



Softball

Softball

I. DATE OF CHAMPIONSHIP

The NCCAA Softball World Series shall be held the second Thursday, Friday and Saturday in May. Region championships must be completed by date provided. (This means regions can dictate when they will have their region tournament.) Any variance from dates listed shall be made by a World Series Softball Committee mandate.

Regional Championships

May 5, 2012
May 4, 2013
May 3, 2014
May 2, 2015

National Championships

May 10-12, 2012
May 9-11, 2013
May 8-10, 2014
May 7-9, 2015

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Institutions must send an official eligibility certificate (see Eligibility Section of NCCAA Handbook) to its Region Sports Chair prior to the institution's first intercollegiate softball contest.
- B. **April 1 is the deadline for official rosters (see [Appendix A](#)) and team pictures to be **RECEIVED**** by the World Series Director (Pete Dryer, Bluefield College). Softball Championship Rosters **must** have Athletics Director's and coach's signatures in order to be accepted by the World Series Director.
- C. All NCCAA member institutions must send to the National Office a completed Declaration of Intent to Participate form by September 15 for all varsity sports. Amendments for Winter sports must be submitted by January 15 and Spring sports by March 1.

III. TEAM SELECTION

- A. A qualifying championship must be held in order to receive an automatic bid. No team may play in national competition unless it played in regional play or meets the criteria in Item B.
- B. Should there be no playoff in a region due to lack of multiple teams, a lone regional representative becomes automatically eligible for an at-large bid.
- C. In the event there is no Regional Championship due to lack of participation, a lone region representative may be selected by that region to receive their automatic bid provided it has a record of .500 or better. This may occur when only one team is seeking to participate or if other teams are alive in NAIA/NCAA play and are unable to participate in the NCCAA region. A team that had originally declared its intent to participate but could not because of NAIA/NCAA tournament participation may still be considered for an at-large bid.
- D. Should the World Series host not win its regional championship, it shall receive an automatic bid to the World Series Softball Championship as host institution.
- E. The NCCAA National Softball Committee and National Softball Chair shall select at-large berths by using the ranking in the most recent national rankings using the revised Burbridge System.
- F. Teams wishing to make a bid for an at-large berth may do so by having their Regional Softball Chair submit their request during the conference call.
- G. The Regional Championship Director is responsible for calling in the Regional Championship results to the National Championship Director immediately following the Regional Championship. The results shall include overall records and championship scores. The Regional Championship Director shall also give notice of any at-large bids. These responsibilities **must** be completed by the Saturday before the World Series.
- H. The National Softball Chair shall arrange a conference call (see Forms & Procedures Section) with the National Softball Committee on Sunday night at 5 p.m. EST prior to the Softball World Series in order to decide the at-large berths and championship pools.

- I. If a Regional Championship is completely rained out, the region shall decide on a representative.
- J. Each region **must** send a copy of its championship structure as well as the rainout provisions to the National Softball Chair **prior** to April 16.
- K. Revised Burbridge Ranking System (see [Appendix B](#)) shall be used for all Regional Championships and World Series.
- L. Statistics shall be submitted on each Monday by 5 p.m. during the softball season beginning with Monday March 19, 2012. Weekly statistics must be reported to the National Statistician (stats@thenccaa.org). The penalty for not reporting statistics or for being late: 1st offense=warning; 2nd offense=\$100 fine paid before regional playoffs; 3rd offense=team is not allowed post season play.
- M. **Any team missing two or more statistical updates shall not be considered for Regional Championships or World Series play.** Notification shall be sent to institutions that have failed to send in their statistical report on time. After the second violation, a written notice of disqualification shall be sent.

IV. CONDUCT OF CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. Teams included shall be the champions of each region, the host school and the number of at-large berths not to exceed 10. It is highly recommended that the championship be a 10-team tournament. The National Softball Committee shall have the flexibility to reduce the number of participants if it desires.
- B. Championship seeding
 - 1. The championship seeding shall be the responsibility of the National Softball Committee.
 - 2. The championship seeding shall be determined on the Sunday preceding the championship.
 - 3. The Regional Championship winners shall be the top seeds. Burbridge rating shall be used to seed these regional champions.
 - 4. Remaining at-large berths shall be seeded using Burbridge rating.
- C. The restrictions shall be as follows:
 - 1. The championship shall not exceed three days.
 - 2. The championship shall be a double elimination 6-10-team championship with a 2-game guarantee.
 - 3. Games shall be set up to determine final placing from #1 to #6-10 finishers.

