



## **2023 NAIA Softball Opening Round Pregame Procedures**

1. Each team will have a field to warm up on prior to each game. The warmup field will become available once the current game begins. The home team will warm up on the field behind the third base dugout and the visiting team will warm up on the field behind the third base dugout. (This could change based on field availability and playability.)
2. The home team shall occupy the third base dugout.
3. Line-up cards must be printed, complete with first and last name, uniform number and position number. All substitutes must be listed. A copy must be provided to the opposing team, the home plate umpire, the official scorekeeper and the public address announcer.
4. Team introductions will be made prior to every game. The starting line-up, by batting order, will be introduced, then substitutions, then coaches. The home team will line up from home plate to third base and visitors will line up from home plate to first base all facing the infield.
5. Each pitcher shall be provided with a game ball. At the beginning of the game, the pitcher may begin with either ball. All balls going out of play shall be returned to the games committee member in charge of that game.
6. Umpires shall check all bats prior to the start of each game. Any bat found to be illegal shall be taken from the team. The confiscated equipment shall be returned to the team at the conclusion of that team's participation in the World Series.
7. Play is suspended when there is an eight (8) run differential after 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead, and after 5 complete innings if the visiting team is ahead.

Tie-breaker procedures will not be used.

### **General policies for all games:**

1. No game will begin early.
2. Teams are not allowed on the dirt (infield area) until all members of the grounds crew have completed the field preparations and left the infield.
3. The visiting team will take the first warm-up session followed by the home team's warm-up session. If neither team utilizes the full time allotted the other team will not be given the extra time to warm-up.
4. Coaches will meet with umpires to check line-ups and review ground rules after infield warm-up.