I. **Rules of Play**
Rules governing Mid-South Conference regular-season and postseason play are the NCAA Baseball Playing Rules with NAIA modifications. Modifications may be found in the Postseason Competition section of the NAIA Coaches Manual for Baseball.

II. **General Information**
   A. Participating Members:
      1. Campbellsville University
      2. Cumberland University
      3. University of the Cumberlands
      4. Georgetown College
      5. Lindsey Wilson College
      6. University of Pikeville
      7. Shawnee State University
      8. Thomas More University
   B. Sports Chair: Micah Baumfeld, Georgetown College
   C. Conference Rater: Brad Shelton, University of the Cumberlands (term expires spring 2021)
   D. Sport Fee: $900 per team
   E. Official Ball: Rawlings R100NAIA-Flat Seam
   F. Last regular season conference rating will be frozen after the conference tournament
   G. All members are strongly encouraged to have field tarps to insure maximum number of games played

III. **Regular Season Competition**
   A. Regular season competition shall consist of a single round robin with a three-game series scheduled with each opponent on a home-and-home basis in alternating years.
   B. All games will be scheduled as a single 9-inning game on Friday (1:00pm start if no lights, 4:00pm or later if field has lights) and a single 9-inning game followed by a 7-inning game on Saturday (12:00pm start). If Friday start time is moved back for any reason, Saturday start time will be at least 15 hours after completion of Friday game(s) provided darkness is not a factor and/or lights are available.
   C. All regular season conference games will use a three-umpire system. Non-conference games may use a three-umpire system at the discretion of the host school.
   Compensation for officials will be as follows for the 2016-17 season:
      1. Single 9-inning game $140 per umpire
      2. Doubleheader w/ (1) 9-inning & (1) 7 inning-game $270 per umpire
      3. Doubleheader w/ (2) 9-inning games $275 per umpire
      4. Three-game Conference series w/3 umpires $1,200 per weekend
   D. In the event (or threat) of inclement weather, schedule may be adjusted anytime from Thursday to Sunday, with approval by both head coaches and both ADs. If the trip involves an overnight stay by the visiting team, games must be played on three consecutive days. No game shall begin after 3:00pm on Sunday.
   E. Teams should strive to complete 100% of their scheduled conference games, however each team must complete at least 75% of their conference schedule and play at least one game against each team to be eligible for the conference tournament.
1. Teams having reached the “75% and one” benchmark are not required but may reschedule games at their discretion. Games must be rescheduled in the order they were cancelled.

2. The ADs from both participating institutions must approve rescheduled games before they are submitted to the conference office for approval.

3. In the event that make-up games are necessary, conference games take precedence over non-conference games.

4. The Commissioner maintains the right to make the final determination if and when it will be necessary to reschedule games, if doing so is in the best interest of the conference and its members.

5. The Commissioner maintains the right to end the season, if, in the Commissioner’s opinion, all teams have made every effort to fulfill the schedule requirements.

F. Regular season conference series shall adhere to the NCAA “Halted Game” rule as follows:

1. Games #1 and #2 in the series will follow the NCAA “Halted Game” rule and will be completed according to the predetermined conclusion (7 or 9 innings) on the next day.
   a. If game #3 in the series cannot be completed to the predetermined conclusion within the three-day window, then the game will be cancelled and declared “no-contest.” No score or statistics will be recorded from the game, and the game will only be rescheduled if either team fails to meet the “75 & 1” policy.
   b. The rescheduled game, if necessary, will be re-started at the beginning.

2. If game #1 or #2 in the series cannot be completed to the predetermined conclusion within the three-day window, then the game will be considered a “Halted Game” and will only be rescheduled if either team fails to meet the “75 & 1” policy.
   a. The rescheduled game, if necessary, will resume at the point it was halted and will otherwise follow the NCAA “Halted Game” rule.
   b. In the event that it is necessary for game #1 or #2 of a series to be rescheduled, then both teams shall also play a second complete game (7 innings) on the rescheduled date, following the official conclusion of the halted game.

3. If it is later determined that a Halted Game will not be made up, then the Halted Game will be considered a cancelled game, the game will be declared no-contest, and no score or statistics will be recorded from the game.

4. As per NCAA rules, five innings will constitute an official game. Any contest in which five innings are satisfactorily completed will not be subject to the Halted Game policy.

5. Any halted or cancelled games that must be made up in order to meet the “75 & 1” policy will be rescheduled in the order that they were originally scheduled.

6. It will be up to each conference team to determine if they will follow the NCAA “Halted Game” rule for non-conference games. If so determined, it will be the responsibility of each conference team to appropriately communicate such with each of their non-conference opponents in accordance with the rule.

G. The 10-run rule will be in effect after the 7th inning of a 9-inning game. There is no 10-run rule for 7-inning games.

