I. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION / GAME MANAGEMENT

A. Administration. An administrator that is not the coach (e.g., AD, Associate AD, Assistant AD, SWA, or SID) must be present at each Conference game.

B. Amenities. The home team must provide similar amenities to the visiting team (e.g., cooling fans, cages, locker rooms).

C. Apparel & Equipment Requirements. For Conference play, the official and practice uniforms, as well as standard equipment, shall bear only Conference, institutional, American flag and/or commercial logos or symbols. Commercial logos must appear only within NCAA guidelines.

D. Ball. The official Conference baseball to be used in all Conference play shall be determined annually prior to the start of the season by the head coaches. The official ball for conference games and conference championships will be the Rawlings R1NCAA-C-USA.

E. Bat Specifications. The NCAA Baseball Rule Book (Rule 1, Section 12, “The Bat”) shall be followed regarding bats.

F. Batting Practice. The home team shall take the first batting practice and infield time slot before games. The host institution shall provide visitors a minimum of 40 minutes batting practice on the field. Teams shall not stretch in fair ground if batting practice is on the field. For Sunday games, there is no required batting practice.

G. Bullpen Mound. A regulation, well-maintained bullpen mound (equivalent to home teams') shall be provided for the visiting team by the home team.

H. Communication. Each home site press box used by a Conference member will be equipped with the communication necessary to announce concurrent Conference game scores. Scores should be given several times during the course of games.

I. Complimentary Tickets. Fifty-four (54) complimentary tickets will be provided for the visiting team during the regular season.

J. Crowd Control. Each institution shall formulate a crowd-control policy for its home games.

K. Doubleheaders. If doubleheaders become necessary to complete a series and the start times are not split in order to get two gates, there shall be a NCAA Baseball Rule Book minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes between games.

L. Facilities. All C-USA baseball facilities, for regular season and the championship, are required to have restroom facilities (permanent or temporary) for visiting teams separate from the general public.

M. Field Lights. Coaches' requests to turn on field lights must be made through the umpire-in-chief. Lights will be turned on only upon completion of a full inning unless the umpire-in-chief feels that conditions warrant immediate use. To avoid delay, the host institution must provide someone at all late afternoon and night games to turn on the lights.

N. Game Times. The host institution shall establish game times. The last game of the series must have a scheduled start time a minimum of four hours plus necessary time to change and travel to the airport in order for the visiting team to arrive one hour before the scheduled flight. Further, the visiting team must contact the host institution with travel plans no later than December 1 if those plans will cause a game to be scheduled prior to 1 p.m. The last Conference series preceding the Championship shall be played on Thursday/Friday/Saturday. The starting time of that Saturday game must have a scheduled start no later than 1 p.m. local time.

O. Game Length. All games will be nine innings, except Sunday double headers, which shall be seven. Sunday nine innings games will use the 10-run rule. The second game of the series will use the 15-run rule.

P. Infield Tarp. Each institution must have an infield tarp to cover the infield in case of inclement weather. Every precaution should be taken by the home team to avoid rainouts during Conference play. Fields should be covered ahead of time if there is any threat of inclement weather. If the visiting team practices and the infield requires tarping on the night prior to the first game of a Conference series, the visiting team is responsible for covering the field.

Q. Laundry. The home team's manager shall be responsible for doing the visiting team's laundry for a fee of $60 per day.

R. Management. Administration and conduct of Conference play will be under the control and direction of the Commissioner (or an appointed representative), subject to the standards and requirements of the Conference USA Membership Handbook. Annually, one head coach shall be designated as chair of the coaches' committee to advise the Conference office as called upon.
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The coaches committee shall meet annually at the Conference Baseball Championship after the Administrative Meeting and by teleconference.

S. Marketing.
1. **Facility Signage.** The Conference USA Corporate or Branding Mark must appear as signage in each institution sponsoring baseball. Color guidelines will be determined depending on which mark is required.
   - The conference office will provide general guidelines and minimum size specifications for the signage.
   - The guidelines will be designed to provide each institution flexibility due to different types of venues/constraints.

