

ORANGE EMPIRE CONFERENCE
2008-09 FASTPITCH SUPPLEMENT

Section 4.17 – Fastpitch

4.171 Season of Competition. The fastpitch season begins and ends as prescribed by the CCCAA Constitution. All conference contests will be scheduled for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during the season. Exceptions may be requested at the spring post-season coaches meeting to accommodate variable academic spring schedules among conference colleges.

4.172 Re-scheduling of Rainouts, Ties, Halted, or Protested Games.

1. In cases of a rainout, tie, halted or a game involving a protest that is upheld, the two teams shall make up the game on the next unscheduled date.
2. Games can be halted for inclement weather prior to the completion of the 5th inning or at the discretion of the umpire. A halted game will be continued at the next unscheduled date, continuing from that point at which it was halted.
3. If the site of a scheduled game is determined to be unplayable, the game may be switched to the other college. The coaches and athletic directors from both colleges must agree to the change. If this is done, the next scheduled game between these two colleges will be played at the site originally deemed unplayable.
4. In the event of a rainout on the last Friday of the conference schedule, the game will be made up on the next available day (including Saturday and Sunday).
5. Exceptions to the 4.172 schedule rule may be made due to extenuating circumstances as determined by the Commissioner.
6. If only one umpire reports to the contest, the contest must be played. Failure to comply will result in loss of contest for one or both teams.

Note: In the event rain impacts either a regularly scheduled or required make-up date, the home coach shall immediately notify the conference assigner of officials. In turn, the assigner shall determine the assignment of officials for the rescheduled game. Coaches are not permitted to obtain umpires on their own; this is the duty and responsibility of the official conference assigner.

4.173 Playing Rules. Conference play shall be governed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rule book, with exceptions specifically proscribed in this supplement.

1. Exceptions.
 - a. The starting time for games scheduled on a regular college Monday or Wednesday shall be 3:00 p.m. Starting time for games scheduled on a regular college Friday shall be 2:00. Exceptions may be made in the best interest of student-athletes as they relate to varying academic schedules and travel time. Starting times for games at lighted fields may be scheduled in the evening by mutual agreement of participating coaches and with the approval of their athletic directors.
 - b. All batting practice machines must be turned off one hour prior to game time. After this time, only safety balls may be used for hitting on the field.
 - c. Teams are to take no more than ten (10) minutes of infield practice. Home team must take infield first at exactly twenty (20) minutes prior to game time.
 - d. In an afternoon game on a field with lights, the lights shall be used, if needed, to complete a game in progress and to save the expense of rescheduling.
 - e. The home team shall provide the official scorekeeper.

4.174 Personnel.

1. Only team personnel shall be allowed in the dugout.
2. Only eligible coaches or players shall occupy the coaching boxes at 1st and 3rd bases.

4.175 Equipment.

1. The official conference softball is the Diamond California Fast Pitch (with black lettering).
 - a. A minimum of ~~four~~ six official conference softballs must be available for each home game (adopted 9/30/08).
 - b. The home team must provide a game ball for the visiting team one hour before game time.

4.176 Protests.

1. Protests shall be conducted as per the NCAA Rule Book.
2. The official NCAA Protest Form must be completed immediately following the game under protest. The Form shall be signed by both head coaches and both umpires, and submitted to the conference Commissioner by the coach filing the protest within 48 hours from the time the game began.
3. Copies of the completed Form shall also be sent to the opposing coach and both umpires by the coach filing the protest within 48 hours from the time the game began.
4. The conference Commissioner shall rule on the protest within five (5) days of receipt of the Protest Form. If necessary, the commissioner shall consult with the NCAA Rules Secretary.
5. If a protest is upheld, the game will be played from the point of the protest.
6. A protest game that is upheld must be scheduled as per conference rule 4.172.
7. If the protesting coach does not comply with conference rules 4.176 (2) and 4.176 (3) the protest shall be invalid.

4.177 All-Star Game. It shall be the option of the OEC to schedule an All-Star game at the conclusion of the scheduled fastpitch season, as permissible by CCCAA rules.

4.178 Ties in Conference Standings.

1. If there is a tie for 1st place, then co-champions, tri-champions, etc. shall be declared. If there is a tie for places below the conference champion, that tie shall be recorded as the official standings for the conference. No OEC playoff games may be played.
2. The following criteria shall determine the conference's automatic post conference bid for Regional/State playoffs in the event of a tie for 1st place.
 - a. The team with the most wins during their OEC regular season series shall be accorded the conference's automatic bid. If a team or teams are eliminated from the tie on this criteria, they shall be placed below the other teams with whom they were tied. If teams remains tied for the automatic bid, those remaining teams will continue with the tie-breaking procedure as below.
 - b. The team with the best win/loss record vs. the first team below the tie for the automatic bid shall be accorded the conference's automatic bid. If teams remain tied, the team with the best win/loss record against the next team in the conference standings, in order, shall be accorded the conference's automatic bid. This method shall continue as necessary until all teams have been compared.
 - i. After using this criteria in the event of a multi-team tie and at least one team has been eliminated, the remaining teams will revert to head-to-head

