

## Regulation 9

# WOMEN'S SOCCER

**9.1 General Rules.** Women's soccer Conference competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the NCAA and the Bylaws, the Mountain West Handbook, the Mountain West Women's Soccer Game Management Handbook and the Mountain West Women's Soccer Championship Handbook.

**9.2 Format.** The Conference regular-season champion shall be determined through a single round-robin schedule.

**9.3 Regular-Season Team Champion.** The regular-season team champion shall be the institution with the highest number of points accumulated in Conference competition (3 points for a win, 1 for a tie, 0 for a loss).

**9.4 Championship Tournament.** A six-team, single-elimination Conference tournament shall be held with the tournament champion representing the Conference as its automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship. *(Revised October 2005, December 2012, February 2014)*

**9.4.1 Minimum Number of Participants.** Member institutions that sponsor the sport of women's soccer shall take a minimum of 11 participants to the Conference Women's Soccer 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 Soccer 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 Soccer 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.

**9.4.2 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 representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship. Additional information and exceptions regarding the cancellation of the Championship can be found in the Mountain West Women's Soccer Championship Handbook. *(Revised October 2001)*

**9.4.3 Championship Game Ball.** The official game ball for all Championship contests shall be determined by the Conference.

**9.4.4 Tournament Date.** The Conference championship shall be held the Sunday – Saturday immediately preceding the day of selection for the NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship. *(Revised December 2010, February 2013, February 2014, April 2022)*

**9.4.5 Tournament Seeding.** Tournament Seeding shall be determined based on the final regular-season Conference results. Teams shall be seeded according to the number of Mountain West points accumulated (3 points for a win, 1 for a tie, 0 for a loss). Additional information regarding tournament seeding can be found in the Mountain West Women's Soccer Championship Handbook.

**9.4.6 Pre-Championship Meeting.** A pre-championship conference call shall be held on the Sunday prior to the start of the Championship. The head coaches of all participating institutions are required to participate in the conference call. A head coach who fails to participate in the mandatory pre-championship conference call shall have written notification sent to their director of athletics and institutional sport administrator. If a head coach provides the Conference office advanced notification of their absence from the conference call, the Commissioner (or designee) may approve of a substitute. Conference office staff and an institutional representative also shall participate in the conference call. *(Adopted October 2006; Revised December 2010, February 2013, February 2014, May 2017)*

**9.5 Automatic Qualifier.** The Conference tournament champion shall be the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship.

**9.6 Playing Rules.** All Conference soccer contests shall be conducted according to the NCAA Women's Soccer Rules except as modified by Conference regulations.

**9.7 Video 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 Women's Soccer Game Management Handbook. *(Revised October 2001, December 2007 and January 2009).*

**9.7.1 Violations of Video/Scouting Report Exchange Policy.** A member institution that exchanges video or scouting reports in the sport of soccer 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 to 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.

**9.8 Squad-Size Limitations.** Traveling squad-size limits shall be 22 student-athletes for regular-season Conference competition and 22 for the Conference championship. 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 regular-season Conference competition after the violation has been reported. There shall be no squad-size limit on the home team for regular-season contests. *(Revised February 2005, May 2010)*

**9.9 Awards.** The women's soccer coaches shall select recipients for Conference awards at the conclusion of the regular season. Nominees will be submitted by the coaches and distributed by the Mountain West media relations staff in conjunction with the final stats at the end of

the season. Should a coach fail to complete the entire ballot, the student-athletes from that team shall not be eligible to receive an award. Awards shall be based on regular-season Conference-only performances. Coaches shall not vote for themselves or for their own student-athletes. Additional awards policies and procedures can be found in the Mountain West Women's Soccer Game Management and Championship Handbooks. *(Revised November 2014)*

**9.9.1 All-Conference Team.** The All-Conference team shall consist of 11 first-team student-athletes, 11 second-team student-athletes and 11 Newcomers-team student-athletes, regardless of position. There shall be a designated goalkeeper on each team. Each student-athlete shall be provided an award from the Conference. *(Revised January 2006, February 2013, December 2014, February 2016)*

**9.9.2 Individual Awards.** Individual awards shall be provided to the Coach of the Year, the Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year and the Newcomer of the Year.

Only head coaches are viable coach of the year candidates. There may 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 must 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 Offensive Player of the Year and/or Defensive Player of the Year, the recipient shall have been a first-team All-Conference selection. To be considered for Newcomer of the Year, the recipient shall have been the highest-ranking freshman on any All-Conference team. *(Clarified August 2017)*

**9.9.3 All-Tournament Awards.** An all-tournament team shall consist of 11 student-athletes, regardless of position. In addition, a tournament Most Valuable Player shall be chosen.

The all-tournament team shall be selected by the coaches as follows: the coaches of the teams losing in the semifinals shall select two student-athletes each from their respective teams, the coach of the runner-up team shall select three student-athletes

from its team and the winning coach shall select four student-athletes from its team, including a Most Valuable Player. *(Revised March 2006)*

**9.10 Meeting of Coaches.** There shall be an annual meeting of the soccer coaches to be held each year on a date to be determined in consultation with the administrative liaison. Any changes shall be subject to approval by the Joint Council. Attendance by each head coach is mandatory. *(Revised December 2014, January 2018, July 2021)*