2. **Uniforms.** The Conference USA Branding Mark must appear on all uniforms, including, but not limited to, the official uniform, practice gear (where feasible), warm-ups and apparel worn by coaching staffs and game management personnel, within the guidelines of NCAA rules.

T. **Media.** The conference office will submit releases to institutions, media outlets, and national ranking representatives throughout the season.

U. **Media / Sports Information.**
1. **Conference Standings.** There should be a display of current conference standings made viewable to the public at each conference home game.

2. **Logo Use in Publications.** The Conference USA Corporate Mark must appear on the cover of all institutional athletic department team and individual sport media guides. The Conference USA Branding Mark must appear on all institutional athletic department publications including, but not limited to, letterhead, ticket brochures, press releases and schedule cards.

3. **StatBroadcast.** The StatBroadcast real-time statistics is required as a game day media service.

V. **National Anthem.** All Conference USA teams, including coaches and players, are to be on the field for the playing of the national anthem prior to the start of all conference contests.

W. **Practices.** Practice on the day before the first day of the series shall be available to the visiting team under the following conditions: 1) Proper notification is given to the home team no later than Monday evening prior to the practice; 2) the field is available (i.e., not required to remove tarp or break rules regarding light restrictions); 3) Practice on the day before the first game of the series shall be a maximum of two (2) hours; and 4) The home team shall be responsible for monitoring practice for a fee of $60. Practice on game day is limited to batting cages, and running and throwing in the outfield.

X. **Pre-series Communication.** No later than 48 hours prior to the first pitch of the first game of the three-game series, the host should stimulate a conversation with the visitor about pertinent administrative details relative to the upcoming competition. The conversation should include a minimum of the sport administrator, Head Coach and Director of Baseball Operations. The topics of the conversation should include, but not be limited to: primary point(s) of contact, arrival date/time, hotel/address/telephone number, mode of local transportation, parking, practice time and/or special arrangements for day prior to first game, radio needs, ticket needs, game day team arrival, batting/infield practice times, dugout/dressing room requirements (drinks, ice, towels, coolers, etc.) and weather forecast/possible schedule modification(s).

Y. **Public Address Announcer.** The public address announcer is considered part of the games management staff and should introduce the teams and announce the game in a professional manner. He or she should set the stage for a positive response from the spectators and shall refrain from baiting or taunting the teams or commenting on the umpire’s call. He or she should also refrain from providing excessive or running commentary of the game. The public address announcer’s actions are in an administrative capacity; he/she should not be a "cheerleader" for either team.

The following announcement must be read prior to all conference play:

“Conference USA encourages and promotes good sporting behavior by student-athletes, coaches and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants in a positive manner.”

Z. **Rain.** Doubleheaders should be played Saturday or Sunday if there is a strong probability of rain predicted for Friday or Saturday. During the pre-series communication, the weather forecast and possible schedule modification(s) shall be discussed and all options should be vetted and agreed to prior to the visitor’s departure from home. While the head coaches may and should be part of the decision-making process the decision should be made by the Athletics Director or designated sports administrator (not coach) with the understanding that the goal is to play all possible games.

AA. **Rain-outs.** Saturday doubleheaders (caused by rain-outs, etc.) should be two nine-inning games. They can be split times in order to get two gates if home team desires (e.g., 1 pm and 6 pm). Sunday doubleheaders should be seven innings in both games. (Exception halted games - see below.) When there is a likelihood of rain on Sunday, doubleheaders shall be played on Saturdays. The decision for the doubleheader shall be made by the Athletic Director or designee (i.e., baseball administrator, this may not be a coach). No make-up game after Sunday is allowed. The home team must do everything possible to complete
the games, but no more than two games will be played on Sunday. Starting times should be set by the home institution, except Sunday games must have a scheduled start no later than 1:00 p.m. (Rain delays can start later, but subject to visiting team’s travel.)

