

# WIAC SOFTBALL OPERATING CODE

## 2010 Season

[Note: The WIAC Sport Codes consist of those policies, procedures and practices unique or specific to the conduct and administration of each conference championship sport, and are intended as **supplements** to the *NCAA Manual*, *WIAC Handbook on the Governance of Intercollegiate Athletics* and the recognized playing rules of each sport, **not** as replacements for them. In addition, football, volleyball and men's/women's basketball have manuals that include expectations related to the administration of those sports.]

### I. RULES

#### A. Conference/National Rules

Coaches are expected to be knowledgeable of and abide by all WIAC and NCAA rules. When in doubt, coaches are expected to consult with their athletics director concerning the application of a rule.

#### B. Contest Rules

Current NCAA Rulebook. Rules of Scoring appear in the NCAA Rulebook.

### II. SQUAD AND TRAVEL SQUAD LIMITATIONS

Squad size is unlimited during the season but may be limited for national competition. Teams must abide by travel squad sizes established for national competition by the national organization sponsoring the tournament.

### III. SPORT SEASON

#### A. Length of Season/Contest Limitations

1. Refer to current NCAA Manual [Bylaw 17.21].
2. In the sport of softball, institutions are limited to playing a maximum of ten (10) subvarsity (e.g., junior varsity games). In addition, student-athletes are not permitted to miss class(es) to participate in these contests.

#### B. Officials

1. All game officials will be assigned by the WIAC softball assignor and contracted by the host institution. Two (2) umpires will be contracted for each regular-season game.
2. Umpires are to be paid \$80 for each single game and \$145 for a doubleheader. No mileage is to be paid for regular-season games. Lodging is to be provided only in the event the same umpires are used on consecutive days (e.g. tournament) and when the official is traveling more than 50 miles one way.

[Note: Effective with the 2011 season, umpires are to be paid \$85 for a single game and \$150 for a doubleheader.]

3. If the umpire(s) has arrived on site and no games are started the umpires are to be paid \$50. If any games are cancelled in progress, the umpires are to be paid the game fee for that game(s).
4. Head coaches are expected to complete and submit umpire evaluations to the WIAC coordinator of softball umpires using the prescribed form. (**See Attachment A**)

### **C. Conference Schedule**

The conference schedule shall consist of a single round-robin doubleheader format. No conference games are permitted to be played on Easter Sunday. In addition, no conference games are to be rescheduled or played beyond the last Tuesday prior to the conference postseason tournament.

#### **1. Doubleheaders**

- a. All attempts will be made to schedule weekday doubleheaders against opponents within a reasonable travel distance and to reserve weekend doubleheaders for longer trips.
- b. Doubleheaders will be scheduled on a home/away basis (home one year – away the next year) unless both coaches agree on another site.
- c. The host institution shall be the home team for both games of the doubleheader.
- d. The established Pre-game Warm-up Format shall be used for all conference doubleheaders (**refer to Attachment F**).
- e. The international tie-breaker is not to be used for conference doubleheaders.
- f. Mondays during the regular-season schedule are designated as rain dates. However, any rainouts should be rescheduled on the first available date as opposed to waiting until the Monday rain dates. If a team has more than one game/doubleheader to be rescheduled, the games should be rescheduled (if at all possible) in the order of the rainouts.

#### **2. Start Times**

The suggested start time for weekday and Saturday doubleheaders is 3:00 p.m. with Sunday doubleheaders starting at 12 noon. The final determination on the start time shall be reached by mutual agreement of the participating institutions with the preference of the traveling team having priority.

#### **3. Schedule Changes**

Date changes to weekday games are permissible as are moving weekday games to weekends provided both institutions agree and the change is approved by the conference office. Weekend (i.e., Saturday/Sunday) dates may not be changed unless prior approval is given by the conference office and only in instances deemed by the conference office to be extremely compelling.

