

## Regulation 1

# GENERAL REGULATIONS

**1.1 General.** The Administrative Sport Regulations shall become effective upon the adoption by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the Board of Directors to become effective on the date provided in the vote adopting the amendment. A proposed amendment may be initiated and submitted in writing to the Board of Directors by any member of the Board of Directors or by action of the Joint Council. If action favorable to an amendment is taken by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Joint Council, the same shall be adopted only after it has been confirmed at the following regular meeting of the Joint Council or approved by the Board of Directors. Unless otherwise stated, actions of governance groups and committees shall be determined by a majority vote. *(Clarified September 2017)*

**1.1.1 Governing Playing Rules and Regulations.** All regular-season competition and Conference championships shall be conducted under NCAA rules, regulations, and format except when specifically modified by Joint Council action. Any additional rules or regulations made by the Joint Council shall be more stringent than those of the NCAA.

**1.2 Minimum Sports Sponsorship.** Each full member institution shall field varsity teams in football, women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, one women's team sport and additional men's and women's sports as prescribed by the NCAA to maintain Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) membership.

**1.3 Adding or Discontinuing a Conference Championship Sport.** A member institution must notify the Commissioner no later than one year prior to the start of the applicable sports season if the institution intends to begin a Conference-sponsored sport during the ensuing academic year. A member institution must notify the Commissioner no later than February 1 if the institution intends to discontinue a Conference-sponsored sport. *(Revised January 2013, effective July 1, 2013, for institutions adding or discontinuing a Conference championship sport on or after July 1, 2013)*

**1.4 Sport Committees.** Each Conference sport shall have a sport committee consisting of the head coach from each Conference institution. Each sport committee shall have an administrative liaison who is a member of the Joint Council. Administrative liaisons shall attend the respective mandatory coaches meetings. The Conference office shall pay (in accordance with established policies) the travel expenses of the administrative liaison to travel to coaches meetings. *(Revised April 2006)*

**1.4.1 Institutional Voting.** Voting during coaches meetings is governed by the "one vote per sport per institution" premise. If an issue relates only to women's programs, those institutions with women's programs may vote. Conversely, if an issue relates only to men's programs, those institutions with men's programs may vote. If an issue impacts both the men's and women's programs, those institutions with both programs may cast two votes.

**1.4.2 Reintroduction of Issues.** Sport committees shall not reintroduce issues that previously have been resolved for a minimum of two years. If new information becomes available or if changes to NCAA rules impact the original decision, the issue may be reviewed prior to the end of the two-year period. *(Adopted April 2007)*

**1.5 Artificial Noisemakers.** Artificial noisemakers are prohibited during athletics competition in all sports (except women's soccer, which defers to NCAA always playing rules); this includes non-conference as well as Conference competition. An institution shall not distribute or cause to be distributed artificial noisemakers. Reasonable efforts shall be made by the institution to confiscate artificial noisemakers brought into athletics competitions. Institutions shall submit to the Conference office for review items with noisemaking implications prior to purchasing or entering into an agreement for purchase of such items. An institution that violates this provision shall be subject to the following: *(Revised October 2003, April 2004, December 2012, August 2018)*

- a. First offense: Warning from the Conference office.
- b. Second and subsequent offenses: A financial penalty determined by the Conference Commissioner.

**1.6 Meeting of Coaches.** All head coaches in all Conference sports shall attend/participate in one annual mandatory Conference coaches meeting unless prior approval for being absent is granted by the Commissioner. A head coach who fails to attend a mandatory meeting/conference call shall have written notification sent to their director of athletics and institutional sport administrator. In the case of an excused absence, an assistant coach may represent the head coach as an approved substitute. Additional information regarding the meeting of coaches can be found in the respective sport-specific regulation and handbook. *(Revised April 2006, June 2017)*

