

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 15th to February 14th.
- D. Coaches can work with players in a group up to 4 players for up to 2 hours a week from January 15th to February 14th.
- 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.
- G. The Maximum number of weekdays allowed is 8.
- H. All conference dates and playoffs must be completed 3 days before the state tournament.

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 March 20.
- B. If a MCAC team does not complete a full round of conference games, none of the games that they have played will be used in conference standings. If a team completes one round of conference games, then drops their remaining conference games, all first round games will be used in conference standings (no second round games will count).
- C. If a team cannot field a team or chooses not to travel, those games will count as a forfeit. Those forfeits will be used in conference, state, and region seeding.
- D. 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.

- E. 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.
- F. Team rosters may consist of 18 players.
- G. Scheduled conference dates will consist of two games, each being seven (7) innings.
- H. The Dudley WT12Y-FP is recommended as the official ball.
- I. The fifth inning, eight run rule (NCAA Rule Book) shall be in effect for all MCAC games.
- J. Clothing in addition to the official uniform shall be allowed.
- K. Players shall be allowed to wear metal or rubber cleats.
- L. Each team is responsible for providing the game ball(s).
- M. Host site must provide water for both teams.
- N. Make-up games shall be scheduled by mutual consent of the participating teams with the last available make-up date to be ~~two~~ three days before the state tournament.
- P. 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.

IV Organization of Divisions

A. Composition

<u>Southern Division</u>		<u>NW Northern Division</u>	<u>NE</u>
Dakota County	Riverland	Central Lakes	Mesabi
Fergus Falls	Rochester	Hibbing	Rainy River
MN West	St. Cloud Tech	Itasca	Vermilion
Ridgewater	Anoka-Ramsey	Northland	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 Steve Rannikar.
 - b. The Southern Division softball chair is Todd Thorstad.

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.

D. Northern/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 times for division games will be 3:00 pm for weekday games and noon for weekend games, unless schools mutually agree upon an alternate game time.

V. Eligibility

- A. NJCAA eligibility rules will be followed.

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. One week preceding the state 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 Tuesday prior to the state tournament will send all results to each coach, the state tournament director, all athletic directors and the MCAC Secretary.
5. 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.

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 an 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 team's 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 all state team would simply begin with the Division who gets the most points at the state tournament. 8 points for 1st, 7 for 2nd, 6 for 3rd, 5 for 4th. If the point totals are equal, flip a coin to see who gets 5 on 1st team. After that it alternates all the way through. Example – south finishes 1st and 3rd, they get 14 points. They get 5 on 1st team, north gets 5 on 2nd team, south gets 5 on Honorable Mention.

1st Team: #1S, #1N, #2S, #2N, #3S, #3N, #4S, #4N, #5S

2nd Team: #5N, #6S, #6N, #7S, #7N, #8S, #8N, #9S, #9N

Honorable Mention: #10S, #11N, #11S, #12N, #12S, #13N, #13S, #14N, #14S

The team that finishes first in the state tournament would gain as many points as there are teams in the tournament. 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	
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.

The team that finishes first in the state tournament will insure that the north (if they win) gets five selections on the first team All-State and the south will get four selections on the first team. The top five on the All-Division team and the top four on the All-Southern Division team will be all-state (Part A. alternating basis: exam. #1 North, #1 south, #2 north, #2 south, #3 north, #3 south, #4 north, #4 south, #5 north. The second team would start with south #5, #6 north, #6 south, #7 north, #7 south, #8 north, #8 south, #9 north, and #9 south. The honorable mention team would start with #10 north, #10 south, #11 north, #11 south, #12 north, #12 south, #13 north, #13 south and #14 north. Each team has nine members. If a southern team wins the state tournament, then refer back to part A and begin with south #1.

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. 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 2010.
- 2. The tournament dates May 7-8, 2010, with Sunday as a rain day.

B. Type of Tournament

1. An eight team double elimination tournament will be played.
2. (4 teams from the Northern Division & and 4 teams from the Southern Division will qualify for the tournament.
 - a. # 1 Seeds for North and South get automatic bid to regional tournament.
 - b. The next top two finishers from the state tournament from each division will qualify for regional tournament play. (North#2 and South#2)(North #3 and South #3)
3. The last makeup date for all division games and playoffs must be completed three days preceding the MCAC State Tournament.
4. Seedings for the state tournament are based upon the completed conference schedule and upon conference record.

