



- **Ball:** The Rawlings NCAA softball is the official ball of the Northeast Conference and must be used in all Conference games.
- **Halted Game Rule:** All NEC softball teams will utilize the halted-game rule in all Conference games. This is spelled out in the NCAA Softball Rule Book. The decision to use the halted-game rule in non- conference games is up to each institution and its opponent.
- **Official Scorer:** The home team must provide a scorer's table to accommodate both the home and visiting teams books. The official book, which is the home book, must be kept at this table.
- **Postponing a Contest:** Only an administrator designated by the Athletic Director (i.e. SWA, Asst. AD, SID, etc.) from the host institution may postpone a contest before it begins due to inclement weather or an unsuitable playing field. The decision to postpone may not be made by a member of the host institution's coaching staff. Once a contest is underway, the decision to postpone may be made only by the umpires.
- **Protest Procedure:** No protest shall be permitted on judgment decisions by the umpire. Any protest by the coach of a competing team must be made at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest and before play is resumed. If the game ends (legal contest) in a protestable situation, the offended team has until the umpires leave the field to voice its protest intentions. All protests must be made to the plate umpire. The umpiring crew shall seek input from one coach of each team and try to settle the dispute on site in a professional, non-confrontational manner using softball a rules book. If the offended team chooses to continue to the protest, the decision to uphold or deny the protest is ultimately made by the secretary-rules editor of the NCAA rules committee. If the protest is upheld, the Conference office shall decide whether to continue the game at the point of the protest or declare "no contest." Decisions on a protest involving non-conference teams shall be resolved by the secretary-rules editor of the NCAA rules committee. For complete information regarding protests, the NCAA Softball Rules Book should be consulted.
- **Rules:** The NCAA Softball Rule Book will be followed. The eight-run rule, as described in the NCAA Rule Book, will be utilized in all regular season Conference games.
- **Tiebreaker Procedure:** The NEC will follow the NCAA recommendation regarding tiebreakers. Starting with the top of the 10th inning and each half-inning to follow, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player scheduled to bat ninth in that half inning being placed on second base (e.g., if the No. 5 batter is the lead-off batter, the No. 4 batter in the batting order will be placed on second base). A substitute may be inserted for the runner. In the case of inclement/threatening weather, it may be mutually agreed upon by both head coaches during the pregame meeting to start the tiebreaker in the 8th inning. This is the only exception to the rule. If it cannot be mutually agreed upon then the NCAA 10th inning rule will remain in effect.