### **D. Canceling and Rescheduling Games**

1. The cancellation and/or rescheduling of a game due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances must be communicated immediately to the conference office and the coordinator of softball umpires. A final decision relative to rescheduling is not to be made until approval has been granted by the conference office and the coordinator. In the case of the coordinator, this communication must be by telephone. If the coordinator cannot be reached, the cancellation of any game shall be communicated directly to the assigned umpires.
2. If at all possible, game-day decisions on the cancellation of a game(s) should be made prior to the departure of the visiting team and umpires. At the same time, a decision to cancel a game should not be made prematurely and not without all available information with respect to anticipated weather and/or field conditions. Games are not to be cancelled and rescheduled in advance simply because the weather looks more favorable one day than another. If unplayable weather conditions appear imminent, then a decision to cancel and reschedule may be appropriate provided permission to do so has been granted by the conference office.
3. The following policies shall apply to the rescheduling of any cancelled games:
  - a. Any cancelled weekday (i.e., Monday-Thursday) game in which the traveling team has departed will not be rescheduled.
  - b. Any cancelled weekday game in which the traveling team has not departed will be rescheduled for the next immediate available day.

#### **E. Halted Game**

Any regular season game that is stopped prior to becoming a “regulation” game and is resumed at a later date would resume from the point of suspension.

#### **F. Results**

Results of conference and non-conference games must be sent to the conference office (posted on institutional website) within 48 hours of the contest.

#### **G. Equipment**

1. The home team shall be responsible for providing a minimum of five game softballs for all conference doubleheaders. Each game shall begin with two new game balls and three additional balls. The WIAC official ball is the Wilson A9010-SST (.47 core) and this ball must be used for all Conference games.
2. Outfield fences should meet NCAA Guidelines. See the current NCAA Rulebook for more detail.
3. If an alternate field has to be used due to adverse weather conditions, it is acceptable if the fence distances are not regulation.

#### **H. Statistics/Scoring**

Rules of Scoring appear in the current NCAA Rulebook.

### **IV. CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP/POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT**

**[See Guidelines for the Administration of WIAC Championships and Postseason Tournaments]**

#### **A. Conference Champion/Automatic Qualifier**

1. Conference Champion. The regular-season champion will be declared the WIAC champion. If two or more teams are tied, they shall be declared co-champions. In the event the regular-season has not been completed and, as a result, the conference champion cannot be determined on the basis of the completed games, the postseason tournament winner shall be declared both the conference champion and the NCAA automatic qualifier.
2. Automatic Qualifier. A postseason tournament will be conducted for the purpose of determining the conference’s automatic qualifier. If the postseason tournament is cancelled, all or in part, the automatic qualifier will be determined on the following basis:
  - a. Up until one team becomes 3-0, the highest-seeded team that has not been eliminated will receive the AQ.
  - b. If teams have an equal number of losses, the higher-seeded team will receive the AQ.

#### **B. Tournament Format**

1. The top six (6) conference teams based on the final regular-season standings will participate in the postseason tournament.
2. The tournament will be double elimination conducted over a two-day period (**refer to Attachment B**). In the event of inclement weather, the tournament may be contested as a one-day single elimination tournament. [**refer to Section IV-E**]

### C. Seeding

1. The conference office shall seed all teams for the postseason tournament.
2. Seeding procedures/criteria.
  - a. If an equal number of conference games are completed for all teams, or if seeds can be determined on the basis of the completed games, the seeds will be based (in priority order) on:
    - (1) WIAC win/loss percentage.
    - (2) If there is a tie at any position, the tie will be broken as follows:
      - ✓ Head-to-head in WIAC play.
      - ✓ WIAC record vs. teams in descending order starting with the #1 seed.
      - ✓ Coin toss by WIAC office.
  - b. If the seeds cannot be determined using the procedures in 2-a, the following process will be used:
    - (1) 25% - Coaches' ranking of all the conference teams (rank with #1 being the best). Coaches may not rank their own team in this process.
    - (2) 25% - Overall (i.e., conference and non-conference games) win/loss percentage (the school with the best percentage receives 1 point, etc.).
    - (3) 50% - Conference win/loss percentage which includes official conference games only (the school with the best percentage will receive 1 point, etc.). If there is a tie in percentages, the total points will be equally split. Example: If there is a tie for second place, the points awarded would be 1, 2.5, 2.5, 4 points, etc.
    - (4) Total the above points for each team and the school with the least points is ranked first, the next least points is second, etc. If there is a tie at any position, they will be broken in the following manner:
      - ✓ head-to-head WIAC play
      - ✓ coaches' ranking
      - ✓ a coin toss completed by WIAC Office
3. The Conference Office will post results on the Conference website as soon as possible on the last Monday before the championship but no later than noon on Tuesday.
4. After the seeding is completed, the Conference Office will post the seeding on the conference website.