C. Procedures

1. No games will start before 10 am.
2. It is highly recommended to have four Or more fields in use for the tournament.
3. Flip for home team 20 minutes before all games of every round.
4. The taking of infield practice is optional for all teams for all beginning rounds each day (even when the weather is bad).
5. The fields shall be ready one hour before the scheduled starting times, and maintained between games as needed (foul lines, batter's box to be groomed after each round).
6. The five-inning, eight-run rule (NCAA Rule Book) shall be in effect for the entire state tournament.

D. 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. The host school shall host a banquet for the teams on the night prior to the start of the state tournament. All-Division, All-State and Conference awards will be presented.
6. Shall submit a report of the tournament to the Conference Coordinator.
7. All tournament information shall be mailed to MCAC member schools one week prior to state tournament.
8. Shall provide a picture program.
 - a. Team pictures and rosters should be sent to the tournament director by April 25.
 - b. Programs are to include Region XIII winners, the all-academic teams, and the All-Division Teams.
9. Shall have a committee to select the 12-player All-Tournament Team.

E. Tournament Expenses

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

2. Colleges will pay their expenses.

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.

VIII. Master Rotational Schedules:

A. Schedule Protocol

1. The Southern Division will play a double round-robin schedule with all Division III games counting toward qualification into the Region 13 and MCAC State Tournaments.
 - a. The top team from the Southern Division qualifies for the Region 13A tournament.
 - b. The second qualifier for Region 13A will be the highest finisher for the Southern Division at the State Tournament.
 - c. All games count towards State Tournament seeding.
 - d. All games are doubleheaders with the host school being the home team for both games.
2. The Northern Division will play a double round-robin schedule within their sub-division and one contest versus each team in the other sub-division.
 - a. Each game win within the sub-division shall count as 1 point towards the standings.
 - b. Each game win versus teams in the other sub-division shall count as 2 points towards the standing.

B. Tie Breaking Procedures

For entry into the State and Region 13 tournaments, ties shall be broken in the following manner:

1. In the event of a two-way tie for a division championship, the team entered in the #1 position will be determined by the following procedure:
 - a. Won-loss records head to head
 - b. If each team split during the season versus each other, a playoff game will determine the division championship.
2. In the event of a three way tie for a division championship, the team entered in the #1 position will be determined by the following procedure:
 - a. Won-loss head record head to head.
 - b. Best record against the next highest division team. If one team has the best record versus the next highest remaining team they will be the divisional champions for playoff purposes. If the two teams remain tied they will have a playoff. In the event that all the teams remain tied with the same record against the next highest division team you would then look at all the team's records against the next highest division team until you have exhausted all division teams.
3. In the event of a four way tie for the division championship, tournament participants will be determined by the following procedure:

- a. Won-loss record head to head
 - b. See 2b.
4. In the event of a two way tie for second place, that does not effect entry into the state tournament, tournament participants will be determined by:
 - a. Won-loss records head to head
 - b. Won-loss records versus the champion
 - c. A coin flip to determine positions.
5. In the event of a three way tie for second place, that does not effect entry into the state tournament, tournament participants will be determined by:
 - a. Won-loss records head to head
 - b. Won-loss records versus the champion
 - c. A coin flip to determine the positions.
6. In the event of a four way tie for second place, tournament participants will be determined by:
 - a. Won-loss records head to head
 - b. Won-loss record versus the champion
 - c. A draw for the second and third positions, with the remaining two teams involved in a playoff with the winner receiving the #4 position and loser eliminated.
7. In the event of a two way tie for third place, tournament participants will be determined by;
 - a. Won-loss records head to head
 - b. Won-loss record versus the champion
 - c. Won-loss records versus the runner-up
 - d. A coin flip to determine the positions.
8. In the event of three way tie for third place, tournament positions will be determined by:
 - a. Won-loss records head to head
 - b. Won-loss records versus the champion
 - c. Won-loss records versus the runner-up
 - d. A draw for third place, with the remaining two teams involved in a play-off with the winner to be #4 position and the loser eliminated.
9. In the event of a four way tie for third place, tournament participants will be determined by:
 - a. Won-loss records head to head
 - b. Won-loss records versus the champion
 - c. Won-loss records versus the runner-up
 - d. A draw for two play-off teams, with the winners advancing and the losers eliminated. Once the winners have been determined, a coin flip will determine the #3 and #4 positions.
10. In the event of a two way tie for fourth place, tournament participants will be determined by:
 - a. Won-loss records head to head
 - b. If each team split the season series, a play-off game will be held to decide the #4 position.

