

PANHANDLE CONFERENCE POLICIES

(Updated October 6, 2011)



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SECTION 1 GENERAL ORGANIZATION

Policy 1 Duties of Conference Chair

- A. The Conference Chair shall serve two-year terms with no restriction on the number of terms to be served.
- B. Conduct the business of conferences within the CAA Policies.
- C. Conduct conference meetings
- D. Keep conference policies updated and a copy on file with the CAA Chair, FCSAA Commissioners and the FCSAA Administrative Coordinator.
- E. Provide information and education to the Conference Sport Chairs on their duties and responsibilities; and monitor their performance and adherence to CAA and Conference policies.
- F. Serve as a member of the CAA Executive Board and attend all meetings.
- G. Keep abreast of all CAA and state issues as they relate to athletics and keep the membership informed.
- H. Conduct the Conference Chairperson election.
- I. Provide a year-end detailed report of all conference activities to the CAA Chair, FCSAA Commissioners and the FCSAA Administrative Coordinator by September 15th.
- J. Fulfill other responsibilities assigned by the CAA Chair, FCSAA Executive Committee or the FCSAA President

Policy 2 Duties of Conference Sport Chairs –

- A. The Conference Sport Chairs shall serve two-year terms with no restriction on the number of terms to be served.
- B. Know the policies in the FCSAA By-laws pertaining to the committee and sport involved;
- C. Conduct all committee meetings and elections;
- D. Attend all CAA meetings or designate a committee member to attend;
- E. Forward all recommendations of policy and procedural changes to the CAA Chair at the fall or spring meetings;

- F. File official written reports on all meetings, sports activities to the Conference Chairperson;
- G. Be a conference representative at all state tournaments/meets;

Policy 3 Conference Meetings

- A. There will be two conference meetings per academic year to be held within two weeks after the Council for Athletic Affairs meetings.
- B. These meetings are for all athletics directors and coaches with Presidents invited to attend.
- C. The meetings are to be held at neutral sites at the discretion of the Conference Chair.

Policy 4 Sport Meetings

- A. Men's Basketball-One fall meeting will be held in conjunction with the General Panhandle Conference meeting.
- B. Women's Basketball- One fall meeting will be held in conjunction with the general Panhandle Conference. A spring meeting will be held after the FCSAA women's basketball meeting at the FCSAA State/Region VIII tournament. Minutes from the meeting are to be sent to all conference women's basketball coaches and to all Conference Athletic Directors.
- C. Baseball- One meeting at the conclusion of the season, one summer meeting and two fall meetings will be held each year. One fall meeting will coincide with the All Sports Conference meeting held in September. The other fall meeting to be held prior to the end of the fall semester
- D. Softball-One Summer meeting (May) and one fall meeting will be held each year. The fall meeting will coincide with the All Sport conference meeting held in September.
- E. Volleyball- One Summer meeting (May) and one fall meeting will be held each year. The fall meeting will coincide with the All Sport conference meeting held in September.

SECTION 2 APPROVING OF CONFERENCE POLICIES

Policy 1 General Conference Policies

- A. Must have the approval of majority of conference athletics directors for approval.
- B. General conference policy changes are to be circulated to each conference president.

Policy 2 Individual Sport Policies

- A. Individual sport policies must have a majority vote of the conference coaches and of the conference athletics directors for approval.
- B. Individual sport policy changes are to be circulated to each conference president.

SECTION 3 GAME CONTRACTS

Policy 1 Scheduling and Contracts

The FCSAA Athletic Game Contract must be used between colleges when scheduling events.

Policy 2 Disputes of Contracts

All violations or contract disputes shall be referred to the Conference Chair for resolution. Decisions of the Conference Chair may be appealed to the CAA Executive Board through the CAA Chair.

Policy 3 Initiating Non-Conference Contracts

The home team is responsible for initiating the contract between FCSAA opponents for single non-conference games/matches, and for home and home games/matches, it is the responsibility of the first home team to initiate the contract.

Policy 4 Conference Contracts

The conference chair shall initiate a conference contract between conference members for single conference game/matches, and for home and home games/matches in lieu of individual contracts between conference members.

Policy 5 Changes to Conference Contracts

Any changes to the conference contract must be agreed upon by the athletics directors involved and have the approval of the Conference Chair.

