

Regulation 4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

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

4.2 Format. A regular season champion shall be determined through a double round-robin schedule.

4.3 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.

4.4 Championship Tournament. A nine-team single elimination Conference tournament shall be conducted to determine the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship.

4.4.1 Minimum Number of Participants. Member institutions that sponsor the sport of Women's Basketball shall take a minimum of five participants to the Conference Women's Basketball 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 Women's Basketball 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 Women's Basketball 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.

4.4.2 Open Practice/Media Session. Institutions participating in the Women's Basketball Conference championship tournament shall participate in the open practice session and the media session that occurs prior to the championship tournament. The Conference office shall determine the time and location of the open practice and media session.

4.4.3 Arrival at Championship Site. Time of arrival for institutions participating in the Women's Basketball Conference championship tournament shall be left to the discretion of the institution. However, a team shall arrive no earlier than after classes two days prior to the team's first game (i.e., Tuesday evening for a Thursday game). Institutional oversight shall be provided by each Athletic Director, Senior Woman Administrator and Faculty Athletics Representative. The intent is for all student-athletes to complete classes on the day prior to departure to the tournament site. (Revised April 2004 and May 2006).

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

4.4.5 Tournament Date. The Conference championship shall be held the Tuesday-Saturday immediately preceding the selection for the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship.

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

4.6 Cancellation of Championship. In the event the Conference championship cannot be started or, if started, cannot be completed, the Conference regular season champion shall represent the Conference as the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship. (October 2001)

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

4.7.1 General Procedure. 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 seeding (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 seed and Team A is the No. 2 seed. 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 March 2004 and April 2004)

4.7.2 Two Way Tie. If two teams tie for a position, and one holds a win-loss advantage during regular season play, that team receives the higher seed. If the two teams split their games during the regular season, each tied team's record shall be compared against the team occupying the highest position in the standings, continuing down through the standings until one team gains the advantage, thereby gaining the higher seed. If two teams remained tied, the tie shall be broken by a comparison of the two teams' NCAA RPI. The team with the better NCAA RPI will gain the advantage. (Revised May 2006)

4.7.3 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. If teams remained tied, the tie shall be broken by a comparison of the two teams' NCAA RPI. The team with the better NCAA RPI will gain the advantage. (Revised May 2006)

4.8 Scheduling.

4.8.1 Conference Schedules. Scheduling of regular season Conference games shall begin no later than June 10. The scheduling process shall conclude on or about August 1 (last date the Mountain West Conference regional network may select games). The Conference office shall determine the date on which the schedule is released to media. (Revised April 2006)

4.8.2 Non-Conference Schedule. In order to continue to improve institutional and Conference (RPI), each team shall schedule and play no more than two regular season non-Division I games per season.

4.8.2.1 Penalty – Exceeding Maximum Number of Non-Conference Opponents. If a team schedules and plays more than two 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 October 2003)

4.9 Starting Times for Games. Institutions shall determine starting times for all games, except those selected for television, and report the times to the Conference office no later than September 1.

4.10 Game Time for Doubleheaders – Television. The first game of a doubleheader shall begin three hours prior to the second game if the second game is to be televised. If the second game is not televised, the first game shall begin no less than two and one-half hours prior to the second game. If the first game is televised, the second game may begin immediately thereafter at the discretion of the institution.

4.11 Playing Rules. All Conference women's basketball games shall be conducted according to the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules, except as modified by Conference regulations.

4.12 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.
- 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)

4.13 Scouting Reports. 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.

4.14 Squad-Size Limitations.

4.14.1 Regular Season. Traveling squads shall be limited to 15 student-athletes for all Conference regular season 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.

4.14.2 Conference Tournament. Squad-sizes shall be limited to 15 student-athletes for the Conference tournament.

4.15 Tickets.

4.15.1 Complimentary Tickets. For doubleheader games, the host institution shall provide a total of 50 complimentary tickets to the visiting women's team for use during both games. For single games, 50 complimentary tickets shall be provided to the visiting team, 24 of which shall be located behind the visiting team bench.

4.15.2 Distribution of Complimentary Tickets. Complimentary tickets shall be distributed according to the policies of the host institution's ticket office. These policies must be included in the game management information.

4.15.3 Student Ticket Exchange. There shall be no student exchange ticket arrangement between institutions in the Conference.

4.16 Video/Scouting Report Exchange. The dissemination of game video and/or scouting information on member institutions to non-conference institutions is prohibited. Video, film or motion pictures shall not be taken for scouting purposes unless the team taping is one of the competing teams. Exchanging videotapes among Conference teams shall be governed by the policies outlined in the MWC Basketball Game Management Handbook.

4.16.1 Violations of Video/Scouting Report Exchange Policy. A member institution that exchanges video/scouting reports in the sport of women's basketball 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.

4.17 Visiting Spirit Squads. A visiting spirit squad may consist of cheerleaders and/or dance team members and may travel a maximum of 12 members and one costumed mascot. The host institution shall determine whether the spirit squad and/or mascot shall be permitted to perform at halftime. The positioning of the spirit squad and mascot in the arena shall be determined by the host institution.

4.18 Awards. The Conference women's basketball coaches shall select recipients for all awards. Coaches shall not vote for themselves or for their own student-athletes. 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 selection are outlined in the MWC Men's and Women's Basketball Championship Handbook.

4.18.1 All-Conference Team. The All-Conference team shall consist of five first team, five second team, and five third team student-athletes. Each shall be provided an award from the Conference.

4.18.2 Individual Awards. Individual awards shall be provided to the Coach of the Year, the Player of the Year, the Newcomer of the Year and the Defensive Player of the Year.

4.19 Meeting of Coaches. There shall be an annual in-person meeting of the women's basketball coaches at a site and on a date to be determined. Attendance by each head coach at the in-person meeting and media day is mandatory. (Revised November 2003)