

## MCAC WOMEN'S DIVISION FASTPITCH SOFTBALL OPERATING CODE

### I Organization of Coaches Group and Meetings

#### A. Membership

1. All current members of the MCAC Women's Division may participate in the meeting.
2. It is required that all MCAC Women's Division softball coaches or a designated representative attend the meeting.
3. Each member college will have one vote.

### II. Competitive Season

- A. Each school may play up to 17 dates in a season.
- B. No full team supervised or organized practice may start earlier than February 15.
- C. Coaches will have the opportunity to work with pitchers and catchers for 3 times a week from January 15<sup>th</sup> to February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Coaches can work with players in a group up to 4 players for up to 2 hours a week from January 15<sup>th</sup> to February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- E. MCAC teams will allowed up to 14 practice dates in fall semester. Dates must be documented with the college athletic director and submitted to conference office after completion. No outside competition will be allowed with other schools during the fall semester.
- F. Teams may play unlimited games during their school's official spring break. Those games will not count towards the 17 date limit.

### III. Rules and Regulations

- A. All home colleges shall send a letter of confirmation to each college they will be competing against stating date, time, place, officials, and colleges involved. Visiting teams will sign and return the confirmation within 30 days. All confirmations must be postmarked April 1.
- B. Any college after signing a confirmation that does not honor their commitment will be obligated to pay a fine. The conference office shall be notified if, by mutual consent, a contest is changed two weeks or more before the scheduled date.
- C. NCAA rules will be used for all competition. The use of any experimental rule is allowed in non-conference games only if both coaches agree.
- D. All colleges will send a team roster and schedule of games to all colleges competing against them in the season prior to the date of the first game.
- E. Team rosters may consist of 18 players.
- F. Scheduled conference dates will consist of two games, each being seven (7) innings.

- G. The Dudley WT12Y-FP is recommended as the official ball and the fifth-inning, eight-run rule (NCAA Rule Book) shall be in effect for all MCAC games.
- H. Clothing in addition to the official uniform shall be allowed.
- I. Players shall be allowed to wear metal or rubber cleats.
- J. Each team is responsible for providing one game ball.
- K. Host site must provide water for both teams.
- L. A "Coach of the year" will be selected for each division. The voting will be conducted at the time of the "All Division" Team balloting.
- M. Make-up games shall be scheduled by mutual consent of the participating teams with the last available make-up date to be the Tuesday prior to the Region Tournament.
- N. Exceptions to the NCAA Rule Book  
MCAC
  - 1. "Down or Out" - if on a wild pitch or passed ball and in the judgment of the official there is a collision at the plate, the base runner must slide or be called out.
  - 2. Catchers must wear helmets
  - 3. The international tie-breaking procedure shall not be used.
- O. The halted game policy will be in effect for all MCAC Division contests. Make-up of halted games will occur as follows:
  - If game 1 of round 1 or 2 is halted, the game is picked up at the original site.
  - If game 2 of round 1 is halted, game 2 is to be completed at the site of round 2.
  - If game 2 of round 2 is halted, game 2 is to be completed at a site by mutual consent or if no mutual consent, a home site shall be determined by coin flip.
- P. All conference games will be two 7-inning games. The 8-run rule after 5 innings will be in effect

#### IV Organization of Divisions

##### A. Composition

<u>Southern Division</u>		<u>Northern Division</u>	
Dakota County	Riverland	Central Lakes	Mesabi
Fergus Falls	Rochester	Hibbing	Northland
MN West	St. Cloud Tech	Itasca	Vermilion
Ridgewater		Rainy River	Fond Du Lac

##### B. Division Chairs and Secretary

- 1. Each division shall elect and/or appoint a chair and a secretary.
  - a. The Northern Division softball chair is TBA.
  - b. The Southern Division softball chair is TBA.

##### C. Northern Division Regulations

- 1. Family of players and coaches and employees of schools in the division may not be used to officiate. No official shall be a former coach (from previous year) for any player participating in the contest.
- 2. Each school will notify other schools of unacceptable officials.