SECTION 4 CONFERENCE ACADEMIC AWARDS

Policy 1 Academic All-Conference Teams

- A. All-Academic Team Awards are made to students in all college activities, sanctioned and not sanctioned by FCSAA.
- B. The purpose of these awards is to recognize the academic achievements of students participating in college activities at our Panhandle Conference member colleges.
- C. Students meeting the following criteria will be selected to the All-Academic Team:
 1. The student must have met all eligibility requirements for participation.
 2. The student must have been an active member of the team for the duration of the season.
 3. The student must have taken a minimum of eighteen (18) semester hours in the current academic year and must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 or higher under one of the following:
 - i. Accumulation of all credits over multiple academic years, or
 - ii. Accumulation of credits for the current academic year

NOTE: Remedial credits may or may not be counted, but if counted all attempts must be included in determining GPA.

- D. Each Panhandle Conference Athletic Director will submit a list of nominees to the Conference Chair by June 15th. The Conference Chair will generate the official list and provide a completed list by sport to each college.

Policy 2 Conference Academic Scholar-Athlete

- A. The Panhandle Conference will select one (1) Male and one (1) Female as the Panhandle Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year recipient.
- B. Nominees for Panhandle Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year must be the sport's scholar-athlete of the year recipient or non-sanctioned nominee (Cheerleading).
- C. Each sport shall select a student-athlete as the sport's scholar-athlete of the year recipient.
- D. Conference Sport Chairs will nominate each respective sports winner for consideration for the overall Panhandle Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year award, to be selected by the Athletic Directors at the Spring Conference Meeting.
- E. The student-athlete must meet the following criteria:
1. The student-athlete must be a member of the team and be listed on the current year's eligibility form.
 2. The student-athlete must be a second season participant.
 3. The student-athlete must have taken a minimum of thirty-six (36) semester hours and must have a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.3 on a 4.0 scale.
NOTE: Remedial credits may or may not be counted, but if counted all attempts must be included in determining GPA.
 4. Nominations must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the Athletic Director and official transcripts from his/her institution.
 5. Citizenship, community service, and athletic prowess will be a factor in the selection process.
- F. The Male Panhandle Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year recipient will be named the Dale O'Daniel Panhandle Conference Male Scholar-Athlete of the

Year. The Female Panhandle Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year recipient will be named the Mickey Englett Panhandle Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

SECTION 5 ALLEGATIONS

Any allegation by a conference member against another conference member must be made from athletic director to athletic director and have the approval of the conference member's president before any allegations are made higher than the conference level. This procedure has been agreed upon by the conference presidents.

SECTION 6 CONFERENCE GAME BALLS

All games/matches hosted by Panhandle Conference members are to be played with FCSAA sanctioned balls. Refer to CAA policies for sport game balls.

SECTION 7 ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

Policy 1 Balloting

It is the responsibility of each sport chair to conduct balloting for all-conference teams under CAA policy. After the balloting is completed, the sport chair is to send the final results to the Conference Chair, each conference member's director of athletics and specific sport coach, the CAA State sport Chair and the FCSAA Administrative Coordinator.

Policy 2 Balloting Results

Results of conference balloting, by individual members, is to be sent to each conference member's director of athletics and specific sport coach.

Policy 3 Specific Sport Procedures

A. Men's Basketball

1. The All-Conference team will consist of twelve players
2. The conference sports representative will conduct the selection process by official ballot listing all nominations. Voting will consist of the first choice receiving twelve (12) points and the 12th player receiving one (1) point.
3. Coaches cannot vote for their own players.
4. The player receiving the highest total points will be Conference Player of the Year.
5. The top freshman vote getter during the All-Conference voting will receive the Freshman of the Year Award.
6. The top first year player (true freshman, first year transfer, etc.) will receive the Newcomer of the Year Award.

B. Women's Basketball

1. The All-Conference team will consist of twelve players
2. The conference sports representative will conduct the selection process by official ballot listing all nominations. Voting will consist of the first choice receiving twelve (12) points and the 12th player receiving one (1) point.
3. Coaches cannot vote for their own players.
4. The ballot will be invalid unless all 12 places have designated players.
5. The player receiving the highest total points will be Conference Player of the Year.
6. The top freshman vote getter during the All-Conference voting will receive the Freshman of the Year Award.

