

**BIG 9 FASTPITCH SOFTBALL
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
Revised and Approved 6-7-16**

1. SCHEDULES- League schedules will be drawn up by the softball chairman and approved by the Big 9 (6/08) Athletic Directors.
2. POSTPONED OR CANCELED GAMES-
 - A. In the event that game(s) are postponed, canceled, or suspended, they will be made up. The game(s) will be made up on the first playing date both teams have available. If it is a spring vacation game(s) it will be made up on the first available date following spring break.
 - B. In the case of a suspended game, the game will resume from the point of suspension. (6/03)
 - C. In the case where varsity games are completed before the non-varsity games on school nights, the non-varsity game may be called after 5 innings if mutually agreed upon by both head coaches.
3. LEAGUE- The league championship will be determined by the won-loss record in league play
4. UMPIRES- W.O.A. officials will be used. The CBBN (6/08) requires two (2) officials for varsity league games.
5. TEN (10) RUN RULE- After five (5) completed innings of play, if either team is ahead by ten (10) runs, that team shall be the winner. This also includes a full six (6) innings. **For Sub-Varsity games, After three (3) completed innings of play, if either team is ahead by fifteen (15) runs, that team shall be the winner**
6. The **Big 9 (6/06)** Fastpitch League will use the courtesy runner in league and district play.
7. TIE GAME- all tie games will be played out, using the NFHS tiebreaker procedure (6/08). The tiebreaker procedure will be implemented after eight (8) full innings have been played. Each subsequent half-inning begins by placing a runner on second base. That runner is the player in the batting order that precedes the leadoff batter in that inning. Then the game proceeds a full inning or until a winner is determined that inning. (6/03)
8. PRE-GAME WARM-
 - A. Approved pre-game warm-up schedule (2/04)(revised 6/08).

65 minutes before starting time - hitting for **both teams** (30 min)
35 minutes before starting time – **throwing warm-up for both teams** (10 min)
25 minutes before starting time - infield for home team (10 min)
15 minutes before starting time - infield for visiting team (10 min)
5 minutes before starting time - final prep of field (5 min)
Example of pre-game schedule approved. (6/04)
Let's assume that a softball DH was scheduled to start at 4:00pm. This would be the pre-game schedule for that DH.
2:55 **both teams hitting** for 30 minutes
3:25 **throwing warm-up** for 10 minutes

3:35 home team infield for 10 minutes
3:45 visiting team infield for 10 minutes
3:55 final prep of field for 5 minutes
4:00 play ball!

Rules governing this pre-game warm-up schedule are:

1. No visiting team may hit at their own school site before traveling on game day.
 2. **Neither** team may start hitting earlier than 65 minutes before the scheduled starting time to get in more than 30 minutes of batting practice on game day.
 3. Both teams will hit under the same circumstances. That means if the home team hits in two cages and has protective screens. The visiting team will also be allowed two cages with protective screens. If the home team chooses to hit on the field or other fields then the visiting team may also hit on the field or other fields.
 4. If, for whatever reason, either team chooses not to take batting practice the other team will still be allowed pre-game hitting if they so choose.
 5. If a home school regularly announces starting line-ups and or plays the national anthem before the game the above schedule may be moved ahead 5 minutes as long as: a) both teams have arrived on the site and b) Both coaches agree to the 5-minute adjustment. Realizing that all games should start promptly at the scheduled starting time the intent of this mutually agreed upon adjustment is to see that this happens. It is not to allow any additional pre-game team warm-up time.
9. CLEATS- **Metal cleats and toe-plates are legal (3/08).**
10. BALLS- The official ball for varsity games will be the 12” Dudley SB-Thunder Heat. (6-16)
11. BATS- **Bats must be embossed as ASA approved and NOT BE LISTED on the “unapproved bat list.” List could change during the year, as bats must be tested 3 times, so coaches are encouraged to print the list weekly and carry with them to games (3/08).** Go to:
http://www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp
12. PLAYING FIELD CONDITIONS
- A. The home team will be responsible for providing a safe playing surface for all games.
 - B. There will be **NO** pitching rubber in front of the high school girls pitching rubber.
 - C. Bases shall be 60 feet.
 - D. There will be outfield foul lines. (6-01)
 - E. Request 200” outfield fences.
 - F. Safety double first base may be used at all levels of **CBBN (6/08)** Softball. (6/04)
13. DISTRICT TOURNAMENT FORMAT
- A. The district tournament format will be determined by a system agreed upon by the **Big 9 (6/06)** Athletic Directors.

