

Regulation 4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

4.1 General Rules. Women's basketball Conference competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the NCAA, the Mountain West Handbook, the Mountain West Basketball Game Management Handbook and the Mountain West Basketball Championship Handbook.

4.2 Format. A regular season champion shall be determined through an 18-game conference schedule in which each team plays eight Conference opponents twice and two Conference opponents once (one home, one away). *(Revised May 2013)*

4.3 Regular-Season Champion. The regular-season champion shall be determined based on Conference winning percentage. In the event of a tie between two or more teams, such teams shall be considered co-champions.

4.4 Championship Tournament. An eleven-team single elimination Conference tournament shall be conducted to determine the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship. *(Revised, 2011, 2012, May 2013)*

4.4.1 Minimum Number of Participants. Member institutions that sponsor the sport of women's basketball shall take a minimum of five participants to the Conference Women's Basketball Championship. Institutions that do not meet the minimum number of participants requirement shall be assessed a fine of \$5,000 plus the costs associated with the team traveling to the Championship site. The Conference office shall determine the cost of traveling to the Championship site. If failure of the member institution to bring the minimum number of participants to the Conference Women's Basketball Championship results in a loss to the host institution, the fine shall be used to cover the expenses incurred by the host institution. If failure to bring the minimum number of participants to the Conference Women's Basketball Championship does not result in a loss to the host institution, the fine shall be included in the Conference championships budget. Waivers of the minimum number of participants rule may be granted by the Commissioner.

4.4.2 Open Practice/Media Session. Institutions participating in the Women's Basketball Conference Championship may participate in the open practice session and the media session that occurs prior to the Championship. The Conference office shall determine the time and location of the open practice and media session.

4.4.3 Arrival at Championship Site. Time of arrival for institutions participating in the Women's Basketball Conference Championship shall be left to the discretion of the institution. However, a team shall arrive no earlier than after classes two days prior to the team's first contest (i.e., Tuesday evening for a Thursday contest). Institutional oversight shall be provided by each director of athletics, senior woman administrator and faculty athletics representative. The intent is for all student-athletes to complete classes on the day prior to departure to the Championship site. *(Revised April 2004, May 2006)*

4.5 Automatic Qualifier. The Conference tournament champion shall be the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship. Other Conference teams may accept invitations to participate in postseason tournaments only when conducted or approved by the NCAA.

4.6 Cancellation of Championship. In the event the Conference championship cannot be started or, if started, cannot be completed, the Conference regular season champion shall represent the Conference as the automatic bid representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship. In the event two or more teams tied for the regular-season championship, Tournament Seeding will be used to determine the Conference's automatic bid representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship. *(Revised October 2001)*

4.7 Tournament Seeding. Tournament Seeding shall be based on regular season winning percentage in Conference competition. Additional information regarding seeding policies can be found in the Mountain West Basketball Championship Handbook.

4.8 Arrival at Contest Site - Conference Competition. The visiting team shall arrive at the contest site prepared to compete at the scheduled start time. A visiting team that does not

arrive at the contest site prepared to compete at the scheduled time shall incur the following penalties: *(Revised October 2002, October 2003)*

- a. Forfeiture of the contest at the moment the scheduled start time is reached, subject to the approval of the Conference office.
- b. A financial penalty equal to the amount of documented losses incurred by the host institution and the Conference, including but not limited to, ticket refunds, concession losses, facility rental, personnel expenses, television contract rebates, officiating fees and game operations costs.

4.9 Scheduling.

4.9.1 Conference Schedules. Scheduling of regular season Conference contests shall begin no later than May 1. The Conference office shall determine the date on which the schedule is released to the institutions and media. *(Revised April 2006, July 2013, May 2022)*

4.9.2 Non-Conference Schedule. In order to continue to improve institutional and Conference NET rankings, each team shall schedule and play no more than two regular season non-Division I contests per season. *(Revised July 2021)*

4.9.2.1 Penalty – Exceeding Maximum Number of Non-Conference Opponents. If a team schedules and plays more than two regular season non-Division I contests (defined as opponents that count in the determination of the NET rankings) in a given year, the institution shall be assessed a penalty of \$50,000 per occurrence. *(Revised October 2003, July 2021)*

4.10 Starting Times for Contests. Host institutions shall determine starting times for all contests, except those selected for television, and report the times to the Conference office no later than September 1.

4.10.1 Contest Time for Doubleheaders – Broadcast. The first contest of a doubleheader shall begin three hours prior to the second contest if the second contest is to be broadcast. If the second contest is not broadcast, the first contest shall begin

no less than two and one-half hours prior to the second contest. If the first contest is broadcast, the second contest may begin immediately thereafter at the discretion of the institution. Institutions shall work with media entities to allow for unobtrusive setup of broadcast requirements during the first contest of a doubleheader, should the second contest be the contest being broadcast.