3. Northern Division double headers - The host site is the home team the first game of the doubleheader.

D. Southern Division Regulations

Conference Games

1. The host school will be home team for both games of the doubleheader.
2. All conference games must be played on a fenced field if possible.
3. Game time will be determined by the host college.

V. Eligibility

- A. College must be paid member of the MCAC Women's Division.

B. Eligibility forms must meet requirements of Section 13 of the NJCAA eligibility rules and so filed with that office.

C. All games versus a NJCAA club status team will not count towards post-season qualifying play.

VI. Awards Procedures

A. All-Division

1. The Northern and Southern All Division Teams will be chosen in the following manner:
  - a. Each coach may nominate up to five players from his/her team (listing their top choice first) including individual statistics and comments and submits the names to the women's division chair by May 1st.
  - b. The division chair will send out ballots to each coach. Coaches vote for 18 players (reminder - you cannot vote for your players).
  - c. In voting, coaches should consider the order of nominations.
  - d. Results will be tallied in the following manner:
    1. Each coach votes 1 thru 18 (with 18 being their top choice).
    2. In case of a tie for any position, the names of the players will be listed in the order of overall conference record standings.
    3. Also, each team must have at least one representative on the All-Division team. Any one school can have a maximum of four on the All-Division team with no more than three on the first team.
2. The chair will send out to each coach the ballot with all teams nominations and statistics before division playoffs.
3. By the Monday preceding the region tournament the division chair must have received all ballots from the coaches. Coaches may not vote for their own players.
4. The chair will tabulate the results on the Monday prior to the state tournament will send all results to each coach, the state tournament director, all athletic directors and the MCAC Secretary.

B. All-State

1. Rationale:

- a. To select a team that is representative of the total state.
- b. To ensure that those divisions whose teams finish highest in the state tournament are fairly represented as well as those individuals who are outstanding.
- c. To take into consideration the coaches' and division's recommendations on ranking of players.

2. Procedure:

- a. Each division would select a 18-player All-Division team.
- b. Each division would rank their 18 players in order from top to bottom. This ordered ranking would be utilized for the division's All-State slots.
- c. Each division would obtain a number of All-State team slots based upon that division's teams finish in the state tournament.
- d. The All-State team would consist of 9 players on the first team and 9 players on the 2nd team, with 9 players as Honorable Mention.
- e. The All-State first team would be submitted for Region 13 consideration.

The team that finishes first in the state tournament would gain as many points as there are teams in the tournament (12 teams-first place worth 12 points). Descending finishes would also be reflected in descending point totals. The "division" with the Regional Winner shall have five points added to its total. Slots for the All-State team would then be determined utilizing the following format:

	<u>1st team</u>	<u>2nd team</u>
Division with most points	5	5
Division with 2nd most pts.	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	9	9

If divisions are tied, then the slots would be divided evenly (6, 6). The Division with the highest place finish would have its' players placed first on the All-State team.

C. All Tournament Team

1. Coaches shall nominate to the selection committee two players from each team they compete with during the tournament immediately after each game.
2. The first place team would have four slots.
3. The second place team would have three slots.
4. The third place team would have two slots.
5. The remaining three slots could come from any of the teams, including the first, second, or third finishers.

D. During regular season play the conference office will select both a player and pitcher of the week for both the Northern and Southern Divisions.

VII. Master Rotational Schedules:

A. Schedule Protocol

1. Both the Southern and Northern Division will play a double round-robin schedule with all Division III games counting toward qualification into the Region 13 Tournament.
  - a. For entry into the State and Region 13 tournaments, ties shall be broken in the following manner:
    1. Records against each other
    2. If still tied, records against top four Division III teams, in your division.
    3. If still tied, a play off game. The site of which is determined by a coin flip or at a neutral site by mutual consent. Expenses will be shared by the participating schools.
  - b. For seeding into the State and Region 13 tournaments, ties shall be broken in the following manner:
    1. Head to head competition in regularly scheduled division games.
    2. Runs scored against the team with which there is a tie.
    3. Coin Flip
  - c. All Division doubleheaders will begin at 3:30 p.m

