

GSAC BASEBALL POLICIES

I. SCHEDULING POLICIES

- A. A total of 55 + 2 scrimmages for the entire school year. (1/9/2008)
- B. Conference opponents must be kept in the same order but allow flexibility in changing dates as long as the sequence is followed. A date change outside of sequence must be approved in advance by the GSAC Executive Committee. Any schedule change must also be approved by both Athletics Directors.
- C. Midweek doubleheaders are both 9-inning games. (1/9/2008)

D. RAIN-OUT GUIDELINES

The coaches involved in a rainout and reschedule must follow the criteria in order beginning with:

1. The two coaches involved come to an agreement no later than midnight the next school day. If they cannot agree, the respective athletics directors will make the decision.
2. The rescheduling must follow the GSAC policy of utilizing the first available date for a doubleheader (if needed). In most cases, this would be Monday. We would not force a team to play more than 5 conference games in a week until the first week in April. Starting in April, in case of extreme rain years, the 5-game per week rule would not apply. Midweek double headers must be two 9-inning games.
3. Schedule changes should be compiled so an updated master schedule can be distributed just before the GSAC schedule begins so possible rain adjustments can be reliable. Conference schedule changes necessitated by rain must be reported immediately to the GSAC Commissioner. This report will best be done by e-mail. The Athletics Director is responsible for getting the official institutional baseball schedule to the Conference SID prior to the start of GSAC play.

II. NAIA 10-RUN RULE

The NAIA 10-Run rule will be waived for all regular season GSAC games.

Exception: In a suspended game that has completed 7 innings, the 10-run rule will then be in effect.

III. PRE-GAME PROTOCOL

- A. Saturdays: Visitors batting practice on Saturdays will be 35 minutes. Batting practice for the visiting team will be confined to the field only. (In case of poor weather it can be mutually agreed upon by coaches to hit in the cages only.) Coaches are to send pre-game schedules to GSAC opponents, which include the specific times allotted for visitor batting practice. Times are also to be posted in visiting dugout.
- B. There needs to be equitable use of cages for between games batting practice.
- C. Midweek Batting Practice:
 1. Visiting teams may have the home team's batting cage the last 20 minutes before the home team is scheduled for pre-game but not more than one hour prior to game time.
 2. The home team may take batting practice in cages any time prior to the allotted time and after the allotted time up until game time. No team may take batting practice on the field anytime prior to a mid-week game.

IV. CHAIR AND PROTEST COMMITTEE

- A. The GSAC Baseball Chair position will be served on a rotating basis every two years as elected by the coaches.
- B. Protest Committee. A rotation alphabetically of three teams (coaches) will compile the protest committee annually. If one or more coaches on the protest committee are involved personally with the protest, then the Baseball Chair will appoint the coaches next in order to substitute on the committee.

2008	CBU	CUI	FPU
2009	PLNU	SDCC	TMC
2010	VUSC	WC	APU
2011	BU	CBU	CUI
2012	FPU	HIU	PLNU

C. Procedure for Protest: (1/9/2008)

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 as home team prior to the game at the opposing site or they may choose to have the game played at their own site. With the later the date the game will be played will be turned over to a schedule arbitrator who will determine the date of the game.

V. SCHEDULES AND DOUBLEHEADERS

A. Schedule to not start annually before the second Saturday in February.

B. Start time for mid-week conference single games:

Dates	Start time
Early spring (February)	2:00 p.m.
Mid-spring (March)	2:30 p.m.
Late spring (April) - after Daylight Savings Time	3:00 p.m.

C. Start time for Saturday conference doubleheaders:

Dates	Start time
Prior to Daylight Savings Time	11:00 a.m.
Following Daylight Savings Time	12:00 noon

D. The first game of a Saturday doubleheader will be 9 innings and the second will be 7 innings.

E. If two GSAC teams choose to play a weekday doubleheader in lieu of two single games on consecutive days, then they must play two 9-inning games.

F. GSAC Playoff dates shall be completed as required by the NAIA direct-qualification deadline.

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 GSAC games, if the player is a pitcher, the suspension will be 3 GSAC games or 7 days, whichever comes later. In extenuating circumstances, the coaches may appeal the suspension to the protest committee. The Commissioner and both Athletics Directors must be 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 of 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. Send copies of current schedule to the Officials Assignor prior to October 1 yearly.
- B. Umpire rosters will be e-mailed to coaches
- C. Rain-out make-up games need to be offered to original officials first
- D. The umpires will receive a ½ game fee if a scheduling cancellation occurs less than 30 days before the contest.
- E. In addition, each coach will write into the scheduling contracts for home contests with non- conference teams a stipulation that if the game is cancelled on opponent's request, the ½ game fees will be covered by the respective institution.

IX. AWARDS

- A. 23 All-Conference GSAC certificates for first team
- B. Positions selected:
 - 1 each infield playing position
 - 1 infielder at any of the 4 positions
 - 1 centerfielder + 3 other outfielders
 - 5 pitchers
 - 2 catchers
 - utility player *
 - designated hitter ^

* - The utility player is defined as a player who regularly played more than one position listed above.

^ - If there is no viable candidate for the designated hitter position, this all-conference selection can be adjusted with the agreement of all coaches. Same holds true for the centerfielder position.

- C. GSAC policies state that a DH must have 70% of his AB's as the DH. Regional and National teams require only 50%.
- D. Regional and National teams require that a player remain at the same position throughout the voting with the exception of the fifth infielder.
- E. Player of the Year
- F. Coach of the Year
- G. The awards will be voted on in the following order:
 - 1. Player of the Year
 - 2. Designated Hitter - Note: If there is not a viable DH Candidate, refer to VIII.B^ above
 - 3. 2 Catchers
 - 4. 1st Base
 - 5. 2nd Base
 - 6. Shortstop
 - 7. 3rd Base
 - 8. 4 Outfielders
 - 9. 1 Utility
 - 10. 5 Pitchers

A player must receive a majority of votes to be selected to the All-GSAC Team. In the situation where a majority has not been reached, a second vote will be taken between the players receiving the 2 highest numbers of votes.

IX. PLAYOFFS

- A. Playoff duty: It is customary for the coaches of teams not involved in playoffs to serve as the games committee at all playoff games. Please make this part of your schedule.
- B. Seeding: The GSAC teams will be seeded based on their final GSAC regular season standings. The tie-break policy will involve the use of three criteria in descending order:
 - 1. The first criterion is head-to-head competition between the teams involved.
 - 2. The second criterion involves head-to-head competition versus the rest of the GSAC in order of finish beginning with the first place finisher(s). Note that if more than one tie occurs in the conference final standings, ties will be broken in descending order.
 - 3. If teams are still tied following the first two criteria, then a coaches' vote will decide the seeding of the tied teams.