

Regulation 10

SOFTBALL

10.1 General Rules. Softball Conference competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the NCAA, the Mountain West Handbook and the Mountain West Softball Game Management Handbook.

10.2 Format. The Conference regular-season champion shall be determined through a single round-robin schedule. *(Revised December 2010)*

10.3 Regular-Season Champion. The regular-season champion shall be the institution with the highest regular-season winning percentage in Conference competition. In the event of a tie, there shall be co-champions. *(Revised June 2008)*

10.4 Automatic Qualifier. A Conference tournament shall be held to determine the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Softball Championship. *(Revised April 2006, June 2022)*

10.5 Playing Rules. All Conference softball contests shall be conducted according to NCAA Softball Rules, including rules adopted for NCAA tournament competition, except as modified by Conference regulations.

10.6 Scouting of Opponents. Scouting of a Conference opponent is prohibited. Coaches and/or administrators may attend contests versus a Conference opponent that involves a member of the coach's or administrator's immediate family provided no scouting activities take place. *(Revised July 2002, June 2008)*

10.7 Video/Scouting Report Exchange. A coach shall not send film, video or give a written or verbal scouting report on a Conference team to any institution outside the Conference.

10.7.1 Violations of Video/Scouting Report Exchange Policy. A member institution that exchanges video or scouting reports in the sport of softball 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.

10.8 Squad-Size Limitations. Traveling team squad sizes shall be limited to 22 student-athletes for regular-season Conference 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 regular-season Conference competition after the violation has been reported. There shall be no squad-size limit on the home team. *(Revised June 2022)*

10.9 Time Between Contests. The time between contests of a doubleheader shall be a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes. The host institution shall inform the umpires as to the time between contests.

10.10 Awards. The softball coaches shall select recipients for each Conference award. Coaches shall not vote for themselves or for their own student-athletes for any of the awards. 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 awards selection are outlined in the Mountain West Softball Game Management Handbook.

10.10.1 All-Conference Team. The All-Conference team shall consist of 30 student-athletes (15 first-team and 15 second-team members). Each student-athlete shall be provided an award from the Conference. *(Revised July 2013)*

10.10.2 Individual Awards. Individual awards shall be provided to the Coach of the Year, Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year. *(Revised July 2013)*

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

10.11 Meeting of Coaches. There shall be an annual meeting of the softball 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 April 2006, July 2021)*