H. Regular season championship will be awarded based on best conference winning percentage. In the event of a tie, co-champions will be recognized.

IV. Post Season Competition

A postseason conference tournament will be held to determine the Mid-South Conference automatic berth in the NAIA National Baseball Championship per the conference’s qualification plan:
A. NAIA national qualifying deadlines and tournament dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Qualifying</th>
<th>Opening Round</th>
<th>World Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>May 11-14</td>
<td>May 22-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>May 17-20</td>
<td>May 28-June 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>May 16-19</td>
<td>May 27-June 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>May 15-18</td>
<td>May 26-June 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Tournament final site will be determined by the Administrative Council.

C. All teams will qualify for the conference tournament. Regular season conference winning percentage will determine eligibility and seeding.

D. The format for postseason conference play will be determined by the Administrative Council, with input from the Baseball Coaches Committee:
   1. 2019 Tournament Format: Top five conference teams based on regular season conference winning percentage will qualify to advance to final site for double-elimination format tournament.
   2. 2020 Tournament Format: Top two conference teams based on regular season conference winning percentage will qualify to advance to final site. Remaining six teams will play best-of-three series to determine other three final site seeds as follows:
      a. #3 seed will host #8 seed
      b. #4 seed will host #7 seed
      c. #5 seed will host #6 seed
   3. If nine or more teams in the conference, then six (6) teams will advance to final site.

E. In all tournament games, higher seed will be home team, except possibly in the championship game. In championship game, team coming out of the winner’s bracket will be home team, even if they are the lower seed. Higher seed will be home team in the “if necessary” game. Home team will choose uniform color and visiting team will choose dugout.

F. All tournament games will use a three-umpire system except for championship games, in which a four-umpire system will be used.

G. Ten-run rule (after 7 innings) will be in effect for all conference tournament games, except for the championship and “if necessary” games.

H. In the event of inclement weather, the following will be used to determine the conference automatic qualifier:
   1. If inclement weather interrupts/cancels play so that it becomes impossible to complete a double-elimination bracket by the qualifying deadline, the tournament will become single elimination. Any teams with a loss remaining in the bracket would be automatically eliminated from the tournament.
   2. In the event that the tournament cannot be completed by the qualifying deadline, the highest seeded team remaining in the bracket without a loss will receive the automatic bid.

V. Conference Awards
   A. Regular Season Conference Champion: Presented each year based on best conference winning percentage
   B. Conference Tournament Champion: Presented to the tournament winner
   C. Academic All-Conference: Presented to any student-athlete who has successfully completed at least 24 hours toward graduation and meets the established minimum cumulative grade point average.
   D. First-Team All-Conference: Consists of 19 players to be selected by head coaches:
      1. 4 infielders (1b, 2b, SS, 3B)
      2. 4 outfielders
3. 2 catchers
4. 4 pitchers
5. 1 relief pitcher
6. 1 designated hitter
7. 1 utility player
8. 2 extra positions (used at coaches’ discretion)

E. **Second-Team All-Conference:** Consists of 19 players using same format as First-Team All-Conference.

F. **Player of the Year:** Presented to the top player selected by coaches.

G. **Freshman of the Year:** Presented to the top freshman player selected by coaches.

H. **Pitcher of the Year:** Presented to the top pitcher selected by coaches.

I. **Coach of the Year:** Presented to head coach voted on by conference head coaches.

J. **Champions of Character:** Presented to one male nominee who best displays the five core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. The Administrative Council will establish specific guidelines for the award and selection process.

K. **Player of the Week:** Nominated each week during the regular season and voted on by the conference SIDs.

L. **Pitcher of the Week:** Nominated each week during the regular season and voted on by the conference SIDs.

M. **Gold Glove Team:** One (1) player per defensive position selected by the coaches based on fielding percentage during the regular season.

VI. **Other**

A. The use of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco products is not permitted by participants, coaches, cheerleaders, trainers, game administrators, or officials in the playing areas during all regular season and conference tournament competition and practices for such competition. The institution’s coaching staff, athletic administrators, game officials, event staff or host site coordinator (as applicable) shall enforce this policy through the following steps:

1. The conference office will issue an official warning/reminder to each member institution and officials association at the beginning of the academic year.

2. Member institutions will post signs in dugouts, locker rooms, weight rooms, training rooms and other appropriate areas reminding student-athletes about the policy.

3. Umpires will be instructed that any offense by a student-athlete or coach will result in immediate ejection from the game, tournament or event. All violations will follow NAIA rules for ejections.

4. Any offense by an athletic administrator or game official must be reported to the conference office. The Commissioner will be responsible for holding athletic administrators and game officials accountable and will determine appropriate penalties.