Halted games on Friday should be completed (9 innings) on Saturday, followed by Saturday’s game (9 innings). Halted games on Saturday should be completed Sunday (9 innings) followed by a 9 inning game. If interrupted or rained out on Friday AND Saturday games will be played under the NCAA halted game rule (Rule 58), unless the halted game exceeds the Conference USA policy of no more than two games on Sunday.

In that case:

1. In the halted game, if one team is ahead after five (5) * innings (NCAA Rule 5-7 Regulation Game), the game shall be a complete game and a winner declared. Two seven (7) inning games shall be played on Sunday.
   * 4 1/2 innings if the home team is leading.
2. In the halted game, if less than five (5) innings have been completed, the first game Sunday would be a completion of the halted games and would be a nine (9) inning game as originally scheduled. The second game Sunday would be a nine (9) inning contest. The third game would be canceled and deemed a rainout.
3. In the halted game, if more than five (5) innings have been played, but the score is tied, the contest will be ruled a tie and go on each team's record as such. Two seven (7) inning games shall be played on Sunday.
4. In halted games, umpires are responsible for determining if games will be played on next day (not the host institution).

BB. **Regular Season Champion.** The regular season champion will be determined by the best winning percentage of all Conference games played. The Conference regular season shall consist of 30 games. Ten (10) three-game series shall be played over 11 weeks.

1. **Tie-Breakers.** If a tie-breaker is needed to determine any of the championship teams, the following procedure will be used:
   a. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** When there is a tie involving three or more teams, the following procedure will be used:
      (1) The won/lost percentage of the Conference vs. Conference games played among the tied teams. Example: If teams A, B and C are tied for second place, take A's records vs. B and C; B's record vs. A and C; and C's record vs. A and B. If the records are:
           A is 2-1 vs. B
           A is 2-1 vs. C
           B is 1-2 vs. A
           B is 1-2 vs. C
           C is 1-2 vs. A
           C is 2-1 vs. B
      The results would be:
         Second place - Team A (4-2)
         Third place - Team C (3-3)
         Fourth place - Team B (2-4)
      (2) If three or more teams are tied and the group includes two or more teams that did not play each other during the season, the process moves to the next tie-breaker.
      (3) If a tie between three or more teams persists, the won/lost percentage of the tied teams vs. the team with the highest winning percentage after Conference play. (and proceeding down, if necessary) will be used.
      (4) If a tie remains, seeding will be based upon the most recent RPI standings.
      (5) If two teams still are tied, the Commissioner will flip a coin.
      (6) If three or more teams still are tied, the Commissioner will conduct a draw for places.
   b. **Two-Team Tie.** When there is a two-team tie, the following system will be used to break the tie.
      (1) The won/lost results of head-to-head Conference competition between the two tied teams.
      (2) If a tie continues, the won/lost percentage of the tied teams vs. the team with the highest winning percentage (and proceeding downward, if necessary).
      (3) If a tie remains, seeding will be based upon the most recent RPI standings.
      (4) If a tie persists, it will be broken by a flip of a coin conducted by the Commissioner.

CC. **Replay Policy.** NCAA Baseball Rules for scoreboards, Video and Audio apply for all Conference USA baseball games regardless of stadium or venue.
DD. **Roster Exchange.** Coaches shall exchange rosters that include names and numbers of eligible players before the start of each series and provide a copy to the umpire.

EE. **Rules.** All Conference regular season and tournament play shall be governed by the NCAA baseball rules. In Conference games, the 15-run mercy rule will be used for the second game of a series and the 10-run mercy rule will be used on Sundays only.

FF. **Scheduling.** The regular season scheduling format shall consist of a three-game series against each Conference team with single games to be played on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Ten (10) three-game series shall be played over 11 weeks. In the last weekend of play before the Conference Championship, contests shall be conducted on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Also, in the last weekend of play, the Thursday, Friday and Saturday series shall be conducted in the same manner as a Friday, Saturday and Sunday series, including Sunday rules applying on Saturday.

