

2011-2012 Field Hockey Operating Code

1. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

1.1 CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

1.1.1 Only PSAC institutions with Division II field hockey programs are included in the PSAC field hockey structure for purposes of representation and committee membership. The conference consists of an Eastern Division and a Western Division.

1.1.1.1 East: Bloomsburg, LIU – C.W. Post, East Stroudsburg, Kutztown, Millersville, West Chester

1.1.1.2 West: IUP, Mansfield, Mercyhurst, Seton Hill, Shippensburg, Slippery Rock

1.1.2 Only Division II field hockey programs shall be eligible for the PSAC Field Hockey Championship.

1.1.3 All Division II field hockey teams within the PSAC shall play in a double round robin within their division to identify the top three teams from each division to participate in the championship.

1.1.4 Teams will also play a single round cross over game with four of the six teams in opposite division.

1.2 CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

1.2.1 Sports Chairperson: An athletic administrator shall be selected by the Chair of the Athletic Administrators as the chairperson to the field hockey coaches.

1.2.2 Duties of the Sports Chairperson

1.2.2.1 Serve as the liaison between the field hockey coaches and the Conference.

1.2.2.2 Prepare and circulate the agenda and chair meetings of the field hockey coaches.

1.2.2.3 Attend the championship and be prepared to handle any conference issues that may arise at the site.

1.3 MEETINGS: The annual meeting of field hockey coaches shall be at the discretion of the conference office.

1.3.1 Additional meetings of the field hockey coaches shall be called as they are deemed necessary.

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. Division I sports are exempt from these limitations

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 ball used for PSAC regular season and championships shall be the official ball of the NCAA championship. The color of the ball shall be white or optic orange and shall be determined by the home team.

2.1.4 Single game dates may be altered by mutual agreement of the opponents with approval from athletic directors and commissioner.

2.1.5 Games postponed due to weather MUST be rescheduled for the first common open date. All regularly scheduled conference games must be completed by Sunday, prior to championship Saturday. The Sunday prior to the conference championship must be left open in the event a make-up date is needed.

2.1.6 In the event of inclement weather, every effort should be made to play on the originally scheduled mandated date by switching playing sites (first half of season only), if possible. If a switched site is not possible, the original site of competition will be the site of competition.

2.1.7 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.

2.1.8 Games terminated by officials as a result of inclement weather and/or hazardous field conditions shall be resumed at the point of termination and shall be completed as specified by NCAA for in-season competition. The completion of the game shall take place on the field on which it was originally being played either later on the same date or at a future date.

2.1.9 Regular season games shall be conducted under the rules for field hockey as adopted by the NCAA Field Hockey Committee.

2.1.10 A visible clock is required for all games.

2.1.11 On natural grass fields the height of the grass shall be no greater than 1½ inches, weather permitting.

2.1.12 The home team must provide a minimum of two ball runners for all matches.

2.1.13 The certified athletic trainer from the host institution 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 agree as to when play is to be resumed.

2.2 GAME OFFICIALS: USFHA National and Sectional officials shall be used.

2.2.1 Officials shall be contracted by the PSAC Commissioner through the Field Hockey Assignor.

2.2.2 Three officials shall be available for the games.

2.2.3 Two shall be assigned field duties and the third shall serve as alternate official and official timer.

2.2.4 Official Fees: 2011: \$165/match; \$0.40 per mile round trip; **2012:** \$165/match; \$0.40 per mile round trip.

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 developed 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).”

2.3.1 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.

2.3.2 The director of athletics or the designated representative is responsible for removing such instruments from the competition area.

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 No member institution is permitted to exchange a scouting report about another member institution with an institution outside the conference.

2.5 PROTESTS AND FORFEITS: Forfeits shall be handled by the Commissioner after being reported to the sport liaison.

2.5.1 Any protest by the coach must be made at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest and before play is resumed.

2.5.2 All protests must be made to both officials and recorded on the official score sheet and filed with the conference office in writing within 24 hours of the conclusion of the contest.

2.5.3 No protest shall ever be permitted on judgment decisions of the officials. If the protest is proven to be legitimate and could have had a bearing upon the game, then it is upheld and play resumes from the point of the protest.

2.5.4 Decisions of the Commissioner are final.

3. CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURES

3.1 TOURNAMENT FORMAT: The top three (3) teams from each division at the end of the regular season shall make the championship tournament. The tournament shall be conducted under FIH rules with NCAA modifications.