V. CHAMPIONSHIP SITE AND GAME REGULATIONS

- A. World Series games must be played on an official softball field as defined by current NCAA Softball rules.
- B. It is recommended that two official regulation size, fenced-in fields be used.
- C. If the fence distance is adjustable, the NCCAA requests an outfield fence with a minimum of 190 feet and a maximum of 225 feet.
- D. All fields must be skinned for World Series play.
- E. The official ball is the Wilson A9010B SST.
- F. A five inning, eight-run rule shall be used.
- G. NCAA rules shall be used.
- H. **The championship site shall be selected by the National Site Committee for championships (the National Chair, Vice Chair and the National Office) after a vote by coaches.** All interested institutions should submit the Contract Bid (see Forms & Procedures Section) to the National Office prior to the Softball Coaches' Association meeting on the Wednesday prior to championship play.

VI. OFFICIALS

- A. The World Series Director shall secure all the officials for the World Series.
- B. The World Series Director shall assign officials for all games through, and including, the finals.
- C. A minimum of two officials shall be provided for World Series games.

VII. SELECTION OF THE NCCAA ALL-TOURNAMENT SOFTBALL TEAM AND MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

- A. An All-World Series Team of 10 players plus pitcher of the Series and the Most Valuable Player shall be selected at the World Series. Selection of All-Tournament team will be done by the coach for the appropriate placement.
 - 1. Championship team will receive 4 players on the All-Tournament team (MVP and pitcher of the Series plus two other players)
 - 2. Runner Up team will receive 3 players on the All-Tournament team.
 - 3. Third place team will receive 2 players on the All-Tournament team.
 - 4. Fourth through sixth place teams will receive 1 player on the All-Tournament team.
- B. A World Series Most Valuable Player shall be selected (see above).
- C. The All-Tournament Team shall be announced at the awards presentation immediately following the championship game. All-Tournament awards are the responsibility of the host.
- D. If play has been cancelled due to weather and two or more teams are tied in wins/losses, the higher ranked team will receive the extra placement of players on the All-World Series team.

VIII. SELECTION OF NCCAA ALL-AMERICAN SOFTBALL TEAM

- A. An All-American First Team of 15 players shall be selected annually at the World Series. This shall include a "Player of the Year" and "Pitcher of the Year".
- B. An All-American Second Team of up to 15 players shall also be selected.
- C. Only individuals who have been selected to the NCCAA All-Regional Team, and are from institutions that have paid their participation fees, shall be considered.
- D. Coaches who wish to have players considered for All-American honors must send completed statistics package and nomination forms to the All-American Chair on or before the established deadline. The All-American Chair for 2011 is Deb Thompson, Spring Arbor University.
- E. The complete All-American nomination package consists of computer generated stats and [Appendix C](#) for each player nominated. Appropriate signatures must be included.
- F. Coaches may nominate no more than four players for All-American consideration. They may also vote for their own players during the balloting.
- G. The All-Region team must be submitted to the National Chair in order of the voting. The voting number should also be included in the information sent with each All-Region team.

H. Each Region may select up to 16 players on their All-Region Team, including a "Player of the Year". The Most valuable player of each region shall automatically be selected to the First Team All-American as long as the appropriate forms ([Appendix C](#)) are sent.

I. All Region selections should be ranked (1-16) by region coaches when sent to the National Chair.

IX. SELECTION OF NCCAA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE SOFTBALL TEAM

- A. A Scholar-Athlete Team shall be selected at the site of the World Series.

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- B. Player must be of junior or senior status.
 - C. Player must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.40 or higher.
 - D. Nomination ballot (see [Appendix D](#)) must be received by the National Vice-Chair prior to the established deadline.
 - E. All forms submitted to the National Vice-Chair must have the appropriate signatures.