Best efforts shall be made by the conference scheduler to have teams that finish their season on the road two (2) consecutive years, play their last Conference series at home in the third year.

All games will be nine innings, except double headers on Sunday, which will be seven. Sunday nine innings games will use the 10-run rule. The second game of the series shall use a 15-run rule. Games except the last Conference series shall be Friday/Saturday/Sunday unless a change is agreed upon by both coaches and approved by the Commissioner or designee. The last Conference series preceding the Tournament shall be played on Thursday/Friday/Saturday.

On the final game of a series, a set time for completion of a game may be established in order for the visiting team to travel home. A shortened game must have finished 4.5 – 5 innings by rule in order to be considered complete. In addition, the last game of the series must have a scheduled start time a minimum of four hours plus necessary time to change and travel to the airport in order for the visiting team to arrive one hour before the scheduled flight. Further, that the visiting team must contact the host institution with travel plans no later than December 1 if those plans will cause a game to be scheduled prior to 1 p.m.

1. **Game Times.** The home team will establish the starting time for all games, with the provision that Sunday games will not be scheduled to begin after 1:00 p.m. local time, unless dictated by the Conference office for television.

2. **Non-Conference Schedules.** For the spring season, no more than four games may be scheduled against non-Division I opponents. Teams should schedule Division I non-conference opponents with the best RPI possible relative to the strength of their team. The goal of non-conference scheduling is minimally to have the conference have a collective .667-.750 winning percentage with a minimum of 24 games in the Spring season.

3. **Probable Rain.** Doubleheaders should be played Saturday if there is a strong probability of rain predicted for Sunday. This decision should be made by the Athletics Director or designated sports administrator with the understanding that the goal is to play all possible games.

GG. **Score Reporting and Exchanging.** During conference home games, GameTracker should be utilized to obtain scores of other Conference games. Please announce scores to fans every couple innings to continue to build name recognition and develop interest in the conference race.

HH. **Scoreboards and Audio.** Should any of the following policies be violated, umpires have the authority to stop the game to have the matter corrected. Umpires are to inform the conference office concerning any violation. Per NCAA rules:

1. **Scoreboards (and monitors) must not be used to “show up” an umpire, visiting team members, incite the crowd, or distract a player.**

2. **All music, chants, or crowd-cuing messages must stop when the batter enters the dirt circle.**

3. **Audio (music, organists, etc.) may not be played in a manner that may incite spectators to react in a negative fashion to umpire’s decisions or to visiting players.**

4. **It is the home team’s responsibility to monitor its video and audio operations and abide by all guidelines and policies, including between-inning entertainment.**

II. **Scouting Reports.** It is strictly prohibited to provide any form of scouting report on a Conference team to any other Conference or non-conference opponent. A C-USA team cannot make arrangements with non-conference schools to exchange scouting reports.

JJ. **Sponsored Items in Visiting Team Bench Area and Visitor’s Bullpen.** As it relates to the player bench area for each member institution, the visiting institution shall be permitted, within its bench area and bullpen only, to display a sponsor’s
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name/logo or brand name/logo on team uniforms, staff and coaches apparel, coolers, cups, squeeze bottles, towels and cooling fans (brand name only permitted). No other visual display of sponsors’ names/logos and advertising shall be permitted within the visiting team bench area.

If the home school has a specific facility with category exclusivity in any of the product areas listed above, it is the host institution’s responsibility to communicate this product exclusivity to the Conference office, as well as, all visiting opponents. Where the visiting team is not allowed to bring their own product with them because of a sponsorship conflict, the host institution must provide the visiting institution with neutral bench and bullpen items (i.e., blank towels, cups, coolers, etc.) as needed by the visiting team.

KK. Sportsmanship. Conference USA member institutions value the principles of sportsmanship and the ideal of pursuing victory with honor in intercollegiate athletics. The Conference believes that athletics should be conducted in a way that reflects positively on the individual participants and institutions. The standards of sportsmanship in the Membership Handbook are written to emphasize the basic expectations of the Conference related to sportsmanship and provide the Commissioner with broad authority to ensure that Conference activities are consistent with these principles. For specific sportsmanship policies, see Sportsmanship Section.