B. Region 13 Format

- Region 13 will be split into two separate Regions. Region 13A will consist of all Southern Division teams, plus a Wisconsin representative determined by the Wisconsin conference. Region 13B will consist of the Northern Division teams.
- Based on the MCAC double round robin schedule, the top two teams from each Division will qualify into their respective Region tournaments. The tournaments will either be a two or three team double elimination tournament based upon participation from Wisconsin.
- The 2008 Region 13 Tournaments will be held May 9-10, 2008.  
TBA – 13A host  
TBA – 13B host

See 2009 Schedules Below

**MCAC Northern Division 2009 SB**

**Schedule:**

**Sa 4/4**

Hibbing @ Northland  
Fond @ Central Lakes  
Mesabi @ Vermilion  
Itasca @ Rainy

**Su 4/5**

Hibbing @ Central Lakes  
Fond @ Northland  
Itasca @ Vermilion  
Mesabi @ Rainy

**T 4/7**

Central Lakes @ Northland  
Hibbing @ Rainy  
Fond @ Vermilion  
Itasca @ Mesabi

**W 4/8**

Northland @ Itasca  
Vermilion @ Hibbing  
Mesabi @ Fond  
Central Lakes @ Rainy

**F 4/10**

Northland @ Mesabi  
Central Lakes @ Vermilion  
Rainy @ Fond  
Hibbing @ Itasca

**Sa 4/11**

Northland @ Vermilion  
Central Lakes @ Mesabi  
Fond @ Itasca  
Rainy @ Hibbing

**M 4/13**

Vermilion @ Fond  
Mesabi @ Hibbing  
Rainy @ Northland  
Itasca @ Central Lakes

**W 4/15**

Northland @ Central lakes  
Vermilion @ Rainy  
Mesabi @ Itasca  
Hibbing @ Fond

**Sa 4/18**

Northland @ Hibbing  
Central Lakes @ Fond  
Vermilion @ Mesabi  
Rainy @ Itasca

**Su 4/19**

Northland @ Fond  
Central Lakes @ Hibbing  
Vermilion @ Itasca  
Rainy @ Mesabi

**T 4/21**

Northland @ Rainy  
Fond @ Mesabi  
Central Lakes @ Itasca  
Hibbing @ Vermilion

**F 4/24**

Mesabi @ Northland  
Vermilion @ Central Lakes  
Fond @ Rainy  
Itasca @ Hibbing

**Sa 4/25**

Mesabi @ Central Lakes  
Vermilion @ Northland  
Itasca @ Fond

**Su 4/26**

Hibbing @ Mesabi  
Rainy @ Vermilion

**M 4/27**

Itasca @ Northland  
Fond @ Hibbing  
Rainy @ Central Lakes

State Tournament: May 1-2 (qualifying tournament) St. Cloud Tech

## MCAC Southern Division Schedule – 2009

March 30

MW @ RCTC  
MSCTC-FF – BYE  
RW @ SC  
DCTC @ RL

April 1

MSCTC-FF @ SC  
DCTC @ MW  
RW – BYE  
RL @ RCTC

April 3

MSCTC-FF @ RL  
RW @ MW  
SC @ DCTC  
RCTC – BYE

April 4

MSCTC-FF @ MW  
RW @ RL  
SC @ RCTC  
DCTC – BYE

April 7

RCTC @ DCTC  
RL @ SC  
MSCTC @ RW  
MW – BYE

April 10

RW @ RCTC  
MSCTC-FF @ DCTC  
RL @ MW  
SC – BYE

April 11

MSCTC-FF @ RCTC  
RW @ DCTC  
SC @ MW  
RL – BYE

April 14

RCTC @ MW  
SC @ RW  
RL @ DCTC  
MSCTC-FF – BYE

April 17

RCTC @ MSCTC-FF  
DCTC @ RW  
MW @ RL  
SC – BYE

April 18

RCTC @ RW  
DCTC @ MSCTC-FF  
MW @ SC  
RL – BYE

April 21

DCTC @ RCTC  
SC @ RL  
RW @ MSCTC-FF  
MW – BYE

April 24

RL @ RW  
MW @ MSCTC-FF  
DCTC @ SC  
RCTC – BYE

April 25

MW @ RW  
RL @ MSCTC-FF  
RCTC @ SC  
RW – BYE

April 28

RCTC @ RL  
SC @ MSCTC-FF  
MW @ DCTC  
RW – BYE

May 1-2

MCAC TOURNAMENT @ St. Cloud

- Double Round Robin Schedule
- All games count towards Region 13 qualification, top team from Southern Division qualifies for Region 13A.
- The second qualifier for Region 13A will be the highest finisher for the Southern Division at the MCAC State Tournament.
- All games count towards MCAC Tournament seeding.
- All games are doubleheaders with host school being home team for both games.

### VIII. State Tournament Policies

- A. The MCAC State Tournament will be a two day, double elimination tournament.