**1.6.1 Mandatory Participation in Pre-Championship Meetings/Conference Calls.** A head coach who fails to attend a mandatory pre-championship meeting/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 at the meeting, the Commissioner (or designee) may approve of a substitute. Conference office staff and an institutional representative also shall attend the meeting. Additional information regarding mandatory participation in pre-championship meeting and conference calls can be found in the respective sport-specific regulation and handbook. *(Adopted October 2006; Revised June 2017)*

**1.6.2 Institutional Votes from Members not in Attendance at Meetings or on Conference Calls.** Coaches and administrators, or designees, must be present at the meeting or on the conference call when voting commences to be included in the recorded action. *(Adopted October 2006)*

**1.7 Interrupted Contest Procedures.** All personnel, including game officials, coaches, players, athletics directors, game management personnel and Conference office staff, are required to use their best efforts to see that each Conference regular-season or championship contest is played to its conclusion. The Conference recognizes, however, that emergencies may arise which make a contest's start or completion impossible or inadvisable. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, severely inclement weather, natural or man-made disasters, power failure and spectator interference. In all instances, only the Commissioner or his designee, has the sole authority to declare a game cancelled, postponed, rescheduled or terminated.

Subject to the applicable NCAA playing rules of the particular sport, the procedures shall be as follows:

**1.7.1 Definitions.**

**1.7.1.1 Suspend.** To suspend a contest is to temporarily halt play for a short duration or to delay the start of a contest temporarily.

**1.7.1.2 Cancel.** To cancel a contest is to nullify it either before or after it begins and to make no provision for rescheduling it or for including its score or other performance statistics in Conference records.

**1.7.1.3 Postpone.** To postpone a contest is to (a) defer it to a later date, or (b) suspend it after play has begun and make provision to resume it at a later date with all scores and other performance statistics up to the point of postponement added to those achieved in the resumed portion of the contest. *(Revised February 2005)*

**1.7.1.4 Reschedule.** To reschedule a contest is to start the contest on another date or time that is mutually agreed upon by the institutions or determined by the Commissioner or his designee.

**1.7.1.5 Terminate.** To terminate a contest is to end it short of completion, officially record it as a completed contest, and make no provision to resume it later.

**1.7.2 Suspension, Cancellation, Postponement, Reschedule or Termination.** Contests should be suspended, cancelled, postponed, rescheduled or terminated when circumstances exist such that commencement or continuation of play would pose a threat to the safety of the constituent groups involved with the contest (e.g., student-athletes, coaches, officials, trainers, managers, facility personnel, staff, band, cheerleaders, mascots and fans). In the event a contest is suspended, the athletics directors of both participating institutions, game management personnel and the Conference office representative shall consult with the head official. The Conference office representative shall be responsible for communicating with the Commissioner or his designee, who has the sole authority to declare a contest cancelled, postponed, rescheduled or terminated. If a Conference office representative is not on-site, the host institution's athletics director (or designee) shall communicate with the Commissioner or his designee prior to any final decisions. The home team game management, in consultation with the Conference office representative, shall be responsible for disseminating information regarding such a decision to the teams, media and general public. *(Revised November 2003 and February 2005)*

**1.7.3 Authority.** The authority to cancel, postpone or terminate a contest is vested only in the Commissioner or his designee. Authority to suspend a contest is vested in the head official.

#### **1.7.4 Guidelines.**

**1.7.4.1 Contest Suspended Prior to Start.** If a contest is suspended prior to the start for any reason, every effort shall be made to begin and complete the contest within the existing circumstances and in accordance with the guidelines of this section. *(Revised February 2005)*

**1.7.4.2 Contest Suspended After Play Has Begun.** If a contest is suspended for any reason after play has begun, it should be resumed as soon as conditions are deemed safe by the head official (referee) in consultation with the home team game management personnel, the Conference office and the athletics directors from the participating institutions (as prescribed above). *(Revised February 2005)*