LL. Statements to the Media. All coaches and players are to refrain from criticism of Conference USA, its member institutions and its officials in statements to the media. The appropriate public response to media questions regarding officiating is “per conference policy, I am unable to comment.” Any other response is a violation of the sportsmanship policy and is subject to penalties and fines.

MM. Squad Size. The maximum squad size is 27. The home team is permitted an unlimited number of individuals in uniform; however, prior to the opening contest of each series, the coaches must exchange a list identifying the 27 student-athletes that are eligible to compete. No changes or deletions in this list of 27 is permitted for any reason during the three-game conference series.

The failure of an institution to comply with the squad limitation (27 eligible players in uniform) will result in automatic forfeiture of the game to the opposing institution. This is not an "appeal play," further, there will be no delay of the contest to allow a competing institution to conform to the rule.

NN. Tobacco Policy. NCAA rules shall be followed.

OO. Umpires.

1. Assignment. Three-person umpiring crews are assigned to all Conference games by the Conference.

2. Hotels. The host institution shall provide three (3) rooms for umpires per conference weekend. Umpires will schedule Sunday travel as late as possible. If a Sunday game is delayed due to weather, the following will occur:

   a. Umpires assigned to the game will be asked to stay late with the institution providing for additional lodging and travel expenses;
   b. If an umpire has to leave, a local umpire from the designated Conference list shall be used, and
   c. If neither options above can be met, the game will proceed with two umpires.

3. Evaluations. Umpire evaluations are available and should be completed on the Arbiter Sports website by all coaches after the game.

4. Payment. The Conference office will issue an assessment to the institutions at the beginning of the season and be responsible for payment of umpires for Conference games. At the conclusion of the season, the Conference office will calculate all member institutions’ officiating expenses and each institution will pay an equal amount for Conference games.

PP. Uniforms. All players must appear in the official uniform dress and colors of that institution.

QQ. Visiting Team. Visiting team must contact the host institution prior to arrival in order to confirm practice and playing times, media needs (e.g., radio needs, parking, tickets, accommodations).

II. CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

A. Administrative Meeting. At the championship site, head coaches and media relations directors will meet to review the Championship on Tuesday night of championship week. The coaches committee shall meet annually at the Conference Baseball Championship after the Administrative Meeting and by teleconference.
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B. **Artificial Noisemakers.** NCAA rules shall be followed regarding artificial noisemakers. At no time will fans be allowed to use whistles, air horns, megaphones or electronically amplified noisemakers.

C. **Bat Girls/Bat Boys.** Participating institutions shall be allowed to bring their own crews; otherwise, the host institution shall provide crews if requested.

D. **Communications.** The sponsoring agency shall provide a system of communication (telephone, walkie-talkie, etc.) between the press boxes if two fields are used for the championship.

