

Regulation 6

FOOTBALL

6.1 General Rules. Conference football competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the NCAA and the Bylaws and Operating Handbook of the Conference.

6.2 Championship Determination. The Conference champion shall be determined by regular season winning percentage in Conference competition and shall represent the Conference in the bowl designated by contract for the Mountain West Conference Football Champion.

6.3 Tie Breaking Procedures. In the event of a tie for the Conference championship (or any of the remaining place finishes), the primary tie-breaking procedure shall be a comparison of head-to-head competition among the tied teams. If multiple teams are involved in a tie, the head-to-head records among the tied teams as a group shall be compared until the tie is resolved or it is reduced to a two-team tie where the winner of the head-to-head contest would gain the advantage.

The following tie-breaking procedures shall be used only in those limited instances in which head-to-head competition will not resolve a tie.

Tie-breaking procedures are to be used only for the purpose of identifying order of finish for bowl selection purposes. Co-champions and other ties in the standings will remain unchanged for Conference awards and records purposes.

6.3.1 Three-Way Tie for First Place. In the case of a three-way tie in the Conference standings, co-champions shall be declared. The most recent participant (since the inception of the Conference) in the AXA Liberty Bowl shall be eliminated and head-to-head competition between the remaining two teams shall determine the “champion” and potential AXA Liberty Bowl representative. In the event all three teams’ previous AXA Liberty Bowl appearances are identical (e.g., none have participated previously), the team with the highest BCS ranking shall be designated the “champion.”

6.3.2 Three-Way Tie for Remaining Place Finishes. In the case of a three-way tie in the Conference standings, the most recent participant(s) in a bowl game (since the inception of the Conference) shall be eliminated. If one team is eliminated, head-to-head competition between the remaining two teams shall designate the highest place finisher. If two teams are eliminated the third remaining team shall be designated the highest place finisher. In the event all three teams’ previous bowl game appearances are identical (e.g., all three participated in a bowl game the previous season), the team with the highest BCS ranking shall be designated the highest place finisher.

6.3.3 Four-Way Tie for First Place. In the case of a four-way tie in the Conference standings, the most recent participant in the AXA Liberty Bowl (since the inception of the Conference) shall be eliminated and the tie reduced to a three-team tie. Head-to-head competition among the tied teams shall determine the “champion” and potential AXA Liberty Bowl representative. If a comparison of head-to-head competition does not determine the “champion”, the procedures for a three-way tie for first place outlined in Regulation 6.3.1 shall be used.

6.3.4 Four-Way Tie for Remaining Place Finishes. In the case of a four-way tie in the Conference standings, the most recent participant(s) in a bowl game (since the inception of the Conference) shall be eliminated and the tie reduced. Head-to-head competition among the remaining tied teams shall designate the highest place finisher, unless only one team remains, in which case that team shall be designated as the highest place finisher. In the event head-to-head competition does not resolve the tie(s) and the remaining tied teams’ bowl appearances are identical, the team with the highest BCS ranking shall be designated the highest place finisher.

[NOTE: The AXA Liberty Bowl and the Las Vegas Bowl are not currently bound contractually by the Conference tie-breaking formula and may select any of the Conference's bowl-eligible teams to participate in the respective bowl games. The Diamond Walnut San Francisco Bowl is contractually obligated to select the next highest finisher available with its third pick, as determined by the Conference tie-breaking formula.]

6.4 Scheduling.

- a. Home and away designation between Conference opponents shall alternate each year (4/3);
- b. No institution shall have more than two consecutive Conference road games;
- c. No institution shall have more than three consecutive weeks away from home during Conference play (an open date is considered a road game);
- d. No institution shall have more than one consecutive open week in its schedule;
- e. Known traditional rivalry games shall appear (if possible) near their traditional dates in the calendar;
- f. Whenever possible, teams should have similar preparation schedules prior to a contest. Specifically, every effort shall be made to ensure that both teams participating in games on days other than Saturday (e.g., ESPN Thursday night contests) have similar preparation time with both having played the preceding Saturday or both having an open date.

6.5 Arrival at Game Site – Conference Competition. The visiting team shall at the game site prepared to compete at the scheduled start time. A visiting team that does not arrive at the game site prepared to compete at the scheduled time shall incur the following penalties:

- a. Forfeiture of the contest at the moment the scheduled start time is reached; subject to the approval of the Conference office.
- b. A financial penalty equal to the amount of documented losses incurred by the host institution and the Conference, including, but not limited to, ticket refunds, concession losses, facility rental, personnel expenses, television contract rebates, officiating fees and game operations costs. (Revised 10/02 and 10/03).

6.6 Artificial Noisemakers. The use of artificial noisemakers or other devices (e.g., cannons) may not be used during game action, particularly at a time that could disrupt the performance of a player.

6.7 Squad-Size Limitations. Football traveling squads shall be limited to 64 student-athletes in all 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 competition after the violation has been reported. There shall be no limit on the squad-size for the home team.