### D. Host Institution/Site

The 2010 postseason tournament will be hosted by UW-Oshkosh. Thereafter, the postseason tournament will be conducted at the site of the regular-season champion (i.e., #1 seed).

### E. Inclement Weather Schedule

1. If it rains on Friday resulting in unplayable conditions, the tournament will be played on Saturday and Sunday.
2. If games are played Friday and it rains Saturday, the tournament will resume/finish Sunday.
3. In the event that 0-4 games are completed prior to Sunday, the tournament will revert to a single elimination bracket when play is resumed on Sunday (**refer to Attachment C**).
4. In the event that 5 or more games are completed prior to Sunday, the tournament will continue as a double elimination bracket when play is resumed on Sunday.

**F. Practice During the Tournament**

1. Infield practice is permitted prior to each team's first game of each day—no infield practice is permitted thereafter. Umpires will be asked to monitor the Pre-game Warm-up procedure which is delineated in **Attachment F**.
2. In case of inclement weather the host institution should provide for and establish an equitable schedule for the use of indoor practice facilities (if available) for all teams.

**G. Officials**

1. The WIAC Assignor of Softball Umpires shall be responsible for assigning and contracting officials for the tournament. Eight umpires will be selected based in part on the evaluations submitted by the coaches from the previous and current season.
2. The host institution is responsible for the payment of all fees and/or applicable mileage. Tournament officials shall be paid the equivalent of the single game regular-season fee for each game. Mileage and/or lodging are to be provided as follows:

<u>Travel Distance (one way)</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Lodging*</u>
0-24 miles	\$ 0	No
25-49 miles	\$25	Yes
50-99 miles	\$35	Yes
100-199 miles	\$50	Yes
200-249 miles	\$65	Yes
250-299 miles	\$80	Yes
300 or more miles	\$100	Yes

\*Lodging is to be provided only if it is a multi-day event or an early morning start time necessitates that the official(s) travel the night before.

3. Three person umpire crews are to be used for each tournament game. A minimum of eight (8) total umpires shall be rotated throughout the tournament.
4. If for some reason two person umpire crews are used (i.e. rain delay rescheduling), a minimum of six (6) officials must be used to work the tournament.

**H. Rules**

1. (Refer to Section I. A. & B.) This entire section also applies to the Postseason Tournament play.
2. The international tie-breaker is not to be used in the Postseason Tournament.
3. Any tournament game that is stopped prior to becoming a “regulation” game shall be considered a “halted” game and play resumed accordingly.

**I. Designation of Home Team.**

The highest seeded team in the first round is the home team and shall occupy the third base dugout. Following the first round, the home team shall be determined by a coin flip.

**J. Equipment**

1. The Postseason Tournament ball will be the Wilson A9010SST (.47 core). The balls will be supplied by Wilson Sporting Goods and will be distributed equally among the participating schools.

2. It is highly recommended that the playing field be enclosed completely by permanent home run and sideline fences at least 4 feet high. For an unfenced field, an out-of-bounds line shall be used to define live-ball areas. It is required that all fields used for the postseason tournament have fences (permanent or temporary) that are a minimum of 190 feet in left and right fields and 200 feet in center field, and a maximum of 225 feet in all fields (NCAA Softball Rule 2-Section 10a).
3. If an alternate field has to be used due to adverse weather conditions, it should meet NCAA regulations regarding field dimensions and fences, if possible.

**K. Programs**

Each participating school is to receive five (5) complimentary tournament programs.

**L. Tournament Committee**

A tournament committee shall be convened to address issues that arise during the Postseason Tournament which are not covered in the Operating Code. The Tournament Committee shall be comprised of the Commissioner (or designee), the athletics director of the host institution and the sport chair (or designated conference coach). Members of the committee must be available throughout the duration of the tournament.

**V. AWARDS [See WIAC Administrative Regulation Article 25]**

**A. Conference Championship**

A championship award (plaque or trophy) will be awarded to the championship teams. Each member of the championship teams will receive a certificate.