E. **Criteria for hosting the Championship.**

1. Complete compliance with the Conference USA Championship Hosting Agreement
2. A meeting room and refreshments for a pre-championship administrative meeting is a requirement
3. Availability of an adequate second field and practice facilities is a requirement
4. Seating for a minimum of 2,000 fans is a requirement
5. Once every two years on a rolling basis, an average of at-least 1,000 in actual attendance for all home baseball games is desired
6. A tarp in good condition is a requirement
7. A minimum of a five (5) person grounds crew at all games is a requirement
8. Television and radio broadcast capabilities for three (3) crews (two private and enclosed radio booths and one private and enclosed television booth)
9. The ability to produce live on-field postgame interviews with coaches and players for games streamed on the Conference Digital Network is required
10. The ability to produce highlights and interview packages for each game of the Championship is required
11. Lights available on the primary field is a requirement and recommended on the second field
12. Hospitality area and food for officials, workers and administrators is a requirement
13. Production of a scorecard (including complimentary to all teams) is a requirement
14. Restroom facilities in, or near, dugouts and separate from the general public is a requirement
15. The supplying of a photographer is a requirement
16. Communication system for staff and officials (e.g. walkie-talkies) is desired
17. The availability of wireless or high speed internet for media use is a requirement
18. The availability of ISDN lines for radio broadcasts is a requirement
19. The availability of quality hotels (some full service and some budget) nearby the competition site (a minimum of 20 rooms per team at teams' expense) is a requirement. Hotel must not be associated with any type of gaming.
20. A separate hotel for umpires is required
21. A marketing, ticket sales promotion and publicity plan for the event at the host’s expense is required
22. The provision of dugout supplies (e.g., water, towels, etc.) is required
23. The provision of a laundry facility and coordinator at the host’s expense is required
24. The presence of a physician and/or certified athletic trainer at all games and practices; and access to medical facility is required
25. The availability of a defibrillator and trained staff on site is required
26. A dressing room for umpires to dress and lounge with food and beverage is required
27. The provision of expenses (e.g., game fee, lodging, etc.) for the official scorer, PA announcer and staff to manage event is required
28. The provision of expenses for live stats (software, web link, and staff) is required
29. The provision of expenses for experienced media relations support (e.g., conducting interviews, writing game stories, transcribe quotes and develop game notes, etc.) and staff is required.

(Additional items may be required for television, in which case the Conference will contact the host.)

F. **Date and Site.** The Conference USA Championship dates and sites will be determined by the Athletics Directors.

G. **Dugout Supplies.** There shall be available in each dugout an adequate supply of towels, ice, cups and liquids.

H. **Equipment.** Teams will provide all equipment needed, except game baseballs, which shall be provided by the Conference.

I. **Format.** The Conference Championship shall consist of an eight-team, double elimination format with a single-elimination championship game to be played Wednesday-Sunday the weekend of NCAA selections. (See Supplement A.)

J. **Game Length.** The 10-run rule after seven (7) innings will be in effect except for the championship game. If play has been stopped before a nine-inning game has been completed, (e.g., inclement weather), it shall be resumed at the point of interruption.
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K. **Game Times.** Game times will be set by the Conference Office in conjunction with the host institution. Supplement A includes tentative game times. Game times for the 1st round will be established to maximize attendance (e.g., host team in evening game). Pairings with game times are announced after seeds are determined following the final league series of the season.

L. **Home Team Determination.** Determination of the home team shall be by the NCAA Championship system. The home teams for first-round games are determined through seeding.

In all subsequent games the home team shall be as follows:

1. The institution that has been the home team the fewer number of times in that particular Championship.
2. If the two teams are equal in this respect but unequal in the number of times they were the visitor, then the team that has been the visitor more often will be designated the home team.
3. If the two teams are equal in the number of times that they have been home and visitor, the Conference liaison shall observe the following procedures in the order stated:
   a. If the two teams have met previously in the Championship, the visitor in the previous game shall be the home team in the game in question;
   b. The team that was visitor in its preceding game shall be the home team, unless both teams were visitors in their preceding games; or
   c. If the above procedures do not resolve the matter, the home team shall be determined by coin flip.

The home team shall wear white uniforms if it owns white uniforms. The visiting team must wear a uniform of contrasting color. The Conference staff administrator will resolve any conflict in the selection of uniforms in consultation with the participating coaches. The home team shall occupy the third base dugout. The home team shall take infield practice first. If only one practice field is available, the home team shall take batting practice first.

M. **Hotel.** The host shall secure full-service hotel rooms for eight (8) teams during the Conference Championship. All teams are required to stay at the selected hotel(s). Further, potential participating teams must commit to staying at the hotel(s) secured by the host no later than December 1.

