

# DI RAILBELT SOFTBALL BYLAWS

Railbelt Conference

Revised November 2024 | Adopted



## ARTICLE I: NAME

This association will be known as the Railbelt Conference

## ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The Railbelt softball conference will organize and administer a safe, equitable and optimal high school softball program for all softball student athletes, coaches and community.



## ARTICLE III. AFFILIATIONS

The membership shall consist of the following schools:

Colony High School  
Juneau Douglas High School  
Lathrop High School  
Wasilla High School  
West Valley High School

## ARTICLE IV. GOVERNING RULES

Softball competition will follow the guidelines established by the National Federation of State High Schools Association Softball rulebooks and all applicable rules and regulations established by ASAA and the Railbelt Conference Schools.

### Section 1: Hosting Events

ITEM 1: Game days may be Monday-Saturday.

ITEM 2: Medical personnel (EMT's, Paramedics, doctor, and/or trainer) if possible, will be provided by the host school.

ITEM 3: Crowd control is the responsibility of the host school. Spectators will not interfere with coaches or officials.

ITEM 4: No restrictions on filming softball games by any school at any game.

ITEM 5: Gate fee, if any, to be determined by the home team.

ITEM 6: Only certified officials shall be contracted to officiate any softball game.

ITEM 7: The responsibility for reporting game results to MaxPreps within 24 hours of game and to the press rests with the home team.



## **Section 2: Season**

The Alaska Schools Activities Association will determine the softball season.

## **Section 3: Scheduling**

A maximum 22 game schedule in one season (plus 2 endowment games), excluding post season play. Teams playing conference games within their own district will play a home and away game. When teams are traveling outside district lines for conference games, double header games will be played at the host school site for that season. When playing double header games the host school will be the home team for one game and the away team for the second game. In the event a game(s) is canceled due to weather or other circumstances beyond the control of the school(s), the one conference game that was played will count as two conference games.

All JV Games will be time limited with no new inning after 75 minutes. For JV games only, teams will switch out after 3 outs or 5 runs, whichever comes first.

Varsity games are time limited with no new inning after 90 minutes or 7 innings with the run rule in place.

## **Section 4: Region Tournament**

**The top two teams from the Regional Tournament will qualify for state.**

### **A. Tournament Bracketing**

A five team, double elimination bracket will be used.

### **B. Seeding of the Tournament**

Teams will be seeded according to the following criteria:

1. Region record
2. Head to head competition in Region play
- 2a. Fewest runs allowed between the tied teams. (Used when 3 or more teams are tied).
3. Head to Head competition outside Region play
4. Common opponent
5. Record against teams with higher seeds
6. Toss of a coin.

Once a single team breaks the tie process the tie breaking process goes back to the start and the process begins until the tie with the second and third teams are broken.

Note I: A seeding committee will be formed to seed the tournament if games are not able to be played due to unforeseen circumstances. (weather, etc.)

Note II: The higher seeded team in each contest will be awarded all privileges



normally assumed by the Home team.

**C. Team Rosters**

A tentative team roster, not to exceed 22 players, must be submitted to the host school at least ten days prior to the first day of the tournament. A final team roster of 18 players must be selected from this list and submitted to the tournament director no later than the conclusion of the coaches meeting. Thereafter, no changes or substitutions shall be permitted.

**D. Time Schedule**

Tournaments will be scheduled over 2-3 days (bracket dependent). The tournament director shall determine the starting times of the first round pairings. The host school may exercise the option of having their first round game played last on the first day only. A coaches meeting will be held on the Thursday before the conference tournament. All conference awards will be presented on Thursday evening.

**E. Board of Control**

A tournament Board of Control shall be chosen which is to consist of three individuals who have sufficient knowledge of the sport to make educated and fair decisions when necessary. It is recommended that one Board of Control member represent the school that will host the tournament during the following year. In the case of dispute, the tournament Board of Control's decision is final.

**F. Umpires**

The tournament director shall select the umpires for the regional tournament in the following manner:

- A minimum of 4 certified umpires are required for the tournament. The host school should attempt to get representation from each region for the conference tournament.
- The tournament director shall select the Head Official, who will then schedule the officials for each game in the tournament except for the championship game.
- The coaches of the schools competing in the championship game will determine the officials for that game in the following manner:
  - a. Each coach playing in the championship game, will submit one name to the Tournament Director as an umpire for the game. The two umpires selected will call the championship game. If the same name is submitted by both coaches, each coach will submit another name. The Board of Control will then decide who the second umpire will be.



**G. Section 9: Trophies/Awards**

The trophies and awards for the Softball Season will be purchased by Region III, invoices will be sent out to conference schools each season splitting the cost of awards evenly amongst the conference schools. There will be a team award for 1st place, along with individual medals (18) for the team.

By the Tuesday prior to the region tournament each head coach will submit names of players to the Tournament Host for consideration of an all conference

First Team = ten (10) athletes receiving most votes. (10 plus MVP)

Second Team = any athlete receiving a vote

Honorable Mention = any athlete nominated

**A. Selection Process:**

1. Head Coaches will nominate 4 players from their team into a selection pool.
2. The All Conference selection will be conducted on the Wednesday before the conference tournament.
3. Coaches will select the 9 best players regardless of year in school, team record, or position played.
4. There will be no allocation of all conference selection spots for each school. There could be a chance where a school or schools will have no all-conference players selected.
5. Coaches are encouraged to nominate only those worthy of recognition.
6. Coaches will need to supply nominations to the host school no later than three days prior to the selection meeting.
7. Additional nominations will not be accepted at the conference meeting.
8. The head coaches are encouraged to bring information supporting the merits of their nominees.
9. Coaches will discuss data and statistics of players and vote on 9 players. Transparent vote will take place.

**B. Host School Rotations for:**

The Host School would be the central site for running the selection meeting and coaches from the four other schools would determine the site for calling into the meeting.

2024	Wasilla
2025	Lathrop
2026	Colony
2027	West Valley

2028 Juneau-Douglas  
2029 Wasilla



- a. A total of 11 patches designating All-Conference selections will be awarded.

A **"Coach of the Year"** award will be voted by the coaches at the coaches meeting. Nominations may be accepted at the coaches meeting before voting. Each school's head coach or his designee shall have one vote. Coaches cannot vote for themselves and if there is a tie the **board of control** will break the tie.

A **"Good Sport Team"** will be chosen as follows:

At the coaches meeting, each coach will select one athlete on their team who displayed good sportsmanship throughout the entire season. These athletes will be recognized at the awards ceremony with a special medal.

The Board of Control will supervise the voting and counting of ballots. Should any discrepancies arise, the Board may nullify the vote and conduct a revote. All ties will be broken by the board of control.

During the coaches meeting, a discussion should be facilitated by the host school regarding any concerns or changes needed to the bylaws. These concerns will then be presented at the next region meeting.