

## Regulation 1

# GENERAL REGULATIONS

**1.1 General.** The Administrative Sport Regulations shall become effective upon the adoption by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the Board of Directors to become effective on the date provided in the vote adopting the amendment. A proposed amendment may be initiated and submitted in writing to the Board of Directors by any member of the Board of Directors or by action of the Joint Council. If action favorable to an amendment is taken by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Joint Council, the same shall be adopted only after it has been confirmed at the following regular meeting of the Joint Council or approved by the Board of Directors.

**1.1.1 Governing Playing Rules and Regulations.** All regular season competition and Conference championships shall be conducted under NCAA rules, regulations, and format, except when specifically modified by Joint Council action. Any additional rules or regulations made by the Joint Council shall be more stringent than those of the NCAA.

**1.2 Minimum Sports Sponsorship.** Each member institution shall field varsity teams in football, women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, one women's team sport and additional men's and women's sports as prescribed by the NCAA to maintain Division I-A membership.

**1.3 Adding or Discontinuing a Conference Championship Sport.** A member institution must notify the Commissioner no later than March 1 if the institution intends to begin or discontinue a Conference championship sport during the ensuing academic year.

**1.4 Sport Committees.** Each Conference sport shall have a sport committee consisting of the head coach from each Conference institution. Each sport committee shall have an administrative liaison who is a member of the Joint Council. Administrative liaisons shall attend the respective mandatory coaches meetings. The Conference office shall pay (in accordance with established policies) the travel expenses of the administrative liaison to travel to coaches meetings. (Revised April 2006)

**1.4.1 Institutional Voting.** Voting during coaches meetings is governed by the "one vote per sport per institution" premise. If an issue relates only to women's programs, those institutions with women's programs may vote. Conversely, if an issue relates only to men's programs, those institutions with men's programs may vote. If an issue impacts both the men's and women's programs, those institutions with both programs may cast two votes.

**1.4.2 Reintroduction of Issues.** Sport committees shall not reintroduce issues that previously have been resolved for a minimum of two years. If new information becomes available or if changes to NCAA rules impact the original decision, the issue may be reviewed prior to the end of the two-year period. (Adopted April 2007)

**1.5 Artificial Noisemakers.** Artificial noisemakers are prohibited during athletic competition in all sports at all times; this includes non-conference as well as Conference competition. An institution shall not distribute or cause to be distributed artificial noisemakers. Reasonable efforts should be made by the institution to confiscate artificial noisemakers brought into athletic competitions. Institutions shall submit to the Conference office for review items with noisemaking implications prior to purchasing or entering into an agreement for purchase of such items. An institution that violates this provision shall be subject to the following:

- a. First offense: Warning from the Conference office.

- b. Second and subsequent offenses: A financial penalty determined by the Conference Commissioner.  
(Revised October 2003 and April 2004)

**1.6 Meeting of Coaches.** There shall be an annual in-person meeting of the coaches to be held in conjunction with the Conference championship in the sports of men's and women's golf, men's and women's cross country and women's soccer.

**1.6.1 Football.** In the sport of football the annual meeting shall be held in conjunction with media day.

**1.6.2 Baseball, Men's and Women's Basketball, Softball, Men's and Women's Tennis, Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving, Men's and Women's Track and Field and Volleyball.** In the sports of baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's track and field and volleyball, the annual meeting shall be held at a date and site determined in consultation with the administrative liaison.

**1.6.3 Mandatory Participation in Coaches Meetings.** All head coaches in all Conference sports shall attend one annual mandatory Conference coaches meeting unless prior approval for being absent is granted by the Commissioner. Any unauthorized absence will result in a one game suspension for the coach to be effective for the first regular season Conference game of the season. If there is no regular season Conference competition, the suspension shall be served on the first day of the Conference championship. The suspended coach is restricted the day of the game from being within 100 feet of the bench area or the team's locker room. In the case of an excused absence, an assistant coach may represent the head coach as an approved substitute. Appeals should be forwarded to the appropriate designated governance group (e.g., athletics directors, senior woman administrators). (Revised April 2006)