N. **Inability to Play Due to Unforeseen Circumstances.** If in unforeseen circumstances it becomes impossible to complete a championship game, the Conference Commissioner or designee is authorized to determine which team(s) shall advance in the Championship. If it is impossible to complete the Championship, the Commissioner is authorized to declare the tournament champion and recipient of the Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. If the Championship is cancelled prior to the final game, no champion will be declared and the recipient of the automatic bid shall be the highest remaining seed. If only the championship game is cancelled, co-champions will be awarded and the automatic bid to the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship will go to the highest remaining seed.

O. **Laundry.** Laundry service should be provided to all teams by the host institution at a fee of $60 per day.

P. **Management.** Administration and conduct of the championship shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Director and the Commissioner, or an appointed representative.

Q. **Mascots.** Team mascots and cheerleaders are not to be allowed on the field at any time.

R. **Media.** The sponsoring agency shall provide adequate facilities for media representatives at the championship. All head coaches will be available for interviews and make their best efforts to cooperate with the media.

S. **Medical.** A physician or certified athletic trainer will be in attendance at all games. Arrangements shall be made by the Tournament Director for access to a medical facility.

T. **NCAA Representation.**

1. The winner of the conference championship shall be the Conference champion and the automatic qualifier to the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
2. At-Large Representative. The Conference office and individual institutions shall do everything possible (e.g., send statistics, write and call NCAA committee members) to lobby for at-large berths to the NCAA Championship.

U. **Official Scorers.** Official scorers for each game shall be assigned by Conference office.

V. **Parking.** Parking for conference staff, team buses and vans, and for members of the media shall be provided by the sponsoring agency.
W. **Passes.** Each participating institution will receive a maximum of 37 passes for coaches, players and members of the official party. These passes are nontransferable.

X. **Practice Times.** The alternate site playing field and facilities shall be made available to all participating teams for practice on the day prior to the start of the Championship. The host institution shall provide a practice coordinator for these purposes. Practices are one hour in length. Practice times shall be established based on seed (i.e., lowest seed gets earliest time through highest seed getting latest time). During the remainder of the Championship, the host institution shall provide adequate practice facilities for teams.

Y. **Protest Procedure.** Any protest by the coach of a competing team must be made at the time of action or incident that caused the protest and before play is resumed. If the game ends (legal contest) in a situation or protest, the offended team must start protest procedures immediately (within 20 seconds). All protests must be made to the umpire-in-chief. No protest shall be allowed that involves a judgment decision by an umpire. All protests must be ruled upon immediately by the Protest Committee, which shall consist of the Conference representative, standby umpire and Tournament Director.

Z. **Radio Coverage.** Participating teams shall be allowed to bring their own radio crew. Those teams that bring radio crews shall be responsible for making arrangements with the sponsoring agency prior to the Championship.

AA. **Rain Conditions.** Every effort should be made to complete all scheduled games in the Championship. The Conference representative and Tournament Director will control the start of games under rain conditions. If rain delays games to the point where the Championship cannot be completed by Sunday night, with no more than four games in a day and a team playing no more than two games a day, the Championship format will change to single elimination.

BB. **Scouting Seats.** Scouting seats will be reserved behind home plate in the stands and plainly marked “C-USA Scouts” for coaches of teams that could play teams of the game in progress. Only two coaches per institution will be seated.

CC. **Seeding.** The Championship consists of the top eight teams in regular-season league play and teams are split into two four-team pools or pods, with the winner of each pod playing in a single championship game. Teams are be assigned pods based on seed, which are determined by the order of finish in regular-season conference play.

DD. **Squad Size.** Each team will be limited to 27 eligible players in uniform to be designated prior to the Championship. Rosters of 27 eligible players will be due at the coaches meeting. After the championship has begun, no changes may be made to a team roster for any reason.

The failure of an institution to comply with the squad limitation (27 eligible players in uniform) will result in automatic forfeiture of the game to the opposing institution. This is not an “appeal play,” further, there will be no delay of the contest to allow a competing institution to conform to the rule.

EE. **Team Introductions and National Anthem.** The National Anthem shall be played prior to the first game of each session each day. On the first day of the championship and before the Championship final, each team will line up along their respective foul lines facing the grandstand and be introduced before their respective foul lines.