- criteria in 4.178(2)(a) above. If teams remain tied, they shall continue with the tie-breaking procedure as below.
- c. The team leading in run differential during their OEC series shall be accorded the conference's automatic bid.
 - d. A coin toss shall be made by the OEC Commissioner or their designee to determine the conference's automatic bid.
3. The following criteria shall determine the conference's seeding positions for Regional/State playoffs in the event of a tie for any of 2nd through 7th places.
- a. The team with the most wins during their OEC regular season series shall be accorded the conference's higher seed. If a team or teams are eliminated from the tie on this criteria, they shall be placed below the other teams with whom they were tied. If teams remain tied for the higher seed, those remaining teams will continue with the tie-breaking procedure as below.
 - b. The team with the best win/loss record vs. the first place team shall be accorded the conference's higher seed. If teams remain tied, the team with the best win/loss record against the next team in the conference standings (not involved in the tie), in order, shall be accorded the higher seed. This method shall continue as necessary until all teams in the Conference have been compared.
 - i. After using this criteria in the event of a multi-team tie and at least one team has been eliminated, the remaining teams will revert to head-to-head criteria in 4.178(2)(a) above. If teams remain tied, they shall continue with the tie-breaking procedure as below.
 - c. The team leading in run differential during their OEC series shall be accorded the conference's higher seed.
 - d. A coin toss shall be made by the OEC Commissioner or their designee to determine the conference's automatic bid.
4. The athletic directors of the colleges involved and the OEC Commissioner must be kept informed and be included in all decisions. Head Coaches from the teams involved shall inform the AD from their own college, while the OEC softball rep shall inform the Commissioner.

4.179 Selection of All-Conference Awards.

1. General information.
 - a. Certificates shall be provided by the OEC and printed by the OEC sport representative. Awards for conference MVP, Pitcher of the Year and Coach of the Year shall be provided by the OEC.
 - b. If a vote of the head coaches results in a Co-MVP or Co-Most Valuable Pitcher, the cost of the second award will be divided between the two colleges involved.
2. The 3CFCA format for selecting eleven (11) All-Conference players for an eight (8) team conference shall be used.
 - a. First team - 11 players (The Most Valuable Player and Most Valuable Pitcher will be selected from among the 11 first-team selections).
 - b. Second team - 11 players.
 - c. Players may be added to the all-conference team at the discretion of the head coaches. However, only the top 11 vote getters will be eligible for All-Regional and All-State selection.
 - d. Coach of the Year selection.
3. Guidelines for selection of teams.
 - a. Head Coaches will be faxed a nomination form by the conference statistician during the final round of conference play.

- b. Head Coaches will return their nominations to the conference statistician on or before the final day of scheduled conference competition.
 - c. Final conference statistics will be submitted to the statistician the day following the last conference game. Complete statistics (including fielding stats) are mandatory.
 - d. The All-Conference ballot will then be faxed to each head coach no later than the day after the statistics are received. (Coaches may not vote for their own players). Head Coaches must make note of corrections to any errors, via e-mail to all Head Coaches and the Conference Statistician, by the beginning of the next business day.
 - e. Each Head Coach will bring their completed ballot to the spring meeting. (Time will be allotted for final evaluation).
 - f. The Conference Statistician and all attending assistant coaches will total the votes and determine the first and second team selections. These will be presented to the Head Coaches for discussion and approval of the All-OEC teams.
 - g. In case of a tie for first-team selections, both players will receive first-team honors but a vote of Head Coaches shall determine which player will be eligible for all-region and all-state honors. In case of a tie for second-team selections, both players will receive second-team honors.
 - h. Nominations will be made by the Head Coaches for the Most Valuable Player and Most Valuable Pitcher awards. A majority vote of the Head Coaches will determine the recipients.
 - i. Nominations will be made by the Head Coaches for the Coach of the Year. A majority vote of the head coaches will determine the recipient.
 - j. Notes.
 - 1. No requirements are necessary for nominations.
 - 2. Statistics used for selection of these teams and individual awards will include conference statistics only.
4. OEC Academic Team Champions Award.
- a. At the Fall OEC Coaches meeting, Head Coaches shall submit the official nomination form.
 - b. Included will be the data for all student-athletes who used a season of eligibility in the previous Spring, the number of units attempted for a grade, the grade points earned in those courses, and team totals in each area.
 - c. The team with the highest GPA shall be awarded possession of the perpetual trophy until the next Fall meeting.

4.17-10 Miscellaneous

- 1. In the event of a tie vote among the Head Coaches on the consideration of changes to the OEC fastpitch supplement, no change shall be made.
- 2. Each Head Coach shall send a copy of their schedule to all Orange Empire Conference Head Coaches. All scrimmages, tournaments, and games must be indicated.
- 3. Lineup cards should list the overall win-loss, conference win-loss, and starting pitcher's record. The home school is responsible for calling results to the newspapers.
- 4. Circumstances not covered by this code may be appealed to the Conference Commissioner for a final decision.