X. RAINOUT DELAY

- A. Every effort shall be made to complete the championship as structured.
- B. If a rainout occurs Thursday, the World Series shall be played with the same double elimination format starting Friday and Saturday to finish.
- C. If a rainout occurs on Thursday and Friday, the World Series shall be completed on Saturday in a single elimination format with times being subject to change as needed.
- D. If a rainout occurs on Friday and Saturday, the champion shall be the number one seed unless it has been beaten. Should the number one seed be in the loser's bracket, the highest undefeated seed shall be the champion.
- E. If a rainout occurs on Saturday during the second championship game, if needed, the World Series champion shall be selected by the following criteria:
 - 1. Head to head competition
 - 2. Higher seed in the World Series
- F. If the World Series is completely rained out, it shall be considered no contest.
- G. The National Softball Chair and the World Series Director reserve the right to adjust times of the schedule as needed due to weather considerations.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Coin toss shall determine home team.
- B. Game time shall be determined by uniform time on schedule, unless rainout occurs.
- C. The National Coach of the Year shall be the coach of the NCCAA World Series Softball Championship team.
- D. The World Series Director shall establish an Appeals Committee which consists of the Umpire in Charge, World Series Director, National Chair, and National Office representative.
- E. The time of the Parade of Champions shall be determined by the National Chair and the World Series Director. This shall also include the reading of the Scholar Athletes.
- F. Each region must use the appropriate brackets for region playoffs given in [Appendix E](#).
- G. All teams must provide a bat list with team bats highlighted for the officials.

XII. OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

Softball: Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Softball Rules. To obtain rules, contact: NCAA, PO Box 6222, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222, telephone: (317) 917-6222.

2011-2012 NCCAA Softball Important Dates to Remember

- Before 1st contest Eligibility Certificate to Regional Chair (**not** Regional Softball Chair)
- March 1 Declaration of Intent to Participate
- March 19 Initial NCCAA Softball Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- March 26 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- April 1 Team Roster and team picture to Pete Dryer at pdryer@bluefield.edu
- April 2 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- April 9 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- April 16 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- April 16 Proposed championship structure for Region Championships (from Regional Chairs) to National Softball Chair:
Becky Stenning
Judson University Phone: (847) 628-1578
1151 N. State St. email: bstenning@judsonu.edu
Elgin, IL 60123 Fax: (847) 628-1591
- April 23 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- April 30 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- May 5 Deadline to **receive** Regional Championship results and All-Region selections to:
Becky Stenning Phone: (847) 628-1578
Judson University email: bstenning@judsonu.edu
- May 6 **Updated Burbridge Ratings by 12:00 pm EST.** These will be used for seeding the World Series.
stats@thenccaa.org
- May 6 **National Softball Committee** Conference Call for World Series seeding. (5:00 p.m. EST).
(National and Vice Chairs, Region Chairs, NCCAA National Representative, NCCAA National Statistician)
- May 8 Deadline to **receive** NCCAA Scholar-Athlete forms, ([Appendix D](#)) to: (**No official transcripts are necessary**)
Patti Buchta Phone: (812) 749-1265
Oakland City University Email: pbuchta@oak.edu
- May 8 Deadline to **receive** All-American nominations ([Appendix C](#)) to:
Becky Stenning Phone: (847) 628-1578
Judson University Email: bstenning@judsonu.edu
- May 9 **World Series Coaches Meeting and NCCAA Softball meeting at 9:00 pm.**
- May 10-12 NCCAA Softball World Series at Botetourt Softball Complex, Botetourt County, Virginia.