C. Baseball

1. All Conference First team (5 inf, 4 of, 2 c, 1 dh, 3P)
2. Selection not by position.
3. Each coach in the conference may nominate players from their own team and must provide statistics on each player nominated.

4. Coaches will vote for five infielders, four outfielders, two catchers, one designated hitter and three pitchers out of those nominated. Unanimous selections make it. In the event of a tie, (three guys for two places) coaches will vote for only two.
5. All Conference second team procedures are same as first team with the exception of number of players selected (i.e. ...six infielders or five of etc.).
6. Conference Player of the Year Award will be given as the “Ellis Dungan MVP Award”.
7. Conference Scholar/Athlete Award will be given as the “Buddy Kisner Scholar/Athlete Award”.
 - a. The criteria will be the same as the FCSAA Scholar/Athlete award for Baseball, the “Bill Tuten Award”.
 - b. The nominating procedures will be the same. The nominations are due in the Conference Chair at the Panhandle Conference meeting.

D. Softball

1. Coaches will select both first and second All-Conference Teams. The first team will consist of 17 players.
2. Selection will be by position: 5 Infielders, 2 Catchers, 4 Outfielders, 4 Pitchers, 2 At-Large
3. Each coach in the conference may nominate players from their teams and must provide statistics offensively and defensively on each player nominated. This will be done on the nomination form provided by the conference chair. All nominations, along with conference and overall state statistics, will be placed on a ballot by the conference chair and distributed to all coaches.
4. Each coach then:
 - a. Ranks the top 5 infielders in order of choice. Five points will be given to the number one choice, four points to the number two choice, etc.

- b. Ranks the top 4 outfielders and pitchers. Four points for number one, etc.
 - c. Ranks the top 2 catchers and at large players: Two points for number one and one point for number two.
 - d. Coaches may not vote for their own players and must submit a complete ballot.
5. The top 17 players with the highest number of points will be the first team All-conference. The second 17 with the next highest points will be the second team All-Conference.
6. The conference chair shall notify the state softball chair by the All-conference cut off date. Selections should include statistics for the top 17 players.
7. Conference coaches shall vote for a *Coach of the Year*, a *Player of the Year* and a *Pitcher of the Year* with a pitcher being eligible for *Player of the Year* honors.
- E. Volleyball
1. Coaches will select both first and second All-Conference Teams. The first team will consist of 6 players.
 2. Selection will be by coach's choice.
 3. Each coach in the conference may nominate players from their teams and must provide statistics on each player nominated. This will be done on the nomination form provided by the conference chair. All nominations, along with conference and overall state statistics, will be placed on a ballot by the conference chair and distributed to all coaches.
 4. Each coach then ranks the top 12 players in order of choice. 12 points will be given to the number one choice, 11 points to the number two choice, etc.
 5. The top-6. Players with the highest number of points will be the first team All-Conference. The second 6 players, with the next highest number of points will be the second team All-conference. If a second team position is

unfilled following the initial vote, the chair will conduct a telephone vote among the coaches of the remaining nominees to fill the vacancy.

6. Votes by phone should be followed up by a written vote to the conference chair. The conference chair shall notify the state volleyball chair by the All-conference cutoff date. Selections should include statistics for the top players.
7. First team All-Conference players will be eligible to be selected for the All-State/All-Region Teams.
8. Each conference school Athletic Director will receive an invoice from the conference chair for \$25.00. These funds will go towards the purchase of a Conference Champion Trophy.

SECTION 8 ALL-STATE AND ALL-REGION TEAMS

Policy 1 Men's Basketball

Top three in all-conference balloting will be submitted from the conference. Ties must be broken.

Policy 2 Women's Basketball

Top four in all-conference balloting will be submitted from the conference. Ties must be broken.

Policy 3 Baseball

First Team-All Conference players will be eligible to be selected for All-State, All-Region Teams.

Policy 4 Softball

First team All-Conference players will be eligible to be selected for the All-State/All-Region Teams.

Policy 5 Volleyball

First team All-Conference players will be eligible to be selected for the All-State/All-Region Teams.

SECTION 9 Conference Coach-Of-The-Year

Policy 1 Men's Basketball

This award will be given to the coach of the conference championship team.

Policy 2 Women's Basketball

This award will be given to the coach of the conference championship team.