**B. Postseason Tournament Champion**

A trophy will be presented to the team winning the Postseason Tournament. Each member of the postseason tournament championship team will receive a certificate.

**C. Athlete-of-the-Week**

Each week during the season, the softball sport committee (via a vote of the head coaches) will select a position player and a pitcher for athlete-of-the-week when nominations and data are sufficient. The recipients will receive a plaque from the conference.

**D. Coach-of-the-Year**

A coach-of-the-year will be selected by the coaches at the conclusion of the season in accordance with the criteria established in WIAC Administrative Regulation 25.4. The recipient will receive an award from the conference.

**E. Scholar-Athlete Award**

A scholar-athlete will be selected at the conclusion of the season in accordance with the criteria established in WIAC Administrative Regulation 25.5. The nominees and recipient will be announced during the postseason tournament. Each nominee will receive a certificate and the recipient a plaque from the conference.

**F. All-Conference**

The WIAC All-Conference Softball Team will consist of 20 players (regardless of position) as selected by the coaches in accordance with established criteria/procedures (**See Attachments D & E**).

**G. Player-of-the-Year**

A position player and pitcher will be designated as players of the year. The recipients will receive a plaque from Wilson Sporting Goods.

**H. Announcement of Awards**

All postseason awards (with the exception of the scholar-athlete award) are to be announced on the Monday following the postseason tournament.

**VI. SPORT CHAIR/SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**A. Sport Chair**

The sport chair shall be the head coach of the institution hosting the postseason tournament for that year. [See WIAC Administrative Regulations 24.2 for duties and responsibilities of sport chairs].

**B. Softball Sport Committee Meeting**

The softball sport committee meeting/telephone conference call shall take place in the fall (e.g., October).

**2010 SEASON INFORMATION**

Sport Chair

Cindy Suess  
UW-Oshkosh  
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010  
Athletics Director Liaison: Lynne Deadrick, UW-Superior

Sport Committee/Telephone Conference

Tuesday, October 7, 2010  
11:00 a.m.

2010 Rain Dates

April 12, 19, 16, May 3

2010 Postseason Tournament

May 7-8  
UW-Oshkosh

NCAA Regional Advisory Committee Rep: Chris Helixon, UW-La Crosse (term expires 9-2011)

# # # # #

**SOFTBALL UMPIRE EVALUATION**

Please Print

Game Score  
Game 1 Game 2

OFFICIAL'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HOST TEAM \_\_\_\_\_

SITE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ OPPONENT \_\_\_\_\_

PLATE	Game 1 or Game 2 (Circle)					BASES	Game 1 or Game 2 (Circle)				
	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5
Knowledge of Rules						Knowledge of Rules					
Accuracy of Balls/Strikes						Alertness to Illegal Pitches					
Consistency of Ball/Strikes						Position on Field					
Safe/Out Calls						Accuracy of Calls					
Game Control						Game Control					
Overall						Overall					

COMMENTS: (2 and 1 rankings must have comments) RANKINGS: HIGHEST = 5 LOWEST = 1

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Recommend this umpire for:  Regular & Post season play  Regular Season play only  Do Not Recommend for Season or Post Season

SUBMITTED BY \_\_\_\_\_ COLLEGE \_\_\_\_\_

**SOFTBALL UMPIRE EVALUATION**

Please Print

Game Score  
Game 1 Game 2

OFFICIAL'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HOST TEAM \_\_\_\_\_

SITE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ OPPONENT \_\_\_\_\_

PLATE	Game 1 or Game 2 (Circle)					BASES	Game 1 or Game 2 (Circle)				
	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5
Knowledge of Rules						Knowledge of Rules					
Accuracy of Balls/Strikes						Alertness to Illegal Pitches					
Consistency of Ball/Strikes						Position on Field					
Safe/Out Calls						Accuracy of Calls					
Game Control						Game Control					
Overall						Overall					

COMMENTS: (2 and 1 rankings must have comments) RANKINGS: HIGHEST = 5 LOWEST = 1

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Recommend this umpire for:  Regular & Post season play  Regular Season play only  Do Not Recommend for Season or Post Season