Appendix A NCCAA Softball Official Roster

IMPORTANT: Roster must be **RECEIVED** by the National Championship Director **no later than April 1, 2011** and must contain appropriate signatures. Please fax or e-mail to: TBA

Please Type

Institution _____ Region _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Light/ Dark</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown/State</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
15.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
17.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
18.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Head Coach _____ Work Phone (____)____-____ Cell Phone (____)____-____

Assistant Coach _____ Team Nickname _____

Athletics Director _____ School Colors _____

Coach's Signature

Date

Athletics Director's Signature

Date

Appendix B
Revised Burbridge Rating Method
NCCAA Softball

I. FORMULA

VICTORIES

On the road against a winning opponent:	
NCAA Division I	9 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	8 points
NCAA Division III	7 points
NCCAA Division I	7 points
NCCAA Division II	6 points

At home against a winning opponent:	
NCAA Division I	8 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	7 points
NCAA Division III	6 points
NCCAA Division I	6 points
NCCAA Division II	5 points

On the road against a losing opponent:	
NCAA Division I	7 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	6 points
NCAA Division III	5 points
NCCAA Division I	5 points
NCCAA Division II	4 points

At home against a losing opponent:	
NCAA Division I	6 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	5 points
NCAA Division III	4 points
NCCAA Division I	4 points
NCCAA Division II	3 points

LOSSES

On the road against a winning opponent:	
NCAA Division I	5 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	4 points
NCAA Division III	3 points
NCCAA Division I	3 points
NCCAA Division II	2 points

At home against a winning opponent:	
NCAA Division I	4 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	3 points
NCAA Division III	2 points
NCCAA Division I	2 points
NCCAA Division II	1 points

On the road against a losing opponent:	
NCAA Division I	3 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	2 points
NCAA Division III	1 points
NCCAA Division I	1 points
NCCAA Division II	0 points

At home against a losing opponent:	
NCAA Division I	2 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	1 points
NCAA Division III	0 points
NCCAA Division I	0 points
NCCAA Division II	0 points

II. POWER POINTS

The rating is determined by adding the power points for the season, dividing by the number of games, and carrying the result to the third decimal place.

III. RANKINGS BASED ON POWER POINTS

Teams shall be ranked each week throughout the season using this rating system. The rating system is only as accurate as the information supplied on the game results form. Each institution shall gather and report the most accurate data possible.

Appendix C
NCCAA SOFTBALL ALL-AMERICAN NOMINATION FORM

(Please duplicate this form as needed. Please type or print the information.)

Nominee _____ Uniform # _____ Position _____
Conference/Affiliation _____ NCCAA Region _____
Institution _____ Class _____
Address _____ Hometown _____
_____ Coach _____

Position (s) for which you are nominating the player:

___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6 ___ OF ___ DP ___ UT

** The NCCAA Statistical Summary MUST be completed on the back of this sheet and game by game analysis are to be sent with nomination form **

If nominated for Utility Pos: _____% of games: _____ Pos: _____% of games: _____

If nominated for DP Pos: _____% of games: _____ Pos: _____% of games: _____

Number of game winning hits _____ Against _____

Major contributions to team's success: _____

Softball honors: _____

Coaches Comments (technical proficiency, execution, consistency, what makes her special): _____

Team record: W/L _____ Team NCCAA Regional finish _____

(continued)

NCCAA Softball All-American Nomination Form Page Two

Nominee _____

Position _____

Institution _____

Summary of all game-by-game analysis sheets

CATCHERS/OUTFIELDERS/INFELDERS

G	AB	R	H	BA	2B	3B	HR	SLUG %	RBI	SAC	SO	BB	OB%

						Catchers Only		
SB	SBA	PO	A	E	%	SBA	CS	PB

Summary of all game-by-game analysis sheets

PITCHERS

G	GS	CG	W	L	SAVES	IP	R	ER	ERA	BF	1B	2B	3B

HR	WP	BB	SO	BB/ AVG	SO/ AVG

- Forms should include all statistics through regional play.
- Each coach is responsible for faxing or emailing nomination forms to the All-American Chair by the established deadline.

The above mentioned student-athlete has my support as a viable nominee for NCCAA post-season honors. Her behavior on and off the field is complimentary to the NCCAA and its Christ-like standards.

Coach's Signature

Date

Athletic Director's Signature

Date

Appendix E Four Team Region Tournament Brackets



Appendix F Five Team Region Tournament Brackets



Appendix G Six Team Region Tournament Brackets