6.8 Tickets.

6.8.1 Complimentary Tickets. The host institution shall provide 300 complimentary, maximum priced tickets to the visiting institution.

6.9 Videotape Exchange. If one institution should play fewer games than the institution with which it is exchanging videotape, it shall be the option of the institution with the fewer number of games to select which opponent videotapes they wish to receive. Out-of-season exchange is permitted by mutual agreement.

6.9.1 Number of Videotapes. The number of videotapes to be exchanged shall be an equal number.

6.9.2 Requests for Videotapes. The entire season (or fewer games by mutual consent) shall be exchanged 12 days prior to the same. All video shall be shipped on Monday to be received Tuesday by the fastest means of transportation to arrive no later than noon on Tuesday. Each coach in charge of videotape shall be required to furnish all shipping details. In all cases, the sending team's video coordinator shall provide the waybill number plus flight number and arrival time to the receiving team's videotape coordinator.

6.9.3 Play-by-Play Forms. Two complete play-by-play forms, flipcards and programs shall be sent with the most recent game videotape. For all other game tapes, flip-cards and depth charts are required. All containers should have a copy of the depth chart attached.

6.9.4 Providing Videotape to Visiting Team. By mutual agreement, the home team may provide the visiting team with either an end zone or tight sideline videotape, or provide space for the visiting team to videotape.

6.9.5 Returning Videotapes. All videotapes shall be returned at the game site prior to the start of the game, unless mutually agreed upon.

6.9.6 Specifications for Videotapes. All videotape shall be in color and separated into three tapes: offense, defense and special teams. Each tape must contain all of the designated parts. Tapes with "special teams on offense or defense" are not acceptable. New, never been used, FIRST GENERATION tapes shall be used for all Mountain West Conference videotaping. All videotape must be shot in the SVHS mode with a three-clip CCD camera recorded at the SP speed. Each exchange tape must include 30 seconds of color bar or equivalent at the beginning of the tape. All videotapes exchanged shall be in intercut format. The scoreboard shall only be viewed at the beginning of every play, not between sideline/end zone angles. Videotapes including opponent's cut-ups or situations shall not be exchanged. All plays shall be videotaped from the point at which the offense approaches the line of scrimmage. Scoreboard (to indicate down and distance) must be taken prior to each snap. If chains are shot, scoreboard shall be taken each time the ball changes hands. Chains shall be shot only in no-huddle situations. All players (22) shall be in the video at the snap of the ball on all scrimmage plays (shot from wide angle), outside linebacker to outside linebacker for the tight end zone angle. The referee's signal shall be included after each penalty. In the case of a fight, the action shall be shot from the start of the altercation until the end. This shall be included on all copies of the game.

6.9.7 Videotape/Scouting Report Exchange. An athletics department representative shall not send a film, videotape or scouting report or give a written scouting report on a Conference team to any non-conference institution.

6.9.8 Violations of Videotape Exchange Policy. A member institution that exchanges videotapes or scouting reports in the sport of football 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 tape 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 game/competition. Such suspension shall occur immediately following receipt of notice by the Commissioner.

6.10 Visiting Bands. A visiting band and or spirit squad (e.g., cheerleaders) shall notify its opponent no later than June 1 of its intent to perform at the football game. Upon timely receipt of such notice, the band/spirit squad shall be admitted to the game at no cost and shall be permitted to perform. The tickets for the band/spirit squad shall come from the visiting team's allotment of tickets. Performance on the playing field shall be determined by the home team's game management.

6.10.1 Timing of Performances. Bands performing at Conference football games shall not play from the time the offensive team breaks from the huddle until the completion of the play. If a team plays a no-huddle offense, the band shall not play at any time during the offensive possession.

6.10.2 Homecoming. Visiting bands shall be permitted to perform at halftime of an opponent's homecoming, only if the visiting team was invited by its opponent to participate in the homecoming activities.

6.11 Coaches Television Shows – Video Reciprocity. Institutions may use highlight footage from Conference games for their respective coaches shows, subject to the provisions agreed upon with the Conference television partners. Institutions shall be responsible for making such arrangements with non-conference opponents.

6.12 Bowl Games. In-person, on-site (site of bowl officials) meetings by institutional staff members with officials of bowl games with which the Conference has a guaranteed relationship (e.g., Liberty Bowl, Las Vegas Bowl, San Francisco Bowl and any additional tie-ins) is prohibited.

6.13 Awards. The Conference football coaches and media as selected by the conference office shall select recipients for all awards.

6.13.1 All-Conference Team. The All-Conference team shall consist of 25 first team and 25 second team players. There shall be 11 offensive players by position, 11 defensive players by position, one place kicker, one punter and one special teams player on the first team and second team. Each shall be provided an award from the Conference.

6.13.2 Individual Awards. Individual awards shall be provided to the Coach of the Year, the Offensive Player of the Year, the Defensive Player of the Year and the Freshman of the Year.

6.14 Meetings of Coaches. There shall be an annual in-person meeting of the football coaches to be held in conjunction with the Football Media Day. Attendance by each head coach at the in-person meeting and media day is mandatory.