**1.7.4.3 Contest Suspended Prior to Start – Resumed.** A contest that is suspended prior to the start shall not be resumed after midnight local time. A contest that is suspended after play has begun shall not be resumed beyond two hours following the point of suspension and no later than midnight local time, unless otherwise deemed necessary by the Commissioner, in consultation with the two participating institutions. *(Revised February 2005)*

**1.7.4.4 Contest Suspended Prior to Start – Not Resumed.** If a contest is suspended prior to the start for any reason and cannot resume under the applicable guidelines, the participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his designee, shall attempt to declare the contest postponed and reschedule the contest at a later date. If the Commissioner determines the game cannot be rescheduled, it will be considered a cancelled game. *(Revised February 2005)*

**1.7.4.5 Contest Suspended After Play Has Begun – Resumed.** If a contest is suspended after play has begun and cannot resume under applicable guidelines, the two institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his designee, shall attempt to declare the contest postponed and resume it at a later date. *(Revised February 2005)*

**1.7.4.6 Rescheduling.** If a game needs to be rescheduled, the institutions involved should attempt to determine the next available, mutually-agreeable date and time. If a decision cannot be reached between the participating institutions, the Commissioner or his designee shall be empowered to designate a new competition date and communicate that to the participating institutions.

**1.8 Inclement Weather.** All weather-related decisions during a game shall be made by the head official. The host institution shall be responsible for tracking lightning and other weather-related factors and communicating those to the head game official (Referee). *(Revised February 2005)*

- a. The officials shall inform both teams that ALL constituent groups involved with the contest (e.g., student-athletes, coaches, officials, trainers, managers, facility personnel, staff, band, cheerleaders, mascots and fans) will go immediately to the designated safe structure or location.
- b. Play will be resumed only when the head official has been notified that at least 30 minutes have passed after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder.
- c. Suspended play beyond this point is covered by NCAA and Conference rules.

**1.8.1 Lightning Safety – NCAA Guidelines.** In collaboration with its television partners and other FBS conferences, the Mountain West has adopted a common threshold for the stoppage of play and the implementation of fan safety measures. Immediate action should be taken when lightning is determined to be eight (8) miles away (or greater depending on institutional protocol). All personnel should be in a safe shelter when the lightning is six (6) miles away or less. The primary detection mechanism for contest controlled by the Mountain West shall be Weather Sentry/DTN which is the official weather tracking service of the Conference. Each institution has been provided licenses and logins that must be utilized on game day to monitor atmospheric conditions. Institutions shall communicate with the televising entity to confirm detection and communication protocols before and during the contest.

When lightning strikes are not detected for a 30-minute continuous period within this range, the “all clear” notification can be given. Additional information regarding lightning safety can be found on the NCAA website: [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

**1.8.2 Air Quality Thresholds for Mountain West Competition – Recommended Guidelines.** Information regarding air quality thresholds for competition in Mountain West venues can be found in the respective sport-specific game management handbook and real-time Air Quality Index site-specific data at [PurpleAir.com](http://PurpleAir.com). *(Adopted July 2016, Revised July 2019)*

**1.9 Conference Championship Sports.** Conference championships shall be held in the following varsity sports. *(Revised March 2007, June 2008, December 2010, January 2013, July 2021, December 2021)*

<b>WOMEN’S TEAM SPORTS</b> Basketball Soccer Volleyball Softball	<b>MEN’S TEAM SPORTS</b> Baseball Basketball Football
<b>WOMEN’S INDIVIDUAL SPORTS</b> Cross Country Golf Swimming & Diving Tennis Indoor Track & Field Outdoor Track & Field	<b>MEN’S INDIVIDUAL SPORTS</b> Cross Country Golf Tennis Indoor Track & Field Outdoor Track & Field

