

Rule 7

AWARDS

7.1 Mountain West Scholar-Athlete Award. Student-athletes who participate in a Mountain West-sponsored sport shall be named Mountain West Scholar-Athletes provided they meet the following criteria:

- a. Completed at least two semesters or three quarters at the certifying institution; and
- b. Earned at least a 3.5 cumulative grade-point average at the certifying institution (including graduate and undergraduate work).

The institution's faculty athletics representative shall be responsible for informing the Conference office of the student-athletes who qualify for the award. Scholar-Athlete Award recipients shall receive an engraved award from the Conference office. Those who participate in multiple sports (e.g., cross country and track and field) shall receive a single award. *(Revised August 2022)*

7.2 Mountain West Academic All-Conference. Student-athletes who participate in a Mountain West-sponsored sport shall be named Mountain West Academic All-Conference provided they meet the following criteria:

- a. Participated significantly in at least 50 percent of their team's contests (25 percent for baseball and softball pitchers); and
- b. Earned a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 at the certifying institution.

The institution's faculty athletics representative, after consultation with coaches to ascertain "significant" participation, shall be responsible for informing the Conference office of the students who qualify for the award. Academic All-Conference honorees shall receive a certificate from the Conference office. Those who participate in both indoor and outdoor track shall receive a single award. *(Revised May 2013)*

7.3 Mountain West Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award. Two awards shall be presented annually to the male and female student-athletes who best exemplify the term "scholar-athlete" by achieving excellence in academics, athletics and community/campus service over the course of their career. *(Revised May 2010)*

7.3.1 Criteria. The awards shall be presented to one male and one female student-athlete who meet the following criteria: *(Revised May 2013)*

- a. Participated in a Mountain West-sponsored sport(s);
- b. Exhausted athletics eligibility in all varsity sports in which they participated;
- c. Academic Achievement: All nominees shall have earned at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA at the recommending institution (including undergraduate and graduate work);
- d. Athletics Achievement: All nominees shall have demonstrated athletics achievement and brought recognition to his/her institution; and

- e. Community/Campus Service: All nominees shall have demonstrated significant contributions to the campus or community through service opportunities.

7.3.2 Procedures. *(Revised April 2006, July 2011)*

- a. The faculty athletics representative at each member institution shall serve as the point person for receiving and completing the nomination packets.
- b. The nominee shall complete applicable forms.
- c. The nominee shall submit an official academic transcript with his or her nomination form.
- d. The Conference office shall distribute the nomination packet to the faculty athletics representative at each member institution in April of each year. Nominations shall be forwarded to the Conference office no later than June 30. *(Revised June 2023)*
- e. The Recognition Committee shall review all nominations and select the award winners. Recognition Committee members may vote for their own student-athletes. The award shall be presented on campus the following fall. *(Revised July 2021)*

7.4 Mountain West Athlete of the Year Award. Two awards shall be presented annually to the male and female student-athletes who achieved athletics excellence during the current academic year. *(Adopted May 2010)*

7.4.1 Criteria. The awards shall be presented to one male and one female student-athlete who meet the following criteria: *(Revised July 2011, May 2013)*

- a. Participated in a Mountain West-sponsored sport(s);
- b. Athletics Achievement: All nominees shall have demonstrated superior athletics achievement and brought significant recognition to his/her team, institution and the Conference;
- c. Academic Achievement: All nominees shall be in good academic standing with the nominating institution and meet all NCAA, Mountain West and institutional academic eligibility requirements through the completion of their season of competition; and
- d. Character/Conduct: All nominees shall demonstrate good character and conduct on and off the playing field.

7.4.2 Procedures. *(Revised July 2011)*

- a. The sports information director at each member institution shall serve as the point person for receiving and completing the nomination packets.
- b. The nominee shall complete applicable forms.