Policy 3 Baseball

- A. To be called "Bill Frazier Coach of the Year Award".
- B. Winner is not automatic, but by majority vote. In the event of ties (ex.2-2-7, 2-2-1-1, 3-2-2) vote again. Tie between two coaches = Co-Coach-of-the-Year.
- C. Notifying all media outlets for All-Conference team and Coach of the Year will be handled on an individual basis.

Policy 4 Softball

Conference coaches shall vote for a *Coach of the Year*, a *Player of the Year* and a *Pitcher of the Year*; with pitcher being eligible for *Player of the Year* honors.

Policy 5 Volleyball

This award will be given to the coach of the conference championship team.

SECTION 10 General Sports Policies-Men's Basketball

Policy 1 Conference Play

- A. Conference games will be played on Tuesday/Wednesday and Saturday

- B. Starting and ending dates for conference play and conference play-off dates will vary each year. Check the conference minutes to determine these dates.
- C. Officials' pay will be \$100.00 per game for non-conference and \$125.00 for conference games for the 2011-2012 season.
- D. Officials' Coordinator fee is \$500 for 2011-2012.

Policy 2 Method of Selecting Tournament Representatives

- A. If there is a two way tie for first place, the teams will be co-champions. The team that won two or more of the conference games played between the two teams will represent the conference as the number one team. The other team will represent the conference as the number two team.
- B. If there is a tie for second place, the two teams will play at the nearest division member's neutral court, based on total mileage for both teams.
- C. In the event of a three-way tie for first place, the teams will be tri-champions and the following will apply:
 - 1. The team with the best conference record involving play between three teams will receive a bye. The two teams not receiving the bye will meet in a play-off at a neutral site. The team with the best record will play the loser, on their home floor.
 - 2. If the three teams tied have identical records in conference play involving games against each other, a drawing in the presence of a College President will determine which two teams play. The first team drawn will receive a bye and the other two teams will meet in a play-off. All games will be at a neutral site.
 - 3. The second night of the play-off, the bye team will play the loser of the previous night, at a neutral site. The winner of this game advances to the state tournament as the number one or number two seed, depending on head to head competition with the winner of the first game of the play-off.
 - 4. This revised policy states: Both teams that represent the Panhandle in the State Tournament must win a game on the court instead of being drawn out of a hat.

- D. In the event of a three-way tie for second place, the following will apply:
 - 1. Same as above, except all games will be played at a neutral site.
 - 2. Same as above.
 - 3. The second night of the play-off, the bye team will play the winner of the previous night at the nearest division members neutral court, based on total mileage for both teams. The winner will represent the Panhandle as the second place team.
- E. A four- way tie for first place will be drawn by the fifth Team President to determine pairings. The games will be played on Wednesday at 6:00 and 8:00 at a neutral site. The two winners advance as 1st and 2nd place based on head to head competition.
- F. A four-way tie for second place will be drawn by the first Team President to determine pairings. The games will be played Tuesday at 6:00 and 8:00. The winners will play Wednesday at a neutral site. The winner will advance as a 2nd place qualifier.
- G. A five-way tie will be a blind draw to determine who plays.
 - 1. There will be a play-in game and the single elimination until there are two winners.

Policy 3 General Rules

- A. Game time for all conference double headers is 5:30pm for the women's games and 7:30 pm for the men's games.
- B. No dunking in warm-ups or at half time.
- C. A cooler will be provided on the bench for the visiting team by the home team.
- D. Home team will provide the visiting team with six or more FCSAA sanctioned basketballs.
- E. FCSAA cards, coaches' cards, and/or athletic director's passes will serve as free admission to away conference games. Cheerleaders of the visiting team will get in free.
- F. All teams will provide their own towels.

- G. Visiting teams are required to provide their own training supplies when requesting host team's assistance with taping, etc.
- H. A check in "X: for substitutions will be placed at each scorer's table.

Policy 4 Video Exchange

- A. There will be no correspondence of video tapes sent between coaches and officials. All video tape copies to officials must be sent out by Supervisor of Officials.
- B. There will be no game tapes of conference members sent to other schools for scouting purposes.
- C. Each Panhandle Conference school will furnish two of their pre-conference game tapes to other conference schools.
- D. By December 1, each conference school will notify the other conference schools of the pre-conference tapes (two) they are requesting.
- E. By December 20th, each coach will receive at their home the requested tapes from the other conference schools.