## 1.10 Championship Regulations.

**1.10.1 Teams Subject to Postseason Competition Restrictions.** Teams subject to postseason competition restrictions (NCAA or Conference) shall not be eligible to participate in Conference championship competition until the restriction expires. In sports where the automatic qualifier is determined by regular-season Conference competition, if the regular-season champion is subject to postseason competition restrictions, the second-place team in the regular-season Conference standings will be the league's automatic qualifier. If tie-breaking is necessary to determine the second-place team, existing procedures will be applied. The Board of Directors will determine the revenue distribution formula for all member institutions in all sports, including those with teams subject to postseason restrictions. *(Codified March 2012)*

**1.10.2 Awards Selection.** Awards shall be selected and purchased by the Conference office. Awards shall be shipped by the awards supplier directly to the host institution or championship site. Only official Conference awards may be presented at the site of the championship.

**1.10.3 Broadcast Rights.** All radio, television and digital media broadcast rights to championships shall be negotiated by the Conference office. The radio rights are to be on a non-exclusive, stated fee basis. Television and digital media broadcast rights are to be on a competitive bid basis.

**1.10.4 Budgeting to Host a Conference Championship.** Expenses for hosting a Conference championship shall be funded through the Conference office budget. The host institution shall prepare a proposed budget for approval, and once approved, the expenses shall be paid by the Conference office.

**1.10.5 Dates and Sites.** Dates and sites for championships shall be determined by the Joint Council. In the event an institution has inadequate facilities to properly conduct a championship, or for other acceptable reasons, it may pass its scheduled turn in the rotation. In that event, the institution next in the rotation shall be the host institution. *(Revised July 2021)*

**1.10.6 Championship Participation.** Member institutions participating in a recognized sport during the regular season must compete in the Conference championship and take the minimum number of participants to the respective 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 championship results in a loss to the host institution, the fine shall be used to cover the expenses incurred by the host institution. If the failure to bring the minimum number of participants to the Conference 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 numbers of participants rule may be granted by the Commissioner.

**1.10.7 Championship Sponsorship.** The Conference shall initiate a championship only when at least fifty percent of the member institutions participate in a sport.

**1.10.8 Championship Management.** The director of athletics, senior woman administrator or the designated representative of the host institution shall be the championship manager. This individual shall be responsible for conducting the business details according to the adopted administrative policies and any additional directions provided by the Conference office.

**1.10.9 Championship Meeting.** A meeting of the institutional representatives and officials shall be held to review championship procedures, local rules and policies.

**1.10.10 Equipment.** The host institution shall be responsible for providing all necessary equipment for the championship. Equipment shall follow all NCAA regulations.

**1.10.11 Game Management.** The championship shall be properly staffed with appropriate officials, administration, timers, scorers, ticket managers, maintenance and security personnel.

**1.10.12 Hospitality.** A hospitality room for participating coaches, contest administration and selected officials and judges shall be provided as appropriate.

**1.10.13 Media Relations/Promotions.** Media relations staff, trained statistical crews and sports information services shall be provided. Results are to be distributed to the Conference office and each participating institution.

**1.10.14 Medical, Physician, Certified Athletics Trainer.** Adequate medical and training facilities shall be provided. A certified athletics trainer shall be available at all championship competitions.

Training facilities shall be made available to visiting teams. Each competing institution shall be informed as to the availability of training equipment and responsible for its own training supplies. There shall be planned access to a physician and a medical facility, including communication and transportation between the championship site and the medical facility, so that prompt medical service shall be available.

**1.10.15 Practice.** Participants shall be allowed to practice at the championship site, if possible.

**1.10.16 Pre-Championship Information.** Prior to the championship, each competing institution shall be provided with information on local food and lodging, location and times of meetings, publicity needs, key contacts, deadline for entries, practice areas and parking availability.

**1.10.17 Photographers.** All photographers in the competition area must be approved by the host institution and/or the Conference office.