**1.6.4 Mandatory Participation in Pre-Championship Meetings.** A head coach who fails to attend the mandatory pre-championship meeting shall be suspended from the next regular season contest or date of competition. In date of competition sports, the suspension may not exceed one day. Appeals should be forwarded to the appropriate designated governance group (e.g., athletics directors, senior woman administrators). (Adopted October 2006)

**1.6.5 Institutional Votes from Members not in Attendance at Meetings or on Conference Calls.** Coaches and administrators, or designee, must be present at the meeting or on the conference call when voting commences in order to be included in the recorded action. (Adopted October 2006)

**1.7 Interrupted Game Procedures.** All personnel, including game officials, coaches, players, athletics directors, game management personnel and Conference office staff, are required to use best their effort to see that each Conference game is played to its conclusion. The Conference recognizes, however, that emergencies may arise which make a game's completion impossible or inadvisable. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, severely inclement weather, natural or man-made disasters, power failure and spectator interference.

**1.7.1 Definitions.**

- a. **Suspend.** To suspend a game is to temporarily halt play for a short duration or to delay the start of a game temporarily.
- b. **Cancel.** To cancel a game is to nullify it either before or after it begins and to make no provision for rescheduling it or for including its score or other performance statistics in Conference records.

- c. **Postpone.** To postpone a game is to (a) defer it to a later date, or (b) suspend it after play has begun and make provision to resume it at a later date with all scores and other performance statistics up to the point of postponement added to those achieved in the resumed portion of the game. (Revised February 2005)
- d. **Terminate.** To terminate a game is to end it short of completion, officially record it as a completed game, and make no provision to resume it at a later date.

**1.7.2 Suspension, Cancellation, Postponement or Termination.** Games should be suspended, canceled, postponed or terminated when circumstances exist such that commencement or continuation of play would pose a threat to the safety of the constituent groups involved with the game (e.g., student-athletes, coaches, officials, trainers, managers, facility personnel, staff, band, cheerleaders, mascots and fans). In the event a game is suspended, the directors of athletics of both participating institutions, game management personnel and the Conference office representative shall meet with the head official. The Conference office representative shall be responsible for communicating with the Commissioner or his designee, who has the sole authority to declare a game canceled, postponed or terminated. If a Conference office representative is not on site, the host institution's athletics director (or designee) shall communicate with the Commissioner or his designee. The home team game management, in consultation with the Conference office representative, shall be responsible for disseminating information regarding such a decision to the teams, media and general public. (Revised November 2003 and February 2005)

**1.7.2.1 Football or Basketball.** If a football or basketball game cannot be continued, and fewer than 30 minutes in basketball or fewer than three quarters in football have been played, the game shall be subject to interrupted game procedures. If the contest is rescheduled, the game shall resume at the point the contest was disrupted with all factors in place at the time of the disruption. If more than 28 minutes in basketball have been played and a team is 30 or more points behind, it shall be declared a completed contest. If more than three quarters in football have been played and a team is 28 or more points behind, it shall be declared a completed contest. If the aforementioned point differences are fewer than indicated, both institutions must agree in order for the contest to be declared completed. (Revised February 2005)

**1.7.3 Authority.** The authority to cancel, postpone or terminate a game is vested only in the Commissioner or his designee. Authority to suspend a game is vested in the head official.

**1.7.4 Guidelines.**

- a. If a game is suspended prior to the start for any reason, every effort shall be made to begin and complete the game within the existing circumstances and in accordance with the guidelines of this section. (Revised February 2005)
- b. If a game is suspended for any reason after play has begun, it should be resumed as soon as conditions are deemed safe by the head official (referee) in consultation with the home team game management personnel, the Conference office and the athletics directors from the two participating institutions (as prescribed above). (Revised February 2005)
- c. A game that is suspended prior to the start shall not be resumed after midnight local time. A game that is suspended after play has begun shall not be resumed beyond two hours following the point of suspension and no later than midnight local time, unless mutually agreed upon by the participating institutions. (Revised February 2005)
- d. If a game is suspended prior to the start for any reason and cannot resume under the applicable guidelines, the two participating institutions, in consultation with the

Commissioner, shall attempt to declare the game postponed and reschedule the game at a later date. If the game cannot be rescheduled, it will be considered a cancelled game. (Revised February 2005)

