

Regulation 6

FOOTBALL

6.1 General Rules. Conference football competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the NCAA, the Bylaws and Operating Handbook of the Conference, and the current Mountain West Football Game Management Handbook in effect at the time.

6.2 Championship Determination. 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. In the event, however, that a single “champion” must be declared for the purposes of selection to the Bowl Championship Series (BCS), or its successor, and should a situation arise where said “champion” could not be determined on the field (i.e. head-to-head competition), then the team with the highest BCS ranking (or comparable metric in effect at the time) shall be identified as “champion” and will represent the Conference. (Revised April 2006 and October 2006)

6.3 Tie-Breaking Procedures. Tie-breaking procedures are to be used only for the purpose of identifying order of finish for bowl selection consideration. The MW’s bowl partners are not bound by the final standings and may select participants at their discretion, except as specified in the contractual agreements, in consultation with the Conference office. Every effort shall be made to protect the league champion(s) in the bowl selection process. Co-champions and other ties in the standings will remain unchanged for Conference awards, records and revenue-distribution purposes. (Revised April 2006)

6.3.1 Comparison. 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. (Revised April 2006)

6.3.2 Order. All ties shall be broken in the order in which they occur, from top to bottom, in the standings. Tied teams in the higher position shall be considered as separate positions based upon their finish (e.g., Team A and Team B are tied for first place in the standings. By using the established tie-breaking procedures, it is determined that Team B is the No. 1 finisher and Team A is the No. 2 finisher. Team C and Team D are tied for fifth place in the standings. When using the tie-breaking formula to break the tie, Teams C and D are compared separately against Team B first, then Team A). When comparing tied teams against positions lower in the standings that are also tied, those lower-tied positions shall be considered a single position for purposes of comparison. (Revised April 2006)

6.3.3 Two-Way Tie. If two teams tie for a position, the one that holds the head-to-head advantage during regular season play is declared the champion. (Revised April 2006)

6.3.4 Ties Between Three or More Teams. If three or more teams tie for a position, the combined record of each of the tied teams against the other teams involved in the tie shall be compared until an advantage is gained. If the multiple tie still exists, each of the tied teams’ records against the team occupying the highest position in the standings shall be compared, continuing down through the standings until the tie is reduced to a two-team tie, at which time the procedure shall revert to the two-way tie breaking procedure, until the tie is broken. (Revised April 2006)

6.3.5 Unresolved Tie. In the event none of the above procedures resolves the tie, the teams involved in the tie shall be considered equal. (Revised April 2006)

6.4 Scheduling.

- a. Home and away designation between Conference opponents shall alternate each year to the extent possible, with the understanding “venue repeats” may be unavoidable in the event of membership change and the construction of new scheduling grids;
- 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 consecutive open weeks in its schedule;
- e. 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., 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 arrive 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. [NOTE: Approval by the Conference office shall consider extenuating circumstances beyond the control of a visiting team that has made an appropriate effort to arrive at the game site at the scheduled start time. Involved institutions should try to communicate as early as possible any concerns in this regard. “Extenuating circumstances” could be affected by whether or not contracted television is involved.]
- 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 October 2002 and October 2003)

6.6 Artificial Noisemakers. The use of artificial noisemakers or other similar devices is prohibited during game action, particularly at a time that could disrupt the performance of a player. More detailed information regarding the definition and elimination of artificial noisemakers can be found in the current Mountain West Football Game Management Handbook.

The prohibition against artificial noisemakers does not preclude the use of institutionally-controlled traditions (e.g., cannons, train whistle). Such items, however, must not be activated during game action or at a time that could disrupt the performance of a team or player. For example, it would be permissible to fire a cannon as the ball was kicked off, but not permissible to fire a cannon as the receiver was attempting to receive the kick.

Cheerleader megaphones and amplified sound systems are also permissible, provided they are utilized in a positive and sporting fashion. Cheerleaders are not permitted to direct amplified sound toward the field and are required to discontinue use of the system when the team(s) breaks the huddle for the next play. Amplified sound may not be utilized during game action or at any time that is disruptive to the competitors.

6.7 Squad-Size Limitations. Football traveling squads shall be limited to 64 student-athletes for the visiting team in all intra-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 or for non-conference contests.

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

6.9 Video Exchange Policies and Procedures. Each game shall be videotaped and exchanged electronically between member institutions according to Mountain West standards and guidelines. This shall include requirements related to the football officiating program. Video exchange arrangements for non-conference games shall be determined on a case-by-case basis between the two participating institutions. The video crews from visiting institutions (especially those in the Mountain West Conference) shall be afforded every possible courtesy and professional assistance with regard to moving equipment, camera positions and the like. For specifics on the video exchange process, please refer to the appropriate appendix in the current Mountain West Football Game Management Handbook. (Revised April 2007)

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

6.10.1 Violations of Exchange Policy. A member institution that exchanges video 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 items 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 game/competition. Such suspension shall occur immediately following receipt of notice by the Commissioner.

6.11 Visiting Bands and Spirit Squads. 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 300 complimentary tickets. Performance on the playing field shall be determined by the home team's game management. The host institution should endeavor to provide adequate seating for visiting band members, including flag and dance lines.

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

6.12 Band Performances. Bands are prohibited from playing during game action or at any time that is disruptive to the competitors. Pre-game, postgame, timeouts, halftime, intermission, between quarters or other breaks in the action are permissible times for band activities. In the sport of football, bands must discontinue playing when the team with the ball breaks 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.

6.13 Public Address Announcers. Public address announcers must NOT be cheerleaders for the home team, exhorting the crowd or engaging in activities outside their responsibilities in reporting the pertinent facts of the game. Traditional inflections are permissible, but the PA announcers (as outlined in the various MW game management policies) must be cognizant of not “crossing the line”. Sound from the public address system must cease when the team with the ball breaks the huddle. If a team plays a no-huddle offense, the public address announcer should ensure his/her announcements are not disruptive to the offensive team.

6.14 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.

6.15 Selection/Placement Procedures for Bowl Games. The Conference office shall coordinate the process for the selection and placement of bowl-eligible institutions in bowl games – either those with which the Mountain West is contracted or for at-large opportunities. The parameters for a member institution’s participation in a bowl shall be negotiated and confirmed by the Conference (in accordance with existing agreements for those games with which the MW is contracted).

The Conference should not promote one institution over another. Institutions are responsible for promoting themselves and exchanges of telephone calls, e-mails, written materials, promotional items, videos, etc., between bowl officials and MW institutional representatives are not limited. However, 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 is prohibited. This does not preclude visits by the bowls to the institutions or to games involving the institutions. Member institutions may also interact with bowl representatives away from their campus if they happen to be in the bowl’s location for a regular-season game or are involved in a function at some location in which a bowl representative is also in attendance.

Mountain West institutions may not attempt to “outbid” fellow Conference members for potential bowl slots by offering financial bonuses, ticket guarantees or other incentives to bowl officials. (Revised April 2000, November 2005 and April 2006).

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

6.16.1 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.

6.16.2 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, the Special Teams Player of the Year and the Freshman of the Year.

6.17 Meetings of Coaches. There shall be an annual in-person meeting of the head football coaches to be held in conjunction with ~~the~~ Mountain West Football Media Day. Attendance by each head coach at the in-person meeting and all media day activities is mandatory. The head football coaches shall also convene annually with the Directors of Athletics at the site of the Mountain West Spring Meetings. Attendance at that meeting is also mandatory.