SUBMITTED BY \_\_\_\_\_ COLLEGE \_\_\_\_\_

### 2010 WIAC Softball Tournament Schedule

#### **Friday**

Game 1	10:00 a.m.	#1 Seed vs. #6 Seed
Game 2	10:00 a.m.	#2 Seed vs. #5 Seed
Game 3	12:00 p.m.	#3 Seed vs. #4 Seed
Game 4	12:00 p.m.	Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser
Game 5	2:00 p.m.	Game 1 Winner vs. Game 3 Loser
Game 6	2:00 p.m.	Game 2 Winner vs. Game 3 Winner

#### **Scenario #1 (If 4 teams remain after Game 6)**

Game 7	4:00 p.m.	Game 4 Winner vs. Game 6 Loser
Game 8	4:00 p.m.	Game 5 Winner vs. Game 6 Winner

#### **Saturday**

Game 9	10:00 a.m.	Game 7 Winner vs. Game 8 Loser
Game 10	12:00 p.m.	Game 8 Winner vs. Game 9 Winner
Game 11	2:00 p.m.	If necessary – If Game 9 Winner wins Game 10

#### **Scenario #2 (If 5 teams remain after Game 6)**

#### **Saturday**

Game 7	10:00 a.m.	Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner
Game 8	10:00 a.m.	Game 5 Loser vs. Game 6 Loser
Game 9	12:00 p.m.	Game 6 Winner vs. Game 8 Winner

#### **If 2 teams remain after Game 9**

Game 10	2:00 p.m.	Game 7 Winner vs. Game 9 Winner
Game 11	4:00 p.m.	If necessary – If Game 7 Winner wins Game 10

#### **Scenario #3 (If 5 teams remain after Game 6)**

#### **Saturday**

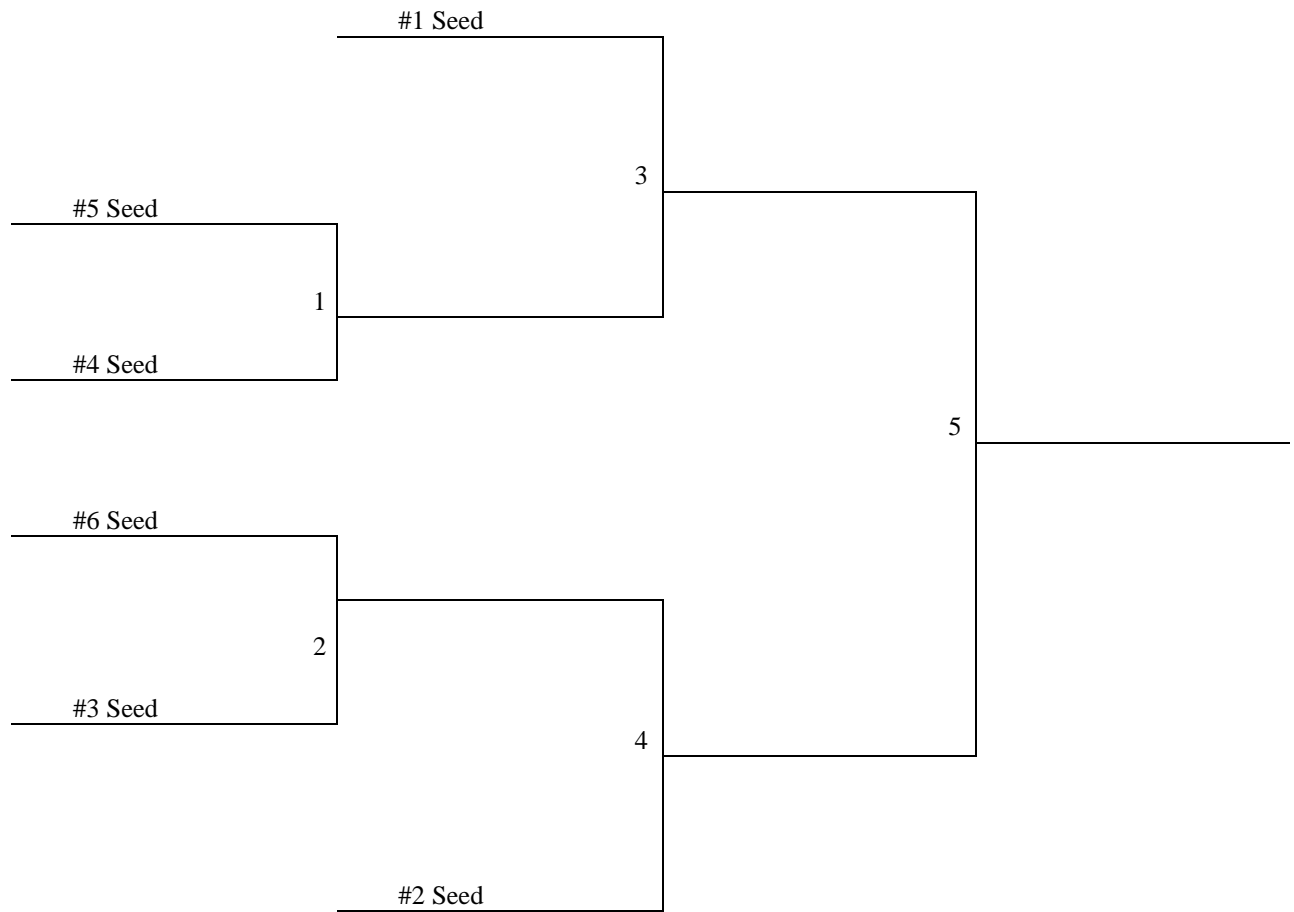
Game 7	10:00 a.m.	Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner
Game 8	10:00 a.m.	Game 5 Loser vs. Game 6 Loser
Game 9	12:00 p.m.	Game 6 Winner vs. Game 8 Winner

