

Regulation 15

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

15.1 General Rules. Women's volleyball Conference competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the NCAA, the Mountain West Handbook and the Mountain West Women's Volleyball Game Management Handbook.

15.2 Format. The Conference regular-season champion shall be determined through a modified double round-robin schedule.

15.3 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 will be co-champions.

15.4 Championship Tournament. A six-team single elimination Conference tournament shall be conducted to determine the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship. *(Revised March 2007, July 2021)*

15.4.1 Minimum Number of Participants. Member institutions that sponsor the sport of women's volleyball shall take a minimum of six participants to the Conference Women's Volleyball 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 Volleyball 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 Volleyball 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.

15.5 Automatic Qualifier. The Conference tournament champion shall be the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship. Other Conference teams may accept invitations to participate in postseason tournaments only when conducted or approved by the NCAA. *(Revised March 2007, July 2021)*

15.6 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 Volleyball 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 Volleyball Championship. *(Revised July 2021)*

15.7 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 Women's Volleyball Game Management Handbook and the Mountain West Women's Volleyball Championship Handbook.

15.8 Playing Rules. All Conference volleyball contests shall be conducted according to NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules except as modified by Conference regulations.

15.9 Scheduling. To continue to improve institutional and conference RPI, each team shall schedule and play no non-Division I opponents and no more than two provisional or reclassifying Division I opponents per year.

15.9.1 Penalty – Exceeding Maximum Number of Non-Conference Opponents. The institution shall be assessed a penalty of \$50,000 per occurrence if a team schedules and plays in a given year: (1) any non-Division I opponents, and/or (2) more than two provisional or reclassifying Division I opponents per year. *(Revised October 2004, August 2004)*

15.10 Complimentary Admissions. Twenty-four complimentary tickets shall be provided for the visiting team. The official party size entering without tickets shall be 18 individuals.

15.10.1 Ticket Distribution. Complimentary tickets shall be distributed according to the policies of the host institution's ticket office. These policies must be included in the event management information.

15.11 Squad-Size Limitations.

15.11.1 Regular Season. Traveling team squad-sizes shall be limited to 16 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 January 2002, October 2006, March 2007, December 2010, July 2021)*

15.11.2 Conference Championship. Participating teams shall have a squad-size limited to 18 student-athletes for the Conference Championship. However, only 15 student-athletes may be in uniform for competition. Failure to comply with these squad-size limitations shall result in Conference sanctions. *(Adopted July 2021)*

15.12 Video/Scouting Report Exchange. The dissemination of game video and/or scouting information on member institutions to non-conference institutions is prohibited. Only representatives of the competing teams may record the contest. Exchanging video among Conference teams shall be governed by the policies outlined in the Mountain West Women's Volleyball Game Management Handbook.

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

15.13 Awards. The Conference volleyball coaches shall select recipients for all 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. Additional information regarding awards policies and procedures can be found in the Mountain West Women’s Volleyball Game Management Handbook. *(Revised February 2016)*

15.13.1 All-Conference Team. The All-Conference Team shall consist of 18 student-athletes. Each student-athlete shall receive an award from the Conference. *(Revised February 2007, April 2014)*

15.13.2 All-Conference Honorable Mention. Up to six student-athletes may receive All-Conference Honorable Mention recognition. *(Revised April 2014)*

15.13.3 Individual Awards. Individual awards shall be provided to the Coach of the Year, Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year and Freshman of the Year.

Head coaches shall be the only 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 and/or Newcomer of the Year, the recipient shall have been the highest-ranking freshman and/or newcomer on any All-Conference team. *(Revised January 2010; Clarified August 2017)*

15.13.4 All-Tournament Team. The all-tournament team shall consist of 8 players. A tournament MVP shall be selected from among the 8 all-tournament team members. *(April 2022)*

15.11 Meetings of Coaches. There shall be an annual meeting of the women’s volleyball 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 November 2018)*.