- e. If a game is suspended after play has begun and cannot resume under applicable guidelines, the two institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall attempt to declare the game postponed, and resume it at a later date. (Revised February 2005)

**1.8 Inclement Weather.** All weather-related decisions during a game shall be made by the head game official. The only Conference policy governing weather relates to lightning as follows:

- a. When word reaches the head official that a flash-to-bang count of 30 seconds has been reached, it is strongly recommended that the official immediately stop the game, informing both coaches that the game is being suspended at this point.
- b. The officials shall inform both teams that ALL constituent groups involved with the game (e.g., student-athletes, coaches, officials, trainers, managers, facility personnel, staff, band, cheerleaders, mascots and fans). will go immediately to the designated safe structure or location. (Revised February 2005)
- c. Play will be resumed only when the head official has been notified that at least 30 minutes have passed after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder.
- d. Suspended play beyond this point is covered by NCAA and Conference rules. (Revised February 2005)

**1.8.1 Lightning Safety – NCAA Guidelines.** The following steps are recommended by the NCAA and National Severe Storm Laboratory (NSSL) to mitigate the lightning hazard:

- a. Designate a chain of command as to who monitors threatening weather and who makes the decision to remove a team or individuals from an athletics site or event. An emergency plan should include planned instructions for participants as well as spectators.
- b. Obtain a weather report each day before a practice or event. Be aware of potential thunderstorms that may form during scheduled intercollegiate athletics events or practices.
- c. Be aware of National Weather Service-issued (NWS) thunderstorm “watches” and “warnings” as well as the signs of thunderstorms developing nearby. A “watch” means conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a “warning” means that severe weather has been reported in an area and for everyone to take proper precautions.
- d. Know where the closest “safe structure or location” is to the field or playing area, and know how long it takes to get to that safe structure or location.
- e. Safe structure or location is defined as:
  - 1. Any building normally occupied or frequently used by people, (i.e., a building with plumbing and/or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure). Avoid using shower facilities for safe shelter and do not use the showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm.
  - 2. In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle with a hard metal roof (not a convertible or golf cart) and rolled-up windows can provide a measure of safety. A vehicle is certainly better than remaining outdoors. It is not the rubber tires

that make a vehicle a safe shelter, but the hard metal roof, which dissipates the lightning strike around the vehicle. **DO NOT TOUCH THE SIDES OF THE VEHICLE!**

- f. Be aware of how close lightning is occurring. The flash-to-bang method is the easiest and most convenient way to estimate how far away lightning is occurring. Thunder always accompanies lightning, even though its audible range can be diminished due to background noise in the immediate environment, and its distance from the observer. To use the flash-to-bang method, count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide this number by five to obtain how far away (in miles) the lightning is occurring. For example, if an individual counts 15 seconds between seeing the first flash and hearing the bang. 15 divided by five equals three; therefore, the lightning flash is approximately three miles away.
- g. Specific lightning-safety guidelines have been developed with the assistance of the NSSL.
  1. As a minimum, NSSL staff strongly recommends that by the time the monitor obtains a flash-to bang count of 30 seconds, all individuals should have left the athletics site and reached a safe structure or location.
  2. The existence of blue sky and the absence of rain are not protection from lightning. Lightning can, and does, strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain shaft. It does not have to be raining for lightning to strike.
  3. If no safe structure or location is within a reasonable distance, find a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch. Assume a crouched position on the ground with only the balls of the feet touching the ground, wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head. Minimize contact with the ground, because lightning current often enters a victim through the ground rather than by a direct overhead strike. **MINIMIZE YOUR BODY'S SURFACE AREA, AND MINIMIZE CONTACT WITH THE GROUND. DO NOT LIE FLAT.** If unable to reach safe shelter, stay away from the tallest trees or objects (such as light poles or flag poles), metal objects (such as fences or bleachers), individual trees, standing pools of water and open fields. Avoid being the highest object in a field. Do not take shelter under a single, tall tree.
  4. A person who feels his or her hair stand on end, or skin tingle should immediately crouch, as described in item 3.
  5. Avoid using the telephone, except in emergency situations. People have been struck by lightning while using a land-line telephone. A cellular phone or a portable remote phone is a safe alternative to land-line phones, if the person and the antenna are located within a safe structure or location, and if all other precautions are followed.
  6. When considering resumption of an athletics activity, NSSL staff recommends that everyone should ideally wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder before returning to the field or activity.
  7. People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge. Therefore, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is safe for the responder. If possible, an injured person should be moved to a safer location before starting CPR. Lightning-strike victims who show signs of cardiac or respiratory arrest need emergency help quickly. Prompt, aggressive CPR has been highly effective for the survival of victims of lightning strikes.