#### **If 3 teams remain after Game 9**

Game 10	2:00 p.m.	Game 7 Winner vs. Game 9 Loser
Game 11	4:00 p.m.	Game 9 Winner vs. Game 10 Winner

# WIAC SOFTBALL POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT

(Single Elimination)



**SOFTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE AND PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR PROCEDURES**

1. A twenty (20) player All Conference Team will be selected by the coaches. Any player receiving at least one vote will be named Honorable Mention. The top 3 vote-getters will be placed on a ballot for position player and pitcher of the year.
2. Nominations must be made using the WIAC All-Conference nomination form (**refer to Attachment F**) with space for additional comments.
3. Coaches may nominate up to six (6) players--any position(s).
4. Selection information (e.g., nominations) will be compiled by the WIAC SID and subsequently forwarded to the head coaches with a vote taken on the Wednesday (noon) prior to the postseason tournament.
5. Voting will be by secret ballot.
6. Coaches may not vote for their own players and will use a 20 point ranking system. Voting will be by place and points (i.e., first place - 20 points, second place - 19 points, third place - 18 points, etc.). Ballots will be provided by the Commissioner. Ballots will not be considered unless 20 names are listed. If fewer than 20 players are nominated the ballot should be corrected to reflect that number.
7. The top 3 vote-getters will be placed on a ballot to select for Position Player and Pitcher of the Year. The Players-of-the-Year will receive a plaque from Wilson.



ALL-CONFERENCE SOFTBALL TEAM NOMINATIONS

Nominate players from your team only. Conference and Overall statistics will be used in the selection process.

NOTE: Selection procedures call for 20 players, regardless of position, to be named to the All-Conference Team.

NAME	Coaches Ranking (1-6)	POS.	HGT.	YEAR	HOMETOWN (High School)
Comments:					
Comments:					
Comments:					
Comments:					
Comments:					
Comments:					

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

UW- \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**FAX 608/265-3176**

PRE-GAME WARM-UP

Home team infield	8 minutes	24:00
Visiting team infield	8 minutes	16:00
Coaches & Umpires meeting	3 minutes	8:00
Team Introductions	5 minutes	5:00
Visiting Team		
Home Team		
National Anthem		

PLAY BALL!

Without player introductions and national anthem

Home team infield	8 minutes	19:00
Visiting team infield	8 minutes	11:00
Coaches & Umpires meeting	3 minutes	3:00

PLAY BALL!

- + Needs to be timed by “official scorer” or designated individual.
- + Give two (2) and one (1) minute warning of remaining time.
- + Let visiting team know ahead of time which format will be used.