

## Regulation 2

# BASEBALL

**2.1 General Rules.** Baseball Conference competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the NCAA and the Bylaws and Operating Handbook of the Conference.

**2.2 Format.** The Conference regular-season champion shall be determined by a modified double-round-robin schedule (double round robin against four Conference opponents plus a single round-robin against two Conference opponents). *(Revised February 2013, November 2018, March 2021)*

**2.3 Non-Conference Schedule.** In order to continue to improve the institutional and Conference Rating Percentage Index (RPI), each team shall schedule and play no more than four regular season non-Division I contests per season. *(Revised September 2014)*

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

**2.4 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. However, the tie shall be broken for purposes of determining the seeding for the Championship. *(Revised October 2016, February 2018)*

**2.5 Playing Rules.** All Conference baseball contests shall be conducted according to NCAA Baseball Rules except as modified by Conference regulations.

**2.6 Squad-Size Limitation.** Each head coach shall submit a numerical roster of eligible student-athletes for a Conference series to the opposing coach as well as to the umpire-in-chief prior to the start of the series. *(Revised October 2006)*

**2.6.1 Regular Season.** Travel squads for all regular-season Conference contests shall be 27 student-athletes and shall remain the same for the duration of the trip regardless of the number of contests played. 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 contest after the violation has been reported. There shall be no limit on the squad size for the home team or for non-conference contests. *(Revised February 2010, March 2018)*

**2.6.2 Conference Championship.** Squad sizes shall be limited in the Conference championship to 27 student-athletes for each institution. 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.

**2.7 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.

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

**2.8 Championship Tournament.** A four-team, double-elimination Conference tournament shall be conducted to determine the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. *(Revised October 2016)*

**2.8.1 Minimum Number of Participants.** Member institutions that sponsor the sport of baseball shall take a minimum of nine participants to the Conference Baseball 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 Baseball 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 Baseball 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.

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

**2.10 Tournament Date.** The Conference Baseball Championship shall be held the week immediately preceding the day of selection for the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.

**2.11 Tournament Seeding.** The tournament seeding shall be based on regular-season winning percentage in Conference competition with the top four teams advancing to the Championship. *(Revised February 2018)*

**2.11.1 Two-Way Ties.** In the case of a two-way tie in the final standings, seeding in the tournament bracket shall be determined in the following order: *(Revised September 2005)*

- a. Comparison of head-to-head competition in regular season Conference play.

- b. Evaluation of results from contests of those teams tied during regular season Conference play against those teams finishing ahead of the tied position (utilizing winning percentage, if necessary, when evaluating results against those teams), beginning at first place and working down the standings to the tied position or until the tie is broken (when comparing tied teams against positions higher in the standings that are also tied, those tied positions shall be considered a single position for the purposes of comparison).
- c. Evaluation of results from contests of those teams tied during regular season Conference play against those teams finishing below the tied position (utilizing winning percentage, if necessary, when evaluating results against those teams), beginning at the tied position and working through last place, until the tie is broken (when comparing tied teams against positions lower in the standings that are also tied, those tied positions shall be considered a single position for the purposes of comparison).
- d. A drawing by the Commissioner.

**2.11.2 Multiple-Team Ties.** In the case of a multiple-team tie in the final standings, position in the tournament bracket shall be determined in the following order: *(Revised September 2005)*

- a. Comparison of head-to-head competition in regular season Conference play.
- b. If a tie still exists between three or more teams, evaluation of results from contests of those teams tied during regular season Conference play against those teams finishing ahead of the tied position (utilizing winning percentage, if necessary, when evaluating results against those teams), beginning at first place and working down the standings to the tied position or until the tie is broken (when comparing tied teams against positions higher in the standings that are also tied, those tied positions shall be considered a single position for the purposes of comparison).

- c. Evaluation of results from contests of those teams tied during regular season Conference play against those teams finishing below the tied position (utilizing winning percentage, if necessary, when evaluating results against those teams), beginning at the tied position and working through last place, until the tie is broken (when comparing tied teams against positions lower in the standings that are also tied, those tied positions shall be considered a single position for the purposes of comparison).
  
- d. A drawing by the Commissioner.

**2.11.3 Guidelines.** If at any time during this analysis, any team(s) should have an advantage over the other team(s) tied at that position, the team(s) holding the advantage shall assume a position higher than the other team(s). If it is reduced to a two-team tie at any point, the process shall then revert to the beginning of the tie-breaking procedures and shall be applied (in order) until the two-team tie is broken.

**2.12 Cancellation of Championship.** In the event any contest of the Conference championship is postponed as a result of inclement weather, it shall be made up or completed on the following day in addition to the regularly-scheduled contest(s). A day-night doubleheader may be scheduled, if possible. Additional information and exceptions regarding the cancellation of the Championship can be found in the Mountain West Baseball Championship Handbook. *(Revised October 2015, October 2016)*

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

**2.14 Pre-Championship Meeting.** A pre-championship meeting shall be held the day prior to the start of the Championship. The head coaches of all participating institutions shall attend the meeting. A head coach who fails to attend the mandatory pre-championship meeting 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 be in attendance at the meeting. *(Adopted October 2006; Revised February 2018)*

**2.15 Awards.** The Conference baseball head coaches shall select recipients for all awards. Head 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 Baseball Championship Handbook.

**2.15.1 All-Conference Team.** The All-Conference team shall consist of 26 players: 13 first-team and 13 second-team members. All positions should be represented with the following minimums: *(Revised October 2015, October 2016)*

- Nine by Position
- Four pitchers

Note: The head coaches will discuss the composition and select the All-Conference team at their in-person meeting at the Mountain West Baseball Championship and make sure deserving student-athletes are represented. The four (4) head coaches not participating in the Championship are welcome to attend the meeting in person or shall participate in the selection process via phone.

**2.15.2 Individual Awards.** Individual awards shall be provided to the Coach of the Year, Tony Gwynn Player of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Pitcher of the Year. Head coaches shall be the only viable coach of the year candidates. There may not be a tie for MW 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 Tony Gwynn Player of the Year and the Pitcher of the Year, the recipient shall have been a first-team All-Conference selection. To be considered for the Freshman of the Year, the recipient shall have been the highest-ranking freshman on any All-Conference team. *(Revised October 2006; Clarified August 2017)*

**2.15.3 All-Tournament Team.** The All-Tournament team shall consist of 11 players regardless of position. *(Revised October 2015)*

**2.15.4 Individual Tournament Award.** An individual award shall be provided to the Most Valuable Player. To be considered for Most Valuable Player, the recipient shall have been a member of the All-Tournament team.

**2.16 Meeting of Coaches.** There shall be an annual in-person meeting of the baseball coaches to be held each year at a site and 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.