11. In the event of a three way tie for fourth place, tournament participants will be determined by:

- a. Won-loss records head to head
- b. Won loss records versus the champion
- c. Won-loss records versus the runner-up
- d. Won-loss records versus the third place team
- e. A draw to select one team eliminated! A play-off game will be held between the other two teams for the #4 position.

12. In the event of a four way tie for fourth place, tournament participants will be determined by:

- a. Won-loss records versus the champion
- b. Won-loss records versus the runner-up
- c. Won-loss records versus the third place team.
- d. Draw two teams for the play-off game to determine the #4 position.

C.Play-off game

1. In the event a play-off game is needed, it shall be scheduled by mutual consent no later than three days preceding the MCAC State tournament.
2. The site will be determined by a coin flip. The game may be played at a neutral site by mutual consent.
3. Officials for the play-off game shall be agreed upon by both coaches.
4. Expenses shall be divided equally between the teams.

2010 Northern Division schedule

EAST SIDE

Fond du Lac
Mesabi
Rainy River
Vermilion

WEST SIDE

Central Lakes
Hibbing
Itasca
Northland

April 6, Tuesday

Hibbing @ Northland
Vermilion @ Mesabi
Itasca @ Central Lakes
Rainy River @ Fond du Lac

April 9, Friday

Northland @ Central Lakes
Hibbing @ Itasca
Rainy River @ Mesabi
Vermilion @ Fond du Lac

April 10, Saturday

Northland @ Fond du Lac
Hibbing @ Central Lakes
Vermilion @ Rainy River
Mesabi @ Itasca

April 14, Wednesday

Hibbing @ Vermilion
Northland @ Itasca
Fond du Lac @ Mesabi
Rainy River @ Central Lakes

April 17, Saturday

Vermilion @ Northland
Central Lakes @ Mesabi
Rainy River @ Hibbing
Fond du Lac @ Itasca

April 18, Sunday

Vermilion @ Central Lakes
Mesabi @ Northland
Itasca @ Rainy River
Fond du Lac @ Hibbing

April 20, Tuesday

Itasca @ Vermilion
Hibbing @ Mesabi
Northland @ Rainy River
Central Lakes @ Fond du Lac

April 23, Friday

Central Lakes @ Northland
Mesabi @ Vermilion
Fond du Lac @ Rainy River
Itasca @ Hibbing

April 24, Saturday

Itasca @ Northland
Central Lakes @ Hibbing
Fond du Lac @ Vermilion
Mesabi @ Rainy River

April 28, Wednesday

Rainy River @ Vermilion
Mesabi @ Fond du Lac
Northland @ Hibbing
Central Lakes @ Itasca

The schedule will flip for 2011

MCAC Southern Division Schedule – 2010

	Fri, April 2 MW @ RCTC MSCTC-FF – BYE RW @ SC AR @ RL	Sat, April 3 MSCTC-FF @ SC AR @ MW RW – BYE RL @ RCTC
Tues, April 6 RCTC @ AR RL @ SC MSCTC @ RW MW – BYE	Fri, April 9 MSCTC-FF @ RL RW @ MW SC @ AR RCTC – BYE	Sat, April 10 MSCTC-FF @ MW RW @ RL SC @ RCTC AR – BYE
Tues, April 13 RCTC @ MW SC @ RW RL @ AR MSCTC-FF – BYE	Fri, April 16 RW @ RCTC MSCTC-FF @ AR RL @ MW SC – BYE	Sat, April 17 MSCTC-FF @ RCTC RW @ AR SC @ MW RL – BYE
Tues, April 20 RCTC @ RL SC @ MSCTC-FF MW @ DCTC RW – BYE	Fri, April 23 RCTC @ MSCTC-FF AR @ RW MW @ RL SC – BYE	Sat, April 24 RCTC @ RW AR @ MSCTC-FF MW @ SC RL – BYE
Tues, April 27 AR @ RCTC SC @ RL RW @ MSCTC-FF MW – BYE	Fri, April 30 RL @ RW MW @ MSCTC-FF AR @ SC RCTC – BYE	Sat, May 1 MW @ RW RL @ MSCTC-FF RCTC @ SC AR – BYE

Fri – Sat, May 7-8 (rain date May 9)
 MCAC TOURNAMENT @ St. Cloud

Reminder that all make up games must be made up 3 days prior to the MCAC State Tournament
 (May 4th)