4.11 Playing Rules. All Conference women's basketball contests shall be conducted according to the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules except as modified by Conference regulations.

4.12 Scouting Reports. A basketball coaching staff member shall not send film, video, or give a written or verbal scouting report on a Conference team to any institution outside the Conference.

4.13 Squad-Size Limitations.

4.13.1 Regular Season. Traveling squads shall be limited to 15 student-athletes for all Conference regular-season competition. If a team exceeds the squad-size limitation, the team shall decrease its travel party size by one full-time coach for the next away-from home Conference regular-season competition after the violation has been reported. There shall be no limit on the squad-size for the home team.

4.13.2 Conference Championship. Squad-sizes shall be limited to 15 student-athletes for the Conference championship. Team benches will be set with 20 chairs for a total of 24 participants allowed on the court level during game play. If a team exceeds the squad-size limitation, the team shall decrease its travel party size by one full-time coach for the next Conference championship contest after the violation has been reported. *(Revised May 2014, September 2018)*

4.14 Tickets.

4.14.1 Complimentary Tickets. The visiting institution shall be provided 50 complimentary tickets by the host institution, 24 of which shall be in the area directly behind the visiting team bench.

4.14.2 Student Ticket Exchange. There shall be no student exchange ticket arrangement between institutions in the Conference.

4.15 Video/Scouting Report Exchange. The dissemination of game video and/or scouting information on member institutions to non-conference institutions is prohibited. Video, film, or motion pictures shall not be taken for scouting purposes unless the team recording is one of the competing teams. Exchanging video among Conference teams shall be governed by the policies outlined in the Mountain West Basketball Game Management Handbook.

4.15.1 Violations of Video/Scouting Report Exchange Policy. A member institution that exchanges video or scouting reports in the sport of women's basketball with institutions outside the Conference shall be subject to the following:

- a. **First Offense.** Private reprimand of the head coach and the individual who sent the video/report to the institution outside the Conference.
- b. **Second Offense.** Written notice from the Conference of the second offense. A copy of the notice shall be kept in the personnel file of the individual in the office of the institution's director of athletics.
- c. **Third Offense.** The Commissioner shall suspend the head coach for one contest. Such suspension shall occur immediately following receipt of notice by the Commissioner.

4.16 Video. Video, film, or motion pictures shall not be taken for scouting purposes unless the team recording is one of the competing teams. Recording shall occur from a center perspective and shall follow the policies outlined in the Mountain West Basketball Game Management Handbook.

4.17 Awards. The Conference women's basketball coaches shall select recipients for all regular-season awards. Coaches shall not vote for themselves or for their own student-athletes. Should a coach fail to complete the entire ballot, the student-athletes from that team shall not be eligible to receive an award. Policies and procedures governing selection of the All-Conference and All-Defensive teams, as well as the individual awards, are outlined in the Mountain West Basketball Game Management Handbook. Policies and procedures governing

selection of the All-Tournament team are also outlined in the Mountain West Basketball Championship Handbook.

4.17.1 All-Conference Team. The All-Conference team shall consist of 10 first team student-athletes and select honorable mention. A five-member All-Freshman team and a five-member All-Defensive team also are recognized. Each shall be provided an award from the Conference except honorable mention. *(Revised May 2008, April 2013, June 2017)*

4.17.2 Individual Awards. Individual awards shall be provided to the Coach of the Year, Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year and Sixth Player of the Year. *(Revised May 2008)*

Head coaches shall be the only viable coach of the year candidates. There shall not be a tie for Mountain West Coach of the Year. In the event of a tie, coaches shall re-vote between the two (or more) highest vote receivers. Co-awards for the individual student-athlete awards are permitted, but there shall not be more than two. In the event of a three-way tie for an "Of the Year" award, the coaches shall re-vote amongst the three to get to one or two recipients.

To be considered for the Player of the Year, the recipient shall have been a first-team All-Conference selection. To be considered for the Defensive Player of the Year, the recipient shall have been a first-team All-Defensive team selection. To be considered for Freshman and/or Newcomer of the Year, the recipient shall have been the highest-ranking freshman and/or newcomer on any All-Conference team. Additionally, to be considered for Freshman of the Year, the recipient shall be on the All-Freshman team. *(Clarified August 2017)*

4.17.3 Tournament Awards. An All-Tournament team shall consist of five players. A tournament Most Valuable Player shall be chosen from among the five individuals named to the All-Tournament team.

4.18 Meeting of Coaches. There shall be an annual in-person or virtual meeting of the women's basketball coaches on a date to be determined. Attendance by each head coach at the meeting as well as media day is mandatory. *(Revised November 2003, July 2021)*