

2011-2012 Baseball Operating Code

1. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

1.1 CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

1.1.2 The Conference consists of an Eastern Division and a Western Division.

1.1.2.1 East: Bloomsburg, East Stroudsburg, Kutztown, Mansfield, Millersville, Shippensburg, and West Chester.

1.1.2.2 West: California, Clarion, Gannon, IUP, Lock Haven, Mercyhurst, and Slippery Rock.

1.2 CONFERENCE COMMITTEES: The baseball executive committee shall be composed of the athletics administrator who serves as the baseball sport committee chair and three baseball coaches (president, vice president, and secretary). The term of office for all coaches shall be six years. Each shall serve successively, for two years, as secretary, vice president, and finally president. A secretary shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall represent alternately the Eastern and Western divisions.

1.2.1 Term – 2011-2013 President – Matt Jones, Shippensburg, East; Vice President – Joe Spano, Mercyhurst, West; Secretary – Jon Shehan, Millersville, East

1.3 MEETINGS: The meeting of the Baseball coaches will be made at the discretion of the conference office.

1.4 PERSONNEL

1.4.1 Staff Limitations

- a. 1 head coach
- b. 1 full-time assistant (coaching contract with benefits) or part-time assistant or volunteer
- c. 1 paid part-time assistant (half time or less) or graduate assistant or volunteer
- d. 1 volunteer
- e. **4 TOTAL COACHES**

1.4.2 Additional Staffing Notes: In addition to the above limitations, an institution is permitted to utilize an unlimited number of full-time undergraduate students with no limitation of duties. In addition to the above limitations, an institution is permitted to utilize a maximum of four (4) social equity positions with a maximum of one (1) per sport. These positions shall be determined by the President and reported to the Commissioner.

1.5 NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT: Each Conference member agrees to abide by the regulations and procedures outlined in the National Letter-of-Intent Program.

2. REGULAR SEASON PROCEDURES

2.1 GAME DAY PROCEDURES

2.1.1 Uniforms: Per NCAA rules.

2.1.2 Complimentary Passes: A minimum of two complimentary admissions will be provided to a visiting PSAC student-athlete at any member institution when admission is charged. The complimentary admission list is available online.

2.1.3 Game Balls: The Rawlings R1-NCAA baseball shall be used in all Conference games and at the PSAC Championship.

2.1.4 Lineups: Coaches are requested to submit game lineups to host SIDs by 15 minutes prior to the start of each game.

2.1.5 Mandated Schedule

2.1.5.1 The mandated schedule requires that each team play four 7-inning games (two home and two away) against each team in its division.

2.1.5.2 The conference schedule must be strictly adhered to. Teams are expressly prohibited from altering the mandated schedule, the only exception being final examinations and/or at the discretion of the commissioner. In such cases, an alternative date must be mutually agreeable.

2.1.5.3 Should the final regular season mandated date on the original schedule be reached and make-up games still remain to be completed only those contests that have a bearing on the outcome of the conference tournament seeding will be completed.

2.1.6 Called Games: All unfinished conference games are considered halted games (NCAA Baseball Rules) unless considered a regulation game - under the official NCAA rulebook, and must be completed from point of being called. If this involves the second game of a double-header during the teams' initial meeting, it must commence at the point of being halted prior to the start of the second set of games between the two teams.

2.1.6.1 If the called game meets the definition of a regulation game, then the game may not be completed during the second meeting of the two teams. If it was impossible to begin the second game of the initial double header, that game will be played as the first game of a triple-header at the site of the second meeting. In all cases, the home team will be responsible for paying the officials for all games played at its site.

2.1.6.2 If during a second meeting of two teams a halted game should occur, the visiting team must return to the site to complete the contests, unless the game meets the definition of a regulation game. Ties may occur in regular season contests as defined by NCAA Rule.

2.1.7 Postponement Due to Rain: Games which are postponed because of rain must be rescheduled in the following order:

2.1.7.1 The next day following the mandated game and each subsequent date thereafter. If a team has a non-conference opponent scheduled in advance for that date, the opponent should be aware of the policy which requires that the non-conference game be canceled or rescheduled.