Section 11 General Sport's Policies- Women's Basketball

Policy 1 Conference Scheduling

- A. If five (5) or more teams of the conferences colleges participate in women's basketball, a rotating schedule will be used with teams playing three (3) times each year prior to the men at 5:30 pm. This will give the conference two (2) or three (3) automatic qualifiers for tournament play.
- B. All conference games will be played on Tuesday/Wednesday, or Saturday. No games can be changed without the Athletic Director's approval and the conference chair.

Policy 2 Conference Officials Coordinator

The conference will select a coordinator to assign officials for all home games played. The coordinator will be paid \$500 from each school.

Policy 3 Conference Officials

The conference will use three-person crews for all games with each official being paid \$125. All officials rated at the conference jamboree will officiate during the fall schedule. The official's coordinator will use the rating cards from coaches as well as their own rating to schedule the best officials for conference play.

Policy 4 Clock Operators/Shot Clock Operators/Scorekeeper

Each college must provide qualified adults for these positions.

Policy 5 Towels-Drinks

Teams will provide their own towels. The host team is responsible for providing drinks or water on the bench.

Policy 6 Pep Bands

Pep bands cannot sit behind the visiting team nor play during live-ball situations.

Policy 7 Basketballs

Home team will provide the visiting team with six or more FCSAA sanctioned basketballs.

Policy 8 Jamboree

There will be a conference jamboree each year to start the basketball season. Each conference school will attend. The site will be selected each year at the conference meeting.

Policy 9 Conference Championship Rules

- A. First Place- two-way tie for first place when two (2) teams qualify for post-season play:

1. The teams are co-champions and the team that won two or more of the conference games played between the two teams will represent the conference as the number one team. The other team will represent the conference as the number two team.
- B. First Place-three-way tie with only two (2) teams qualifying for post-season play, the following will apply:
1. The team with the best conference record involving play between the three teams will receive a bye. The two teams not receiving a bye will meet in a play-off.
 2. If the three teams tied have identical records in conference play involving games against each other, the Conference Chair will conduct a drawing in the presence of the College President to determine which two teams play. The first team drawn will receive a bye and the other two teams meet in a play-off.
 3. This game will be played at the bye team's gym.
 4. The second night of the play-off, the bye team will play the loser of the previous night, at a neutral site. The winner of this game advances to the state tournament as the number one or number two seed, depending on head to head competition with the winner of the first game of the play-off.
- C. First Place- three-way tie for first place when three (3) teams qualify for post-season play:
1. The teams are tri-champions. Seeding for post-season play will be head-to-head between the three teams to determine the number one seed then head-to-head with the remaining two teams to determine the number two and number three seeds. If head-to-head cannot determine the original seed, the Conference Chair will conduct a drawing in the presence of the College President to determine seeding as all three (3) teams enter post-season.
- D. Second Place- second place tie with only two (2) teams qualifying for post-season play:

1. The two teams will play at the nearest division member's neutral court, based on total mileage for both teams.
- E. Second Place- second place three-way tie with only two (2) teams qualifying for post-season play:
1. The team with the best conference record involving play between the three teams will receive a bye. The two teams not receiving a bye will meet in a play-off.
 2. If the three teams tied have identical records in conference play involving games against each other, the Conference Chair will conduct a drawing in the presence of the College President to determine which two teams play. The first team drawn will receive a bye and the other two teams meet in a play-off.
 3. This game will be played at the bye team's gym.
 4. The second night of the play-off, the bye team will play the winner of the previous night at the gym of the first night's play-off loser. The winner of this game advances to the state tournament as the number two seed.
- F. Second place- three-way tie with three (3) teams qualifying for post-season play:
1. The team with the best conference record involving play between the three teams will receive a bye. The two teams not receiving a bye will meet in a play-off.
 2. If the three teams tied have identical records in conference play involving games against each other, Conference Chair will conduct a drawing in the presence of the College President to determine which two teams play. The first team drawn will receive a bye and the other two teams meet in a play-off.
 3. This game will be played at the bye team's gym with the winner advancing to post-season play.
 4. The second night of the play-off, the bye team will play the loser of the previous night, at a neutral site. The winner of this game advances to the state tournament as the number two or number three seed, depending on head to head competition with the winner of the first game of the play-off.

