

## Regulation 2

# **BASEBALL**

**2.1 General Rules.** Conference baseball competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the NCAA and the Bylaws and Operating Handbook of the Conference.

**2.2 Format.** The Conference regular season champion shall be determined through a modified single round-robin schedule. [Single round-robin plus an additional series against two conference opponents.] (Revised August 2006)

**2.3 Non-Conference Schedule.** In order to continue to improve institutional and Conference (RPI), each team shall schedule and play no more than four regular season non-Division I games per season (Effective for the 2005 baseball season.)

**2.3.1 Penalty – Exceeding Maximum Number of Non-Conference Opponents.** If a team schedules and plays more than four regular season non-division I games (defined as opponents that count in the determination of NCAA RPI) in a given year, the institution shall be assessed a penalty of \$50,000 per occurrence. (Revised April 2003 and October 2003).

**2.4 Regular Season Champion.** 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.

**2.5 Playing Rules.** All Conference baseball games shall be conducted according to NCAA Baseball Rules, except as modified by Conference regulations.

**2.6 Squad-Size Limitation.** Each head coach shall submit a numerical roster of eligible student-athletes for a Conference series to the opposing coach as well as to the umpire-in-chief prior to the start of the series. (Revised October 2006)

**2.6.1 Visiting Team.** Travel squads for all regular season Conference games shall be 25 student-athletes and shall remain the same for the duration of the trip regardless of the number of games played. 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.

**2.7 Videotape/Scouting Report Exchange.** A coach shall not send film, videotape or give a written or verbal scouting report on a Conference team to any institution outside the Conference.

**2.7.1 Violations of Videotape/Scouting Report Exchange Policy.** A member institution that exchanges videotapes or scouting reports in the sport of baseball 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.

**2.8 Championship Tournament.** A seven-team double elimination Conference tournament shall be conducted to determine the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.

**2.8.1 Minimum Number of Participants.** Member institutions that sponsor the sport of baseball shall take a minimum of nine participants to the Conference Baseball Championship Tournament. 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 Baseball Championship Tournament 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 Baseball Championship Tournament 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.

**2.9 Automatic Qualifier.** The Conference tournament champion shall be the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Men's Baseball Championship. Other Conference teams may accept invitations to participate in postseason tournaments only when conducted or approved by the NCAA.

**2.10 Tournament Date.** The Conference championship shall be held the Tuesday-Saturday immediately preceding the day of selection for the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. (Revised July 2005)

**2.11 Tournament Seeding.** Tournament seeding shall be based on regular season winning percentage in Conference competition.

**2.11.1 Two Way Ties.** In the case of a two-way tie in the final standings, position in the tournament bracket shall be determined as follows:

- a. Comparison of head-to-head competition in regular season Conference play;
- b. Evaluation of results from games of those teams tied during regular season play against those teams finishing ahead of the tied position (utilizing win percentage, if necessary, when evaluating results against those teams), beginning at first place and working down the standings to the tied position or until the tie is broken; (Revised September 2005)
- c. Evaluation of results from games of those teams tied during regular season play against those teams finishing below the tied position (utilizing win percentage, if necessary, when evaluating results against those teams), beginning at the tied position and working through last place, until the tie is broken; or (Revised September 2005)
- d. A drawing by the Commissioner.

**2.11.2 Multiple-Team Ties.** In the case of a multiple-team tie in the final standings, position in the tournament bracket shall be determined as follows:

- a. Comparison of head-to-head competition in regular season Conference play;
- b. If a tie still exists between three (3) or more teams, evaluation of results from games of those teams tied during regular season play against those teams finishing ahead of the tied position

(utilizing win percentage, if necessary, when evaluating results against those teams), beginning at first place and working down the standings to the tied position or until the tie is broken; (Revised September 2005)

- c. Evaluation of results from games of those teams tied during regular season play against those teams finishing below the tied position (utilizing win percentage, if necessary, when evaluating results against those teams), beginning at the tied position and working through last place, until the tie is broken; (Revised September 2005)
- d. If at any time during this analysis, any team(s) should have an advantage over the other team(s) tied at that position, the team(s) holding the advantage shall assume a bracket position higher than the other team(s); or
- e. A drawing by the Commissioner.

**2.12 Cancellation of Championship.** In the event the Conference championship has started but cannot be completed, the following shall be used to determine the tournament champion and automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship:

- a. If the tournament has been played through Game Seven or less; the No. 1 seed shall be the tournament champion and automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- b. If the tournament has been played through Game Eight; the winner of that game shall be the tournament champion and automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- c. If the tournament has been played through Game Nine; the winner of Game Eight shall be the tournament champion and automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- d. If the tournament has been played through Game 10; the highest seed between the two teams competing in Game 10 shall be the tournament champion and automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. (Revised October 2007)

In the event the Conference championship cannot be completed and no games have been played, the Conference regular season champion shall represent the Conference as the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.

**2.13 Cancellation of a Championship Game.** In the event any game of the Conference championship is postponed, it shall be made up or completed on the following day in addition to the regularly scheduled game. A day-night doubleheader may be scheduled if possible.

**2.14 Championship Game Ball.** The official game ball for all Championship games shall be determined by the Conference office.

**2.15 Pre-Championship Meeting.** A pre-championship meeting shall be held the day prior to the start of the Championship. The head coaches of all participating institutions are required to attend the meeting. 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). Conference office staff and an institutional representative also shall be in attendance at the meeting. (Adopted October 2006)

**2.16 Awards.** The Conference baseball coaches shall select recipients for all awards. Coaches shall not vote for themselves or for their own student-athletes for any of the awards. Should a coach fail to complete the entire ballot, the student-athletes from that team shall not be eligible to receive an award. Policies and procedures governing awards selection are outlined in the MWC Baseball Championship Handbook.

**2.16.1 All-Conference Team.** The All-Conference team shall consist of 26 players, 13 first-team and 13 second-team members. All positions should be represented with the following minimums:

- Eight by Position;
- One designated hitter;
- One relief pitcher, and
- Three additional pitchers

**2.16.2 Individual Awards.** Individual awards shall be provided to the Coach of the Year, the Player of the Year, Freshman of the Year and the Pitcher of the Year. (Revised October 2006)

**2.17 Meeting of Coaches.** There shall be an annual in-person meeting of the baseball coaches to be held each year at a site and 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.