**1.9 Conference Championship Sports.** The Mountain West Conference football, softball and women volleyball titles shall be determined on the basis of regular season Conference competition. Other Conference championships shall be held in the following varsity sports (Revised March 2007, Revised June 2008):

<p>WOMEN'S TEAM SPORTS Basketball Soccer (Revised April 2006)</p>	<p>MEN'S TEAM SPORTS Basketball Baseball</p>
<p>WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL SPORTS Golf Swimming &amp; Diving Tennis Outdoor Track &amp; Field Indoor Track &amp; Field Cross Country</p>	<p>MEN'S INDIVIDUAL SPORTS Golf Swimming &amp; Diving Tennis Outdoor Track &amp; Field Indoor Track &amp; Field Cross Country</p>

**1.10 Championship Regulations.**

**1.10.1 Awards Selection.** Awards shall be selected and purchased by the Conference office. Awards shall be shipped by the awards supplier directly to the host institution or championship site. Only official Conference awards may be presented at the site of the championship.

**1.10.2 Broadcast Rights.** All radio and television rights to championships shall be negotiated by the Conference office and the host institution. The radio rights are to be on a non-exclusive, stated fee basis. Television rights are to be on a competitive bid basis.

**1.10.3 Budgeting to Host a Conference Championship.** Expenses for hosting a Conference championship shall be funded through the Conference office budget. The host institution shall prepare a proposed budget for approval, and once approved, the expenses shall be paid by the Conference office.

**1.10.4 Dates and Sites.** Dates and sites for championships shall be determined by the Joint Council. In the event an institution has inadequate facilities to properly conduct a championship, or for other acceptable reasons, it may pass its scheduled turn in the rotation. In that event, the institution next in the rotation shall be the host institution. No championship shall be held at a site that discriminates on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

**1.10.5 Championship Participation.** Member institutions participating in a recognized sport during the regular season must compete in the Conference championship and take the minimum number of participants to the respective 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 Championship results in a loss to the host institution, the fine shall be used to cover the expenses incurred by the host institution. If the failure to bring the minimum number of participants to the Conference 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 numbers of participants rule may be granted by the Commissioner.

**1.10.6 Championship Sponsorship.** The Conference shall initiate a championship only when at least fifty percent of the member institutions participate in a sport.

**1.10.7 Championship Management.** The athletics director, senior woman administrator, or the designated representative of the host institution shall be the championship manager. This individual shall be responsible for conducting the business details according to the adopted administrative policies and any additional directions provided by the Conference office.

**1.10.8 Championship Meeting.** A meeting of the institutional representatives and officials shall be held to review championship procedures, local rules and policies.

**1.10.9 Equipment.** The host institution shall be responsible for providing all necessary equipment for the championship. Equipment shall be in compliance with all NCAA regulations.

**1.10.10 Game Management.** The championship shall be properly staffed with appropriate officials, administration, timers, scorers, ticket managers, maintenance and security personnel. Required equipment shall be provided.

**1.10.11 Hospitality.** A pre-championship luncheon/dinner and hospitality room for participating coaches, contest administration and selected officials and judges should be provided as appropriate.

**1.10.12 Media Relations/Promotions.** Media relations staff, trained statistical crews and sports information services shall be provided. Results are to be distributed to the Conference office and each participating institution.

**1.10.13 Medical, Physician, Certified Athletics Trainer.** Adequate medical and training facilities shall be provided. A certified athletics trainer shall be available at all championship competitions. Training facilities shall be made available to visiting teams. Each competing institution shall be informed as to the availability of training equipment and responsible for its own training supplies. There shall be planned access to a physician and a medical facility, including communication and transportation between the championship site and the medical facility, so that prompt medical service shall be available.