  1. St. Cloud Tech will host the MCAC State tournament in 2008 & 2009.
  2. The tournament dates for 2008 are May 2-3, 2008.
  
- B. Type of Tournament
  1. An qualifying double elimination tournament will be played.
  2. The Top 8 teams (4 from Northern Division & 4 from Southern Division)
    - # 1 Seeds for North and South get automatic bid to regionals
    - Take the top finishers from each division to go to the regional tournament play. (North#2 and South#2)
  3. Seedings for the state tournament are based upon the completed conference schedule and upon conference record.
  4. No games will start before 10 a.m.
  5. It is highly recommended to have four or more fields in use for the tournament.
  6. Picture programs are to be provided.
    - a. Team pictures, Rosters should be sent to the tournament director by April 25.
    - b. Programs are to include Region XIII winners, all academic teams, and all division teams.
  7. Colleges pay all expenses for the State Tournament.
  8. Flip for home team 20 minutes before all games of every round.
  
- C. Host College
  1. Must apply to the chair of the Board before the spring meeting of the previous year.
  2. It is recommended that the tournament director not be participating as a coach in the tournament.
  3. The tournament director will be responsible to provide:
    - a. Information and results to major press services and the local news media;
    - b. Prepare and distribute tournament program;
    - c. Prepare and distribute tournament news releases (pre-, during, post-);
    - d. Provide emergency first aid services; athletic trainer.
    - e. All tournament directors are responsible for maintaining and up-dating a traveling folder on tournament operation, and passing it along to future tournament directors. Folders will go to the office of the Conference Coordinator to be sent to the new tournament directors;
    - f. Other services as deemed necessary.
  4. Shall keep the tournament for two years upon receiving the bid for the tournament.
  5. Shall submit a report of the tournament to the Conference Coordinator.

6. All tournament information shall be mailed to MCAC member schools one week prior to state tournament.

D. Tournament Expenses

1. Officials compensation will be the only expense covered by the MCAC.

E. Officials

1. Recommendations shall be made to the tournament director by April 15.
2. Softball officials shall be hired according to their rating (NCAA) recommendations and availability. Tournament directors are responsible for hiring, assigning, and scheduling officials.
3. Officials' compensation shall be decided by the tournament director.
4. Any person affiliated with a team in the tournament shall not officiate a game in which that team is playing. "Affiliate" shall be defined as a staff member, current student, or a student of that college the previous year.
5. Officials must follow NCAA guidelines and be ready and on the field 20 minutes prior to game time.
6. Officials should not work straight through the day, but have at least one break scheduled between games.

F. General

1. At the MCAC state tournament the taking of infield practice is optional for all teams for all beginning rounds each day (even when the weather is bad).
2. The fields shall be ready one hour before the scheduled starting times, and maintained between games as needed (foul lines, batters' box to be groomed after each round).
3. The five-inning, eight-run (NCAA Rule book) rule shall be in effect for the entire state tournament.