3.1.1 Seeding: The championship participants shall consist of three teams in each division based on:

a. Win/loss record within the division

b. Head to head competition results between tied teams within the division

c. Record against divisional opponents not involved in the tie, working from highest to lowest ranked.

d. Weighted wins against divisional opponents giving the following descending credit for: regulation time wins (4 pts.); 1st overtime wins (3 pts.); 2nd overtime wins (2 pts.); penalty strokes (1 pt)

e. Weighted wins between tied teams

- f. Conference road wins within the division
- g. Win/Loss percentage against mutual opponents outside PSAC
- h. Highest ranked team based on NCAA regional ranking system

3.1.2 Date/Time

3.1.2.1 First Round Matches: The contests will take place the Tuesday after the last regularly scheduled conference contest and will be scheduled for a 4 p.m. start time.

3.1.2.2 Semifinal Matches: The start times for the semi-finals should be conducted no earlier than 1:00 p.m. and no later than 2:30 p.m. with a minimum of 45 minutes between the matches on Friday. On lighted facilities, the host institution must consult with the commissioner regarding start times, if later times are desired by the host institution. The home team will play the second match.

3.1.2.3 Championship Match: The Championship final game shall be played on the Saturday, one week prior to the NCAA Division II Championship. The start times for the championship match should be conducted no earlier than 1:00 p.m. and no later than 2:30 p.m. On lighted facilities, the host institution must consult with the commissioner regarding start times, if later times are desired by the host institution.

3.1.3 Site

3.1.3.1 First Round Matches: First round games will be contests with the #2 seed in the East hosting the #3 seed in the East and #2 seed in the West hosting the #3 seed in the West.

3.1.3.2 Semi-final and Championship Matches: The semi-final and championship contests will be conducted at the highest remaining seed (alternating divisions, odd years in the west, even years in the east) that has an on-campus artificial surface. The #1 seed in the Eastern Division will play the winner of #3 West vs. #2 West. The #1 seed in the Western Division will play the winner of #3 East vs. #2 East.

3.1.4 Protest Committee: The Championship Director (or his/her designee); PSAC Field Hockey liaison (or his/her designee); Alternate official.

3.2 TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

3.2.1 Tournament Director: The host Athletics Administrator shall assume the role of tournament director and shall organize and administer the tournament, including submission of a financial report to the Commissioner's office.

3.2.2 Championship Practice Times

3.2.2.1 Practice times the day before the PSAC semifinals will be provided to teams in the following priority:

- a. Team furthest distance from championship site
- b. Top remaining seed in semifinal game #1
- c. Remaining team in semifinal game #1, if necessary
- d. Host team
- e. Remaining team

3.2.2.2 A seventy-five minute practice time shall be allotted to competing institutions on the championship field the day prior to the championship (field conditions permitting). Forty-five minutes shall be allotted to competing teams the day of the championship.

3.2.3 Personnel: No more than 30 personnel are permitted in the bench area, 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: Two officials secured by the conference office to work each tournament match, plus an alternate will be provided.

3.2.5 Championship Tie Breaking Procedures: Shall be those prescribed for the NCAA Field Hockey Championships.

3.2.6 Championship site shall have a visible scoreboard clock with horn.

3.2.7 Host institution shall provide a minimum of four (4) ball persons per game.

3.2.8 Awards

3.2.8.1 Provided by the conference office. PSAC Champion Trophy, PSAC Runner-up Trophy, 30 Individual Awards to the Championship Team and an MVP Plaque.

3.2.8.2 The tournament Most Valuable Player shall be selected by the tournament committee.

3.2.8.3 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 An East and West All-Conference team, consisting of a first and second team will be chosen. Teams will be comprised of eleven (11) players; 3 forwards, 4 midfielders, 3 backs and 1 goalie.

4.1.2 An Athlete, Coach and Freshman of the Year shall be selected. 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 Coaches may nominate up to 11 players from his/her own team only, ranked in order by position.

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

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

4.2.4 Statistics pertinent to the player's performance must be included with each nomination.

4.2.5 Coaches may only nominate Athlete and Freshman of the Year from his/her own team.

4.3 VOTING PROCEDURE

4.3.1 A coach may **not** vote for his/her own players or for his/herself.

4.3.2 A coach must cast votes equal to the total number selected on the first and second teams (22); incomplete ballots will be invalid.

4.3.3 A coach must rank his/her votes at each position selected.

4.3.4 Ties shall be broken by a re-vote of coaches eligible to vote for players tied.

4.4 MISCELLANEOUS

4.4.1 The All-Conference teams and the Athletes, Coaches and Freshmen of the Year selections shall be released to the media during the week following the PSAC Championship.

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