- G. Third Place-Two teams tie with three (3) teams qualifying for post-season play:
1. The team with the best conference record involving play between the three teams will receive a bye. The two teams not receiving a bye will meet in a play-off.
 2. If the three teams tied have identical records in conference play involving games against each other, the Division Secretary will conduct a drawing in the presence of the College President to determine which two teams play. The first team drawn will receive a bye and the other two teams meet in a play-off.
 3. This game will be played at the bye team's gym.
 4. The second night of the play-off, the bye team will play the winner of the previous night at the gym of the first night's play-off loser. The winner of this game advances to the state tournament as the number one seed. The remaining two teams will look at head-to-head competition in conference play and the team with the best head-to-head record will advance to the state tournament as the number two seed.

Section 13 General Sports Policies-Baseball

Policy 1 Fall Baseball

- A. Fall practice will begin on the last Monday of August.
- B. Fall All-Star Game Coaches will be determined by Head Coach from the previous year's Conference Champion.

Policy 2 Conference Scheduling

Conference game times to be determined by home team.

Policy 3 Rain Outs-Suspended Games

- A. Interrupted games will be resumed at the point of interruption (darkness, rain), no matter the inning.
- B. Suspended games-(Trip already made or game in progress or not)

The visiting team will be extended the option of returning on the next available date to resume play, pending availability of transportation, OR play suspended game as part of doubleheader on next trip to the site. If suspension occurs on last trip of year to the site in question, then game will be made up at the next meeting between the teams.

- C. Make-up games will be the same number of innings as originally scheduled.
- D. For teams traveling overnight game will be made up as part of double-header at that site if teams are scheduled to play there again. If not returning to that site again, it will be made up next time they meet.
- E. Cancelled games - (games called with no team travel) games will be played on next available date as per 1-4 below.
 - 1. Weekend Series: Would play Sunday first, then Monday if neither would play Thursday.
 - 2. Weekday Series: Would play Thursday first, then Friday if no conference game previously scheduled, then Sunday if no conference game previously scheduled then Monday.
 - 3. Overnight Opponents: Use double-header scheme -see above.
 - 4. In the event of a Break Week: Available days in which to reschedule would exceed number of games by one with earliest day given first priority (i.e. one game to make up you get first two days -Monday first then Tuesday. Two games to make up would give you three days, Monday first, then Tuesday, then Wednesday).
- F. Rainouts/Suspended games in the last series between teams will not be made up unless it has a bearing on a team going to the state tournament.

Policy 4 Protest Procedures

- A. Protest must be handled at site.
- B. Rule book must be present -no book, no protest.
- C. Protest allowed on "Rules" only, "no judgments".
- D. Umpire coordinator will ensure that all conference umpires will be approachable and act in a professional manner.

- E. Final judgment belongs to umpires -their decision is final.

Policy 5 Playoff Procedures

A. First Place Tie:

1. Head to head record determines first and second seed for FCSAA Tournament.
2. Teams will be recognized as Co-Champions.
3. If head to head is tied, will move to record vs. 3rd place team, then 4th place team, etc., to determine top seed.

B. Two Team Tie for Second:

1. One game playoff
2. Head to head record will determine the home team. If tied, go to record vs. 1st, 4th, and then 5th to determine host team.
3. After two days off, next available day not to conflict with finals.
4. Host tem will cover all expenses.

C. Three Team Tie for First or Second:

1. Head to head record is the #1 seed for the FCSAA Tournament and automatically qualifies.
2. If head to head is tied, use record vs. 4th place team, then 5th place team.
3. If still tied, use fewest runs allowed vs. head to head.
4. Coin toss.
5. Remaining two teams will play a one game playoff with the top seed as host.

Policy 6 Umpires

- A. Conference will use conference umpires.
- B. Fees to be voted on every three years
- C. Conference umpire selection to be done by member coaches and Conference Coordinator.
- D. Official recommendation list to be provided by umpire coordinator and voted on by coaches.

- E. Conference umpire coordinator will evaluate each umpire at least once.

Policy 7 State Umpire Selection

- A. Each coach and Conference Umpire Coordinator will rank his top three and vote.
- B. We will assign 5-3-1 point system.
- C. Coaches and Conference Umpire Coordinator will have rankings to conference chair by end of fall meeting for tabulation.
- D. Conference Chair will forward Choice #1, Choice#2, etc. to umpire coordinator.
- E. State umpires can work two years consecutively.