- c. The Conference office shall distribute the nomination packet to the sports information director at each member institution in April of each year. Nominations shall be forwarded to the Conference office no later than June 30. *(Revised June 2023)*
- d. Award winners shall be selected by a majority vote of the member institutions. Each institution will submit one vote per award. Institutions shall not vote for their own school/nominee. The award shall be presented on campus the following fall. *(Revised July 2021)*

7.5 Mountain West Hal Rothman Sportsmanship Award. Two awards may be presented annually to the male and female student-athletes who best exemplify the term “sportsmanship” as defined in the nomination criteria for the annual NCAA Sportsmanship Award. *(Adopted April 2005)*

7.5.1 Procedures.

- a. The faculty athletics representative at each member institution shall serve as the point person for receiving and completing the nomination packets.
- b. Although the Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct eliminated its requirement for a “demonstrative sportsmanship act,” in order to maximize the recognition of student-athletes who are outstanding contributors to their sports, teams and institutions, such acts shall be weighted more heavily when evaluating candidates.
- c. The Recognition Committee shall select one male and female winner from nominations submitted by the membership to represent the Conference among a national pool of candidates for the national and divisional awards, which are chosen by the Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct. The award shall be presented on campus the following fall.

7.6 Albert C. Yates Distinguished Service Award. The Albert C. Yates Distinguished Service Award shall be presented to an individual who has performed significant service in support of the Mountain West.

7.6.1 Criteria. The award shall be presented in the spring to the individual who meets the following criteria:

- a. The award recipient shall be a current or former athletics administrator, faculty athletics representative, other institutional staff member, or another individual who has supported and promoted the Mountain West; and
- b. The award recipient shall be an individual who has served, supported, and promoted the goals and ideals of the Mountain West or member institution and who, through personal effort and dedication, has enhanced the ability of the Conference and/or its member institutions to provide a positive experience for the student-athletes enrolled at any member institution.

7.6.2 Procedures. *(Revised April 2006, June 2007)*

- a. Each Joint Council member may nominate one individual each year with a maximum of three nominations per institution each year. Any individual who meets the criteria may be nominated regardless of their affiliation.
- b. The Conference office shall send nomination forms to Joint Council members during the first week in February. Nominations shall be forwarded to the Conference office and postmarked no later than April 1.
- c. Nomination forms shall be signed by the president/chancellor of the nominating institution BEFORE the nominees are submitted for consideration. In the event one or more nominees are presented by a Mountain West institution other than their own, the president/chancellor of the nominating institution(s) shall contact the president/chancellor of the nominees' institutions for their approval prior to submitting the application.
- d. The Recognition Committee shall annually review the nominations and make the selection.
- e. The award recipient shall be recognized at the spring meeting of the Joint Council.
- f. In an effort to recognize only one award winner per academic year, nominees not selected for that year's award may be submitted in subsequent years, provided they continue to meet the criteria for selection.
- g. The award recipient shall receive an appropriate award to recognize receipt of this award.
- h. It shall not be mandatory that the award be presented each year.

7.7 Commissioner's Award. The Commissioner's Award shall be presented to an individual who achieved a singularly distinguished accomplishment that significantly enhanced the Mountain West or a member institution.

7.7.1 Criteria. The award shall be presented in the spring to the individual who meets the following criteria:

- a. The award recipient may be any person associated with the Mountain West and may be a current or former athletics administrator, faculty athletics representative, coach, Conference office staff member or an individual not associated directly with any institution or the Conference office; and
- b. The award recipient shall be an individual who, through dedicated effort and service, achieved a singularly distinguished accomplishment during the current academic year that significantly enhanced the Mountain West or a member institution.

7.7.2 Procedures. *(Revised April 2006)*

- a. Each Joint Council member may nominate one individual each year with a maximum of three nominations per institution each year. Any individual who meets the criteria may be nominated regardless of their affiliation.

- b. The Conference office shall send nomination forms to Joint Council members during the first week in February. Nominations shall be forwarded to the Conference office and postmarked no later than April 1.
- c. The Recognition Committee shall annually review the nominations and make the selection.
- d. The award recipient shall receive an appropriate award to recognize receipt of this award.
- e. It shall not be mandatory that the award be presented each year.
- f. This award shall not generally be given to coaches solely for achieving an outstanding record or having a very successful year since the “Coach-of-the-Year” award in each sport is designed to recognize these achievements. This award shall be given to a coach for achievements other than team success or in very unusual circumstances (i.e., a national championship) for team-related accomplishments.

7.8 Sport Awards. Official Conference awards shall be presented in all sports. The awards for each sport are set forth in the sport regulations section of this Handbook.