**1.10.14 Practice.** Participants shall be allowed to practice at the championship site, if possible.

**1.10.15 Pre-Championship Informational Packets.** Prior to the championship, each competing institution shall be provided with information on local food and lodging, location and times of meetings and banquets, publicity needs, key contacts, deadline for entries, practice areas and parking availability.

**1.10.16 Photographers.** All photographers in the competition area must be approved by the host institution and/or the Conference office.

**1.10.17 Public Address System.** A public address system shall be provided for each championship.

**1.10.18 Records.** Records for championships shall be kept on file in the Conference office.

**1.10.19 Starting Times.** Starting times for each championship shall be determined by the Conference office.

**1.10.20 Sunday Competition.** A championship shall not be scheduled to take place on Sunday. Any exception must be approved by the Commissioner.

**1.10.21 Travel Arrangements.** All teams are responsible for their own reservations for hotel, and air and ground transportation, using the Conference travel service where appropriate. The host institution shall establish a headquarters hotel and attempt to secure favorable rates for participating institutions.

## **1.11 Regular Season Regulations.**

**1.11.1 Crowd Control.** Officials in team sports shall utilize all of the rules and authority vested in them, and enforce the following crowd control procedures in the event of stadium or arena disorder:

**1.11.1.1 Football.** When the referee calls a time out due to any disruptive activity, the public address announcer shall read a prepared statement requesting that the disruptive activity cease immediately. While the public address announcement is being made, the head coach and team captains shall provide visual sideline support for the announcement.

**1.11.1.2 Basketball.** When the referee calls a time out due to any disruptive activity, the head coach and/or athletics director and/or captain shall appeal to the crowd for the activity to cease.

**1.11.1.3 Special Notes.** Once the game is under way, the referee/head official has the responsibility to determine if the situation is too detrimental to continue play and has the authority to stop the game. If a game has been terminated by the referee, the decision to continue the game is solely the authority of the athletics director or his/her designee.

**1.12 Refusal to Play.** At no time is either the home or visiting coach vested with the authority to stop or discontinue play. A coach unilaterally taking his/her team from the playing area or refusing to play may be subject to Conference sanctions and possible forfeiture of the contest.

**1.13 Game Contracts.** Game contracts shall not be exchanged for any Conference contest in any sport. Changes to regularly scheduled game date or time shall be submitted to the Conference office for approval by the Commissioner.

## **1.14 Squad-Size Limitations.**

**1.14.1 Home Team Squad-Size.** There shall be no squad-size limit on the home team, except in baseball which shall be 32 student-athletes with 25 student-athletes eligible to play as designated prior to the start of the series.

**1.14.2 Travel Squad-Size.** Any student-athlete who travels with the team shall be counted against the travel squad-size limitation. No student-athlete may travel with the team in any other capacity (i.e., manager, trainer, statistician, etc.) when his/her presence would cause an excess of the travel squad-size limitation specified for that sport. The number of student-athletes permitted to travel to away contests is limited to the following:

Baseball: Regular Season & Conference Championship – 25
Basketball: Men’s Regular Season – 15; Women’s Regular Season – 15; Men’s and Women’s Conference Tournament – 15
Football: Regular Season – 64
Golf: Conference Championship – 5
Soccer: Regular Season – 22; Conference Championship – 25
Softball: Regular Season – 20
Swimming & Diving: Conference Championship – 18 (divers count ½)
Tennis: Regular Season – 10; Conference Championship – 8
Cross Country: Conference Championship – 9

Indoor Track & Field: Conference Championship – 28 Outdoor Track & Field: Conference Championship – 28 Volleyball: Regular Season – 15
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**1.15 Ticket Policy.**

**1.15.1 Conference Championships.** Complimentary tickets shall not be issued for championship events. Admission prices for championship events shall be set by the host institution, in consultation with the Conference office. Students shall be admitted at no less than one-half the general admission price.

**1.15.2 Regular Season.** The number of complimentary tickets for visiting teams for regular season events is as follows:

SPORT	COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS
Football	300
Men's and Women's Basketball	50 (24 of which are located directly behind the visiting team bench)
Volleyball	28
Women's Soccer	40
Baseball	50
Softball	36

**1.15.3 Game Officials.** Institutions shall provide officials with two complimentary tickets to the contest he or she is working, provided the tickets are available.