2.1.7.2 If Friday's games are postponed, Saturday's site and games will remain the same and Friday's games rescheduled for Sunday.

2.1.7.3 All games, including make-ups, must be scheduled before the last date of the original mandated schedule.

2.1.7.4 It is understood that if a conference game cannot be made up and another mandated date has been reached, the day after the second date is the rain date for that second game, not the first one. If possible, and in consultation with the Administrators, teams may switch home/away sites if field conditions permit a switch.

2.1.7.5 Rainout make-ups must be played in original order.

2.1.7.6 If a university has concerns due to academics, the two coaches should turn the rescheduling of rained out games over to the respective athletic directors.

2.1.8 Lightning Policy: The host institution's certified athletic trainer will have the unchallengeable authority to postpone or suspend competition in the event of lightning during PSAC regular season or championship play. The certified athletic trainer and game official or game administrator must consult and all agree as to when play is to be resumed.

2.1.9 In the event a team is delayed for arrival at the site of competition, the team will be provided 45 minutes of preparation time before the start of competition upon their arrival at the site.

2.2 GAME OFFICIALS

2.2.1 Officials Fees: 2012: \$175 single; \$250 DH
Doubleheader rained out in 1st game – single game fee

Doubleheader rained out in 2nd game – doubleheader fee

2-man crew in tripleheader - \$425/man (2012)

3-man crew in tripleheader - \$360/man (2012)

Home team will pay all officials in triple-headers.

2.2.1.2 All PSAC schools shall contract with the Chesapeake Bay Collegiate Baseball Umpires Association (CBCBUA) on a permanent basis for all games.

2.2.1.3 Assignor's fee is \$250/school. Fee will be billed through the PSAC.

2.2.2 Post-season selection of officials will be conducted through the conference office.

2.3 GAME ENVIRONMENT

2.3.1 Sportsmanship: The PSAC is committed to developing sportsmanship and creating healthy environments for competition. We believe that part of the role of education through sports is to educate all participants in athletic contests to conduct themselves with civility, dignity and respect for opponents.

2.3.2 Crowd Control Statement: Each member institution is expected to have the following announcement read prior to each contest (at a minimum). Institutions are encouraged to develop a format in which participating student-athletes or other enrolled student-athletes recite this (or a similar statement) prior to competition. "The PSAC and (host institution) promotes good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racial comments or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches or team representatives will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition. Also, consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. Thank you for your support of the PSAC and (host institution)."

2.3.2.1 The responsibility for crowd control rests with the director of athletics or the designated representative of the home (host) institution. The directors of athletics of the competing institutions are expected to communicate with their students and other fans to encourage enthusiastic support within the confines of good sportsmanship. If home or host institution is unable to control the situation, a uniformed security officer for effective crowd control should be hired.

2.3.2.2 The host athletics director shall be prepared to utilize the public address system at the first sign of unsportsmanlike crowd behavior and request cooperation in maintaining proper playing conditions.

2.3.2.3 Only participants, coaches, officials, and authorized personnel shall be allowed in the competition area before, during and at the conclusion of competition.

2.3.2.4 Artificial noisemakers are permitted at outdoor athletic events except those devices (i.e. whistles, air horns) that would interfere with the conduct of the contest or those already prohibited by NCAA regular season playing rules. The director of athletics or the designated representative is responsible for removing such instruments and tapes from the competition area.

2.3.2.5 Bands or any component thereof are not allowed to play while the competition is in progress.

2.3.3 Game Environment, The PSAC and Division II: Institutions have a unique opportunity to establish the link between the educational purpose of Division II athletics and the competition environment at Division II events. Game Environment goes beyond the behavior of players and coaches to include all that surrounds the event, including game administration, fans and student supporters. Sportsmanship should be regarded as a mandatory subset of game environment. That is, an institution can exhibit great sportsmanship without having a great game environment. However, it is not possible to have a great game environment without sportsmanship.

2.4 MEDIA SHARING

2.4.1 Scouting: No member institution is permitted to exchange scouting reports about another member institution with an institution outside the conference.

3. CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURES

3.1 TOURNAMENT FORMAT: The conference tournament shall consist of the top four teams in each division.

3.1.1 Conduct of the Championship

3.1.1.1 The PSAC baseball champion shall be determined by a two pool double elimination tournament involving eight teams. Each game shall consist of nine innings and shall be played in accordance with NCAA championship rules. The home team for the first round games will be determined by the highest seed, thereafter in accordance with the NCAA Baseball Championship Handbook.

3.1.1.2 The top four finishers in each division as determined by won-loss records or by the selection criteria set forth in 3.1.3 shall be selected to participate in the baseball championship.

3.1.1.3 The tournament shall be played in four days according to the schedule as shown in Appendix A.

3.1.1.4 Adjustments in the schedule shall be made by the commissioner.

3.1.2 Seeding: The division champion shall be the team with the best won-loss record at the end of the mandated schedule. The runner-up shall be the team with the second best won-loss record at the end of the mandated schedule. A division championship cannot be declared until it has been determined mathematically. There will be no playoff games to determine post-season participants.

3.1.3 Division Ties (Ties to determine tournament seeding and/or participants): If teams are tied the following tie-breaker will be used:

- a. Head to head competition (tied teams' record against one another).
- b. Record vs. conference division teams progressing down until the tie is broken or reach last place. (Higher ties must be broken first in determining seeding)
- c. Coin toss

3.1.4 Non-Completed Mandated Schedule and Play-in Games: If because of weather or other natural causes it becomes impossible to complete the mandated schedule by the 48 hours prior to the PSAC Championship, the following criteria will be used to determine seeding:

- a. Winning percentage in mandated league play
- b. Winning percentage in head-to-head league play
- c. Winning percentage versus divisional champion
- d. Winning percentage of opponents in mandated league play in rank order of finish
- e. Coin Toss

3.1.5 Date: The tournament shall be played on the first weekend following the conclusion of the mandated schedule, except in those years when the championship would conflict with Spring Semester finals of the State System. The PSAC does not permit mandated/tournament play from Sunday through Saturday of the PASSHE semester finals.

3.1.6 Site: On Campus: If the tournament is to be played on campus, it shall be played at the site of a division champion and shall be rotated from Eastern Division to Western Division on an annual basis.

3.1.6.1 Off Campus (Neutral Site): If the tournament is to be played off campus at a neutral site, such site selection shall be at the recommendation of a majority of the baseball coaches and approved by the athletics administrators and board of directors.

3.1.7 If the Championship cannot be completed, the following format will be used to determine a conference champion and the league's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Tournament:

- a. If less than 8 games are played, a tie will be broken between the two divisional #1 seeds:
 - 1. Based on winning percentage in the respective divisional standings.
 - 2. Record vs. divisional opponents by rank order of finish.
 - 3. Coin toss.
- b. If 8 or more, but less than 12 games are played, a tie will be broken among the two unbeaten teams remaining after Game 8 by:
 - 1. Highest remaining seed.
 - 2. Based on winning percentage in the respective divisional standings.
 - 3. Record vs. divisional opponents by rank order of finish.
 - 4. Coin toss.
- c. If 12 games or more are played and less than 4 teams remain, a tie will be broken among the remaining teams by:
 - 1. Best record in tournament play.
 - 2. Highest remaining seed.
 - 3. Based on winning percentage in the respective divisional standings.
 - 4. Record vs. divisional opponents by rank order of finish.
 - 5. Coin toss.
- d. If after 12 games are played and four one-loss teams remain and Game 13 is completed but not game 14, a tie will be broken among the four remaining teams after Game 12 (regardless of the outcome of Game 13) by:
 - 1. Highest remaining seed.
 - 2. Based on winning percentage in the respective divisional standings.
 - 3. Record vs. divisional opponents by rank order of finish.
 - 4. Coin toss.
- e. If 14 games are played, and two teams still remain, a tie will be broken by:
 - 1. Head to head record in the conference tournament.
 - 2. Highest remaining seed.
 - 3. Based on winning percentage in the respective divisional standings.
 - 4. Record vs. divisional opponents by rank order of finish.
 - 5. Coin toss.