FF. **Training Room and Trainer.** The host institution shall make its training room and staff available to all participating teams.

GG. **Umpires.** Umpiring assignments shall be under the direction of the Conference office. Championship umpires shall consist of two four-person crews.

III. **AWARDS**

A. **All-Academic Team.** An All-Academic Team consisting of 11 players, not to be limited by position, will be selected by the Media Relations Director for the sport of baseball. Nominees must have a 3.2 cumulative GPA, be at least a sophomore, and be a starter or key reserve on the squad.

B. **All-Conference Team.** There will be a first and second All-Conference Team selected. Awards shall be presented to the players selected by the coaches at the following positions: 1C, 4IF, 3OF, 4P, 2RP, and 1UP.

Upon request, voting will be made public to all conference coaches and sports information directors in an effort to create accountability in voting.

C. **All-Freshman Team.** The team will consist of 11 players and shall not be limited by position.
D. **All-Tournament Team and Tournament MVP.** The team will consist of 3OF, 4IF, 4P, 1C and 1DH. All will be selected by the Media Relations Director, media and Conference representative. The tournament MVP will be a member of the All-Tournament Team and selected on a separate ballot.

E. **Keith LeClair Coach of the Year.** Coaches will vote for the Head Coach of the Year.

F. **Assistant Coach of the Year.** Coaches will vote for the Assistant Coach of the Year.

G. **Freshman of the Year.** The freshman with the highest vote count on the All-Freshman ballot shall be Freshman of the Year.

H. **Hitter and Pitcher of the Week.** A Hitter and Pitcher of the Week will be named each week during the season of competition and selected by the Conference office.

I. **Defensive Player of the Year.** Coaches will vote for the Defensive Player of the Year.

J. **Newcomer of the Year.** This player will be selected by separate ballot. Nominees will be any student-athlete, with at least a sophomore classification, completing their first year of competition at the institution. Student-athletes who have transferred from another C-USA institution will not be eligible.

K. **Player of the Year.** The player with the highest vote count in a separate ballot shall be named Player of the Year.

L. **Pitcher of the Year.** The pitcher with the highest vote count in a separate ballot shall be named Pitcher of the Year.

M. **Team Awards.** The first and second place teams will receive trophies at the Championship.

N. **Regular Season Champion Awards.** Team and individual awards shall go to the regular season champions.

In all of the above awards, coaches may not vote for their own players.
CONFEERENCE USA BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

Bracket One

Game 1
Wed. 9 am

Game 7
Thurs. 4 pm

Game 2
Wed. 12:30 pm

Winner Game 7

Game 9
Fri. 3 pm

Loser Game 7

Loser Game 1

Game 5
Thurs. 9 am

Game 11
Sat. 9 am

Game 8
Thurs. 7:30 pm

Game 12
Sat. 12:30 pm

Game 4
Wed. 7:30 pm

Loser Game 8

Loser Game 3

Game 6
Thurs. 12:30 pm

Game 10
Fri. 6:30 pm

Bracket Two

Game 8
Thurs. 7:30 pm

Game 12
Sat. 12:30 pm

Winner Game 8

Game 3
Wed. 4 pm

Game 10
Sat. 4 pm

Game 11
Sat. 9 am

Winner Game 9

Game 4
Wed. 7:30 pm

Game 12
Sat. 12:30 pm

Winner Game 10

Game 6
Thurs. 12:30 pm

Game 10
Fri. 6:30 pm

Game numbers may change after seeding.

* Game 13 will be necessary if the winner of Game 9 also wins Game 11.

** Game 14 will be necessary if the winner of Game 10 also wins Game 12.

# If game 13 is not necessary, game 14 will remain at the originally scheduled time.

The Conference Office, in conjunction with the host institution, shall select the optimum game times for the 1st round of the Championship in an effort to enhance attendance. Subsequent game times shall follow the natural flow of the bracket.