game.

5. In the event the ruling calls for a replay of the game, either partial or full, teams will follow the following guidelines:

If there is a game(s) remaining at the same site later in the year, then it will resume prior to the scheduled game. If there is a game remaining with the same team but at the opposing site then the game may be finished there as long as it is not more than four innings. If the game is longer than four innings, then the team has the option to play the game at the home team prior to the game at the opposing site or they may choose to have the game played at their own site. The later the game is scheduled to be played in the regular season the date of the game may be turned over to a schedule arbitrator who will determine the time of play.

## **VI. PLAYER/COACH PROTOCOL**

- A) Fight policy: Any player who instigates, provokes, or participates in a brawl, as determined by umpires, videos, or higher powers, will be ejected from that game and suspended 2 more AMC games, if the player is a pitcher, the suspension will be 3 AMC games or 7 days, whichever comes later. In extenuating circumstances, the coaches may appeal the suspension to the notified in writing of all actions relating to the ejection and suspension.
- B) Players leaving their position or bench area to participate in an altercation shall be ejected from that game and serve a one-game suspension. Umpires will report names to the Commissioner and appropriate Athletics Directors.
- C) Handshake -- Post-game handshake will take place after every game, except the first game of a doubleheader.

## VII. GAME BALL, BAT AND FACILITIES RESPONSIBILITIES

- A) Ball: Use the same game ball that is used in NAIA championship play. (NAIA R100 Rawlings)
- B) Bat: Follow the same guidelines as set by NAIA for bat specifications.
- C) Grounds: All mounds and boxes are to be shaped in accordance with rulebook. The intent of this rule is to eliminate home field advantage mounds that are peculiar in shape and slope towards pick off bases. The rulebook is specific to the amount of flat space on top of the mound and to its slope. All teams must follow the guidelines set forth in the pro rulebook. A home team forfeit will result if the umpire determines a mound to be illegal. Full batters boxes are to be put down prior to the game. Catchers boxes TBD. Each Athletics Director is to certify that the mound at their institution meets the legal limits of the rules. There will be no challenges to the Athletics Director's certification.

## VIII. UMPIRES POLICY

- A) League baseball teams will use the Midwest Umpires Association (MUA) for all regular season and postseason conference games.
- B) Send copies of current schedule to the Officials Assignor prior to October 1 yearly.
- C) Umpire rosters will be e-mailed to coaches
- D) Rain-out make-up games need to be offered to original officials first

## IX. ALL-CONFERENCE VOTING PROCEDURES

- A) Each coach will nominate one of his players for each of the following positions:

P	C	Utility	INF
P	C		OF
P	1B		OF
P	2B		OF
Utility P	3B		OF
	SS		DH

- B) Each coach will also nominate one of his own players for Pitcher, Player, Freshman Pitcher, Freshman Player, Newcomer Pitcher and Newcomer Player of the Year.
- C) A player must play at least 50 percent of his games at the position for which he is nominated.
- D) On Tuesday following the conclusion of regular season Conference play, all nominations will be due to the league SID by 10 a.m. All nominations must be sent in DAN Stats format. The league SID will compile the nominations and distribute the ballots via e-mail to league coaches by noon that same day. Each coach will return a completed ballot by 5 p.m. Coaches may not vote for their own players. The players receiving the most votes in each of the above positions will be named first team All-Conference. All other nominees will receive honorable mention All-Conference honors.
- E) Should there be a tie at any of the positions, all players with that vote total will be named to the All-Conference team.

## X. POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT/AWARDS

- A) The postseason tournament will be a five-team, double elimination tournament, following the NCAA standardized bracket. Seeding will be determined by regular season conference finish.
- B) The tournament will be held at a mutual agreed upon site determined by the coaches association at the August annual meeting. The host will assume all expenses incurred by running the tournament.
- C) All teams traveling to the tournament will be responsible for their own expenses.
- D) The tournament will be played on the Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday following the

last week of regular season competition. All available open dates should be exhausted until the NAIA deadline. The highest seeded team remaining in the tournament will be declared conference tournament champions if weather prohibits play.

E) Following the first game of the conference postseason tournament, there will be an awards presentation, honoring Academic All-Conference selections and the league regular-season champions. Following the championship game of the postseason tournament, there will be an awards ceremony, honoring players chosen to the first team All-Conference squad.

F) PLAQUES

1. Tournament Championship
2. Regular-Season Championship
3. Coach of the Year
4. Player of the Year
5. Pitcher of the Year
6. Newcomer Player of the Year
7. Newcomer Pitcher of the Year
8. Freshman Player of the Year
9. Freshman Pitcher of the Year
10. First-Team All-Conference (17)

G) CERTIFICATES

1. Academic All-Conference
2. Honorable Mention All-Conference

**XI. SPORTS CHAIR**

A) The baseball chair selection will be determined by a vote of the member coaches. The term shall be for two years beginning in August 2010.