Policy 8 Mercy Rule

Conference games will be played under the “mercy rule” of 10 runs after 5 innings and 8 runs after 7 innings.

Section 14 General Sports Policies-Softball

Policy 1 Rules

- A. Panhandle Conference games will be played by the current NJCAA, NCAA, and FCSAA rules and policies.
- B. Each playing date will be a doubleheader, consisting of 2 seven inning games with the NCAA run rule and international tie breaking rule in effect.
- C. The home team will take infield warm up 25 minutes before game time. Infield warm up will not exceed 10 minutes.

Policy 2 Umpires

Officials must be registered with the NCAA & FCSAA. It is each conference coach’s responsibility to forward the names of their home officials to the FCSAA prior to the start of conference play.

Policy 3 Rainouts

- A. The home team will call the Coach/Athletic Director's office of the conference opponent if the weather is obviously not going to allow play for any game before they depart their campus.
- B. Teams will reschedule rained out games at the original site at the next open designated date. Coaches must adhere to all rain dates scheduled. If teams have scheduled non-conference games and/or tournaments on these rain dates, precedence is conference play. *If there is a mutually agreed upon date before the designated rain date the game may be made up at the agreed upon date.* If there is a no-show, the conference team in fault will forfeit both games.
- C. Rain out games or unplayed games that do not affect the playoff standings needed to qualify for State may or may not be played.
- D. In the event that a team spends travel money to participate in a conference double header and for some reason the double header cannot be completed, then the game/games will be made up at the end of the season as an "if necessary" situation, or earlier if both teams agree to financially undertake another trip.
- E. Conference games must be played to their entirety to count.

Policy 3 Uniforms

All home games, the home team will wear light uniforms (i.e. white) and the visiting team will wear dark uniforms (i.e. black) for conference play.

Policy 4 Spring Schedule

- A. The Panhandle Conference is on a permanent rotating schedule. Each April, the chairperson will simply rotate each team on the master schedule and produce the new schedule. Along with the automatic rotation, home and away games will be switched.
- B. Each team will play the other conference teams one date at home and one date away. The conference contract will be distributed by the Conference Chairman.
- C. Playing times:

Monday – Friday

CC 4:00/6:00 p.m.

GCCC 4:00/6:00 p.m.

NWFS 4:00/6:00 p.m.

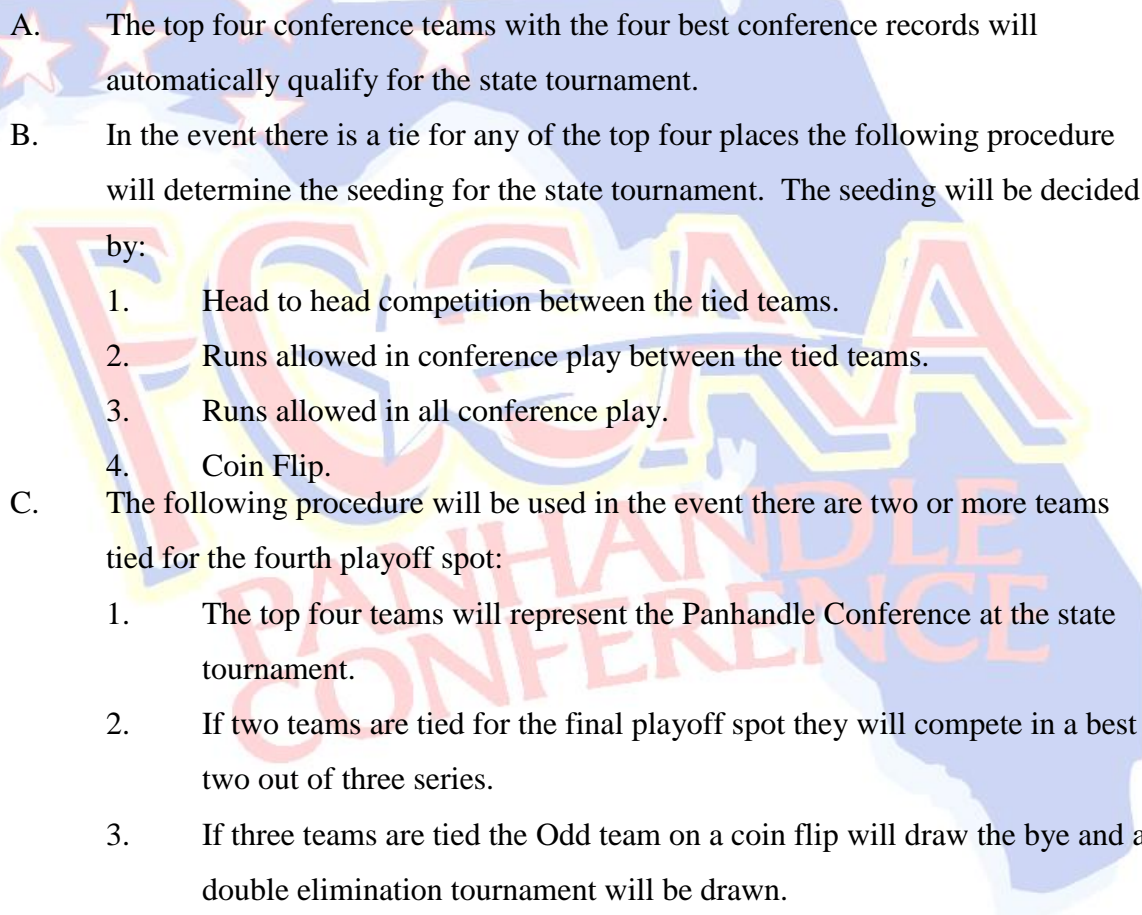
PJC 4:00/6:00 p.m.