- B. Home team will be the highest finisher for league season; also selects dugout.
 - C. The CBBN District Tournament will involve the top 4-team in a single-elimination tournament will be at 10:00 am at the Big 9 #1 seeds site.
 - D. DISTRICT TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS: The officials are arranged by the District 6 Director who will notify the assigning secretary of the association(s) involved to request their highest rated official(s) available for that time. For the tournament, the represented associations will work three-man mechanics. Every attempt will be made to have a neutral association work the plate, the home team's association work 1st base and the visiting team's association work 3rd base. The tournament manager will have the final decision on umpire assignments.
14. LEAGUE TIES- In cases of ties, the procedure for determining places is as follows: (3/14)
- A. For all ties that do not/would not eliminate a school from post season play, the following will be used: 1st – head to head record between tied teams; 2nd point system (same as football). If this does not settle the tie, then the established play-off procedures below will be used.
 - B. Ties for any other places, which cannot be determined by head to head play, will be resolved by the league draw numbers for spring sports.
 - C. Ties for first or fourth place, which cannot be determined by head-to-head or points system, will be played off on ~~Saturday~~ Tuesday following the end of the regular season.
 - D. Ties involving more than two teams will follow the established league guidelines for resolving leagues ties. Playoff site will be decided by the team with the lowest draw number. If a bye is involved, it will go to the team with the lowest draw number.
 - F. Neutral sites will be used for all tiebreaker games. The team with the lowest draw number will choose a neutral site.
 - G. Host association officiating crews will be used for all tiebreaker games.
15. SELECTIONS OF THE **Big 9 (6/06) FASTPITCH ALL ~~DIVISION~~ CONFERENCE TEAMS**
- A. ~~The following formula is recommended to be used to select the Big 9 (6/06) All-Conference Teams. Players should be ranked as to ability and team value.~~
 - ~~1. Each team nominates players from their own school and are limited to the following numbers:~~
 - ~~a. Ten (10) positions (including the nine playing positions, plus designated hitter, who must have 50% of AB's as DH)~~
 - ~~b. A player can be nominated for only one position.~~
 - ~~c. Coaches may not vote for their own player.~~
 - ~~2. Select players for each of three teams: First (1st), Second (2nd), and Honorable Mention and should be placed according to position as follows:~~
 - ~~a. Pitcher (2)~~
 - ~~b. Catcher~~

- ~~_____ c. 1st Base~~
- ~~_____ d. 2nd Base~~
- ~~_____ e. 3rd Base~~
- ~~_____ f. Shortstop~~
- ~~_____ g. 3 Outfielders~~
- ~~_____ h. Designated Hitter~~
- ~~_____ i. Utility Player~~

~~3. Player selection points will be awarded as follow:~~

First team	3 points
2nd team	2 points
Honorable Mention.....	1 point
(Written vote: published ballots)	

~~4. Softball chairperson will provide a form for All-Conference nominations.~~

~~—The positions and statistics of each coach's players will be electronically sent to the softball chairperson by noon Sunday (6/08) prior to districts. Coaches will then discuss and select the official team using the lists and statistics.~~

~~5. An outstanding offensive and defensive player will be selected to represent the Big 9 (6/08). These awards are open to all Big Nine players. The league MVP will be chosen from all 1st team players (6/05).~~

~~6. A coach of the year will be selected by his/her peers.~~

~~7. A press release will be prepared at the time the Big 9 (6/08) All-League Teams are selected.~~

- A. All conference teams will be named by coaches at the end of the season coaches meeting. Players should be ranked as to ability and team value.
- B. Coach's attendance at post-season meeting is mandatory (or representative). Nominations for all conference will not be considered unless a coach/representative is present. Emergency situations will be taken into consideration.
- C. The softball chairperson will send each coach a nomination form prior to the conclusion of the season. Coaches will nominate their own players and send names and player information back to the chairperson.
- D. Number of nominations will depend on final standings.

League Finish	Number of Nominations
1	7
2	6
3	5
4-7	4
- E. The softball chairperson will compile nominations and return them to the coaches prior to the selection meeting.
- F. Each coach will have 1-2 minutes at the selection meeting to speak about his or her nominations when their position come up. It is advised that each coach bring a team picture and roster to the meeting for player references.
- G. Select players for each of three teams: First (1st), Second (2nd), and Honorable Mention and should be placed according to position as follows
 - a. Pitcher* (2)
 - b. Catcher

- c. 1st Base
- d. 2nd Base
- e. 3rd Base
- f. Shortstop
- g. 3 Outfielders
- h. Designated Hitter (who must have 50% of AB's as DH)
- i. Utility Player

* a pitcher may be nominated as a pitcher only OR also in a defensive position. A player nominated as an pitcher and defensive player will use up two nominations.

H. Player selection points will be awarded as follow:

First team	3 points
2nd team	2 points
Honorable Mention.....	1 point

(Written vote: published ballots)

- I. Coaches may not vote for their own player.
- J. The softball chairperson will compile the All Conference lists and send them to each school and the local newspaper in each community.
- K. An outstanding offensive and defensive player will be selected to represent the **Big 9**. These awards are open to all Big Nine players.
- L. Each head coach may nominate 1 player, at the post-season meeting, to be voted on by Big Nine League coaches to be named "Player of the Year." The league MVP will be chosen from all 1st team players. When voting, a coach may vote for his own player for this award.
- M. Each head coach may nominate 1 coach, at the post-season meeting, to be voted on by Big Nine League coaches to be named "Coach of the Year." When voting, a coach may not vote for him/herself for this award.