**1.10.18 Public Address System.** A public address system shall be provided for each championship.

**1.10.19 Records.** Records for championships shall be kept on file in the Conference office.

**1.10.20 Starting Times.** Starting times for each championship shall be determined by the Conference office.

**1.10.21 Travel Arrangements.** All teams are responsible for their own reservations for hotel and air and ground transportation, using the Conference travel service where appropriate. The host institution shall establish a headquarters hotel and attempt to secure favorable rates for participating institutions.

## **1.11 Regular-Season Regulations.**

**1.11.1 Crowd Control.** Officials in team sports shall use all the rules and authority vested in them and enforce the following crowd control procedures in the event of stadium or arena disorder:

**1.11.1.1 Football.** When the referee calls a time out due to any disruptive activity, the public address announcer shall read a prepared statement requesting that the disruptive activity cease immediately. While the public address announcement is being made, the head coach and team captains shall provide visual sideline support for the announcement.

**1.11.1.2 Basketball.** When the referee calls a time out due to any disruptive activity, the head coach and/or director of athletics and/or captain shall appeal to the crowd for the activity to cease.

**1.11.1.3 Special Notes.** Once the contest is under way, the referee/head official has the responsibility to determine if the situation is too detrimental to continue play and has the authority to stop the contest. If a contest has been terminated by the referee, the decision to continue the contest is solely the authority of the director of athletics or his/her designee.

**1.12 Refusal to Play.** At no time is either the home or visiting coach vested with the authority to stop or discontinue play. A coach unilaterally taking his/her team from the playing area or refusing to play may be subject to Conference sanctions and possible forfeiture of the contest.

**1.13 Game Contracts.** Game contracts shall not be exchanged for any Conference contest in any sport. Changes to a regularly scheduled contest date, time or location shall be submitted to the Conference office for approval by the Commissioner or their designee via the Master Schedule Change Form (more information can be found in sport-specific game management handbooks).

**1.14 Squad-Size Limitations.**

**1.14.1 Home Team Squad-Size.** There shall be no squad-size limit on the home team.

**1.14.2 Travel Squad-Size.** Any student-athlete who travels with the team shall be counted against the travel squad-size limitation. No student-athlete may travel with the team in any other capacity (e.g., manager, trainer, statistician, etc.) when his/her presence would cause an excess of the travel squad-size limitation specified for that sport. The number of student-athletes permitted to travel to away contests is limited to the following: *(Revised December 2010, April 2011, June 2016, March 2018, May 2019, July 2021, December 2021)*

**Note:** Regular season refers to regular-season Conference competition.

Baseball: Regular Season – 27; Conference Championship – 27

Basketball: Men's Regular Season – 15; Women's Regular Season – 15; Men's and Women's Conference Championship – 15

Football: Regular Season – 74; Conference Championship – 74

Men's Golf: Conference Championship – 6

Women's Golf: Conference Championship – 6

Soccer: Regular Season – 22; Conference Championship – 22

Softball: Regular Season – 22; Conference Championship – 30

Swimming & Diving: Conference Championship – 24 (divers count ½)

Tennis: Regular Season – 9; Conference Championship – 9

Cross Country: Conference Championship – 10

Indoor Track & Field: Conference Championship – 28

Outdoor Track & Field: Conference Championship – 28

Volleyball: Regular Season – 16; Conference Championship – 18

**1.15 Ticket Policy.**

**1.15.1 Conference Championships.** Complimentary tickets shall not be issued for championship events. Admission prices for championship events shall be set by the host institution in consultation with the Conference office. Students shall be admitted at no less than one-half the general admission price.

**1.15.2 Regular Season.** The number of complimentary tickets for visiting teams for regular-season contests is as follows: *(Revised January 2012)*



SPORT	COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS
Baseball	50
Men's and Women's Basketball	50 (24 of which are located directly behind the visiting team bench)
Football	300
Women's Soccer	44
Softball	36
Men's and Women's Tennis	20
Volleyball	24

**1.15.3 Game Officials.** Institutions shall provide officials with two complimentary tickets to the contest he or she is working, provided the tickets are available.