TCC 4:00/6:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Saturday & Sunday

1 & 3 p.m.

Policy 5 Conference Championship Rules

- 
- A. The top four conference teams with the four best conference records will automatically qualify for the state tournament.
- B. In the event there is a tie for any of the top four places the following procedure will determine the seeding for the state tournament. The seeding will be decided by:
1. Head to head competition between the tied teams.
 2. Runs allowed in conference play between the tied teams.
 3. Runs allowed in all conference play.
 4. Coin Flip.
- C. The following procedure will be used in the event there are two or more teams tied for the fourth playoff spot:
1. The top four teams will represent the Panhandle Conference at the state tournament.
 2. If two teams are tied for the final playoff spot they will compete in a best two out of three series.
 3. If three teams are tied the Odd team on a coin flip will draw the bye and a double elimination tournament will be drawn.
 4. Brackets will be drawn according to NCAA double elimination tournament.
 5. All other conference playoff procedures will be followed:
 - a. Flip for home team each game. Home team will be the official scorebook.

- b. Games will be played at a neutral site of non-involved conference team.
- c. Umpires will be agreed upon by participating coaches.
- d. Participating coaches will have a choice of 5 umpires. Each participating coach may scratch one umpire.
- e. Games will start on the specified playoff date, the second weekend after conference play ends. Note: Friday and Saturday - Sunday will serve as a rain date.
- f. Each team will supply an official game ball.
- g. The host team will provide
 - i. Facility
 - ii. Umpires
 - iii. Water in dugouts
 - iv. Umpire cost will be divided evenly among participating teams.

Policy 6 Game Ball

The official softball to be used by the Panhandle Conference for regular season play will be the State adopted ball.

Section 15 General Sports Policies- Volleyball

Policy 1 Rules

- A. Panhandle Conference games will be played by the current NJCAA, NCAA, and FCSAA rules and policies.
- B. Each playing date will be the respective coaches. There shall be an odd number of matches to prevent ties.
- C. The home team will be decided by the coaches involved, if the coaches cannot agree, the Athletic Directors will determine by a coin toss.

Policy 2 Officials

The Panhandle Conference will use only NCAA registered officials. It is the responsibility of the home team to provide two NCAA registered officials and the judge for each match.

Policy 3 Inclement Weather

- A. The home team will call the Coach/ Athletic Director's office of the conference opponent if the weather is obviously not going to allow play/travel for any game before they depart their campus.
- B. Teams will reschedule rained out games at the original site at the next open designated date. NCAA rained out procedures will apply. If coaches fail to agree on make-up dates they will be decided by the Athletic Directors.

Policy 4 Uniforms

In all matches the home team will wear like uniforms and the visiting team will wear like uniforms for conference play.

Policy 5 Conference Championship Rules

The conference team with the best overall conference record will automatically qualify for the state tournament.