

AMERICAN MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Softball

ACADEMIC YEAR:	Spring 2008
CONFERENCE LIAISON:	Richard Fanning – Athletic Director Harris-Stowe State University
CONFERENCE SPORT CHAIR:	Evelyn Bean – McKendree University
CONFERENCE RATERS:	Dan Hurst – Hannibal-LaGrange College Evelyn Bean – McKendree University
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:	Craig Walston – Missouri Baptist University Wendy Spratt – Columbia College Eric Newell – Williams Baptist College
TOURNAMENT DATE(S):	Thursday-Saturday, April 24-26, 2008 (Rain Dates – Sunday and Monday, April 27-28, 2008)
TOURNAMENT SITE:	Land of Lincoln Complex – Springfield, Ill. (Host – University of Illinois at Springfield)
TIME(S):	TBD
<u>NAIA REGION V –</u> REGIONAL TOURNAMENT DATE(S):	Tuesday-Thursday, May 6-8, 2008 (Rain Date: Friday, May 9, 2008)
TOURNAMENT SITE:	Meador Park – Springfield, Mo.
TIME(S):	TBD
<u>NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP –</u> NATIONAL TOURNAMENT DATES:	May 16-21, 2008
TOURNAMENT SITE:	Wilson Morgan Softball Complex – Decatur, Ala.
TIME(S):	TBD

AMC AWARDS:

PLAQUES

- Postseason Conference Championship
- Conference Championship
- Coach of the Year
- Player of the Year
- Pitcher of the Year
- Newcomer of the Year
- Freshman of the Year
- First Team All-Conference (18)

CERTIFICATES

- Academic All-Conference
- Honorable Mention All-Conference

CONFERENCE SCHEDUING:

- The rules used in conference competition will be the rules governed by the NCAA rulebook.
- A conference chair officer will be elected at the spring meeting prior to the conference tournament. That officer will serve a two-year term.
- If the conference chair vacates his/her coaching position, an interim chair will be elected to finish the term.

CONFERENCE REGULAR SEASON COMPETITION:

- Every team plays every other league team in a doubleheader.
- Games will begin at 2 p.m. unless otherwise agreed upon by the coaches involved.
- A specific rain date will be set aside for conference competition. The day immediately following the scheduled conference dates (every Wednesday). Any doubleheader cancelled first shall take precedence over any subsequent doubleheaders.
- The Monday and Tuesday following the conclusion of scheduled conference play shall be set aside as additional rain dates.
- If a team's home field is not playable for a regular season conference game, the team may have the option to travel to the opposition's home field to compete.
- In conference doubleheaders, the host team shall be the home team in the first game and visitor in the second game (in accordance with NCAA rules).
- The tiebreaker begins in the 10th inning as stated in the NCAA rulebook unless weather and/or darkness becomes an issue. This will be decided by the two head coaches prior to the start of each game.
- The AMC regular season schedule shall be on a two-year rotation with each team assigned a number in conjunction with the schedule. During the second year schedule, the conference schedule will be reversed. The teams will be re-drawn at the end of the second year, but home and away will continue to rotate.
- The designated home team is the official scorer.
- The host institution is responsible for supplying two umpires for the conference doubleheader. Failure to do so will result in the host team having to reschedule at the visiting institution and pay for umpires, or forfeit both games.

CONFERENCE POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT:

- The conference chair shall be the AMC tournament director and provide the tournament program. A site director will be in charge of assigning gate and scoreboard operations.
- A double elimination tournament will be held to decide the Conference representative in region play.
- Seeding for the tournament will be based on regular season round robin play only. **Ties will be broken by head-to-head regular season Conference play.** If two teams split their double header Conference games, the tie will be broken as follows:
 1. Total run difference among tied teams (maximum eight runs)
 2. Fewest runs allowed among tied teams (maximum eight runs)
 3. Fewest runs allowed in all Conference games (maximum eight runs)
 4. Total run difference in all Conference games (maximum eight runs)
 5. Coin toss. **Note:** Rules 1, 2, 3 and 4 will apply if more than two teams are tied.
- The highest ranked team will be the home team in the first round. The home team will be decided by a coin toss in all following games.
- Admission will be collected to help defray the cost of umpires and miscellaneous excess costs paid by the conference.
- Profit from concessions will go to the host school to defray field preparations.
- Each school will fund its own travel expenses and provide one official ball per game.
- Two umpires will be present at each preliminary round game of the tournament. Three officials will work the semifinal and championship games. The conference chair working the championship event will hire and Umpire-in-Chief. The chair will request a list of qualified candidates from each coach. The chair will compile the names and send it back to the coaches for a ranking of requested officials. Umpires for the event will be assigned from that list by the Umpire-in-Chief.
- A three-person committee will be established to resolve protests during the tournament. The committee will consist of the Umpire-in-Chief, the conference chair, and the host coach. This committee will resolve protests that occur at the tournament. If the chair and/or host coach is playing in a game in which a protest occurs, alternate committee members will be appointed prior to that game to resolve any protest.
- An awards ceremony, presenting members of the Academic All-Conference team and recognizing the regular season conference champions, will take place on the first day of the tournament, following first round play.
- There will be an awards presentation to announce first team All-Conference, honorable mention, Coach, Player, Pitcher, Newcomer and Freshman of the year at the conclusion of the conference Championship game.

CONFERENCE VOTING AND PROCEDURES:

- Each coach will nominate up to five field players and three pitchers from his/her team for All-Conference honors. The list of nominees will be sent to the conference SID by Tuesday at 9 a.m. prior to the conference tournament. All nominations are due at that time, even if there are games remaining on a team's schedule. A player cannot be nominated as both a fielder and pitcher. Coaches should nominate in rank order (#1 being their top player, etc.).
- Each coach will also nominate one player from his/her team for the following awards:
 1. Newcomer of the Year
 2. Freshman of the Year
- Upon receipt of all the nominees, the conference SID will compile a ballot and distribute it, along with statistics for each nominee, by Tuesday at 5 p.m. prior to the conference tournament. Each coach will rank the players **based on performance in regular season competition**. Coaches will select (not rank) the top 18 players/pitchers and designate up to five additional honorable mention votes. Coaches return their ballots to the conference SID by Wednesday at 10 a.m. The conference SID will compile the votes and provide a list of the top eighteen (18) at the pre-tournament meeting on Wednesday evening. Coaches will then rank the 18 players/pitchers.
- Coaches **MUST** select the players in the rank order given by the nominating coach.
- The All-Conference team will consist of two categories. The top 18 vote-getting players, regardless of position, will make up the All-Conference first team. The next 18 vote-getters will be named honorable mention All-Conference.
- Coaches will also rank the nominees for Pitcher, Player, Newcomer, Freshman and Coach of the Year. Coaches may not vote for his/her players or for himself/herself.