3.2 TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

3.2.1 Tournament Director: If the tournament is played on campus, the host Athletics Administrator shall be responsible for the efficient and effective management of the tournament including the financial report. If the tournament is played off campus at a neutral site, the Baseball Liaison shall be responsible.

3.2.2 Championship Practice Times: To be determined based on availability of facilities.

3.2.3 Personnel: Maximum number of personnel permitted in the bench area is 34, not to exceed 6 non-uniformed personnel. Medical personnel are excluded from the bench personnel limit, i.e. ATC, student-trainers, physicians.

3.2.4 Officials: Umpires will be assigned by the CBUA in conjunction with Commissioner's office.

3.2.5 Awards

3.2.5.1 Awards will be provided by the conference office. Championship team receives a trophy and 30 individual plaques. The Runner-up also receives a trophy.

3.2.5.2 A tournament most valuable player shall be selected by the games committee and will receive a plaque.

3.2.5.3 Awards Ceremony Protocol: The second place team is required to remain present at the site of competition until they are presented with their runner-up trophy.

4. ALL-CONFERENCE AWARD PROCEDURE

4.1 TEAM COMPOSITION and INDIVIDUALS AWARDS

4.1.1 Each Division shall select an All-Conference team consisting of first and second teams with fourteen players on each.

4.1.2 Positions selected shall be: catcher, first base, second base, shortstop, third base, three (3) outfielders, designated hitter, three (3) starting pitchers, relief pitcher and utility player.

4.1.3 A utility player shall be defined as one who has played at least 60% of his team's games at a field position, including those played as pitcher. A player who meets the criterion of playing less than 50% of his games at one position, but has played 40% or more of his games as a designated hitter/player may be nominated as a designated hitter/player, but not as a utility player.

4.1.4 Each Division shall select a Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, Coach and Freshman of the year. To be eligible for the Freshman of the Year Award, a student-athlete should be listed by the institution as a freshman or red-shirt freshman and must be competing in their initial year of eligibility for that sport.

4.2 NOMINATION PROCEDURES

4.2.1 A coach may nominate no more than the total number of players selected on a first team (14) from his team only.

4.2.2 A player must have played in at least 66% of his team's games in order to be nominated.

4.2.3 A player must have played at least 50% of his total games played at a particular position in order to be nominated for that position.

4.2.4 A player not meeting #3 above may be nominated as a utility player.

4.2.5 Pertinent statistics must be included with each player's nomination

4.2.6 A coach may only nominate an athlete or freshman of the year from his team.

4.3 VOTING PROCEDURE

4.3.1 A coach may **not** vote for his own players or himself.

4.3.2 A coach must cast votes equal to the total number of players selected on the first and second teams (28).

4.3.3 A coach must rank his votes at each position selected

4.3.4 A ballot must be completed fully in order to be counted.

4.3.5 Ties shall be broken by a revote of uninvolved coaches.

4.4 MISCELLANEOUS

4.4.1 The all-conference team shall be released during the week following the conference championship.

4.4.2 The selection process will be conducted by the Conference Media Relations Director in accordance with the PSAC policy.

PSAC Baseball Championship Format – Appendix A

Day 1

Game 1 – E2 vs. W3

Game 2 – W1 vs. E4

Game 3 – W2 vs. E3

Game 4 – E1 vs. W4

Day 2

Game 5 – Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser (loser eliminated)

Game 6 – Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser (loser eliminated)

Game 7 – Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner

Game 8 – Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner

Day 3

Game 9 – Game 5 winner vs. Game 7 loser (loser eliminated)

Game 10 – Game 6 winner vs. Game 8 loser (loser eliminated)

Game 11 – Game 9 winner vs. Game 8 winner

Game 12 – Game 10 winner vs. Game 7 winner

Day 4

If one game is needed (both game 7 and Game 8 winners win in games 11 and 12)

Game 13 – Championship Game, 1:00 pm

If two games are needed (if only one of Game 7 or Game 8 winners win Games 11 or 12)

Game 13 – 12:00 pm

Game 14 – Championship game

If three games are needed (both Game 9 and Game 10 winners win Game 11 and Game 12)

Game 13 – Bracket A (rematch of Game 11)

Game 14 – Bracket B (rematch of Game 12)

Game 15 – Championship game