

## Regulation 9

# WOMEN'S SOCCER

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

**9.2 Format.** The Conference regular season champion shall be determined through a single round-robin schedule.

**9.3 Regular Season Team Champion.** The regular season team champion shall be the institution with the highest number of points accumulated in Conference competition (3 points for a win, 1 for a tie, 0 for a loss).

**9.4 Championship Tournament.** A six-team single elimination Conference tournament shall be held with the tournament champion representing the Conference as its automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship. (Revised October 2005)

**9.4.1 Minimum Number of Participants.** Member institutions that sponsor the sport of women's soccer shall take a minimum of 11 participants to the Conference Women's Soccer Championship Tournament. Institutions that do not meet the minimum number of participants requirement shall be assessed a fine of \$5,000 plus the cost 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 Soccer 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 Soccer 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.

**9.4.2 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 Soccer Championship. (Revised October 2001).

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

**9.4.4 Tournament Date.** The Conference championship shall be held the Wednesday-Saturday immediately preceding the day of selection for the NCAA Division I Soccer Championship.

**9.4.5 Tournament Seeding.** Tournament seeding shall be determined based on the final regular season Conference results. Teams shall be seeded according to the number of MWC points accumulated (3 points for a win, 1 for a tie, 0 for a loss).

In the case of a tie between two teams in the final standings, position in the tournament bracket shall be determined as follows:

1. Comparison of head-to-head Conference matches among tied teams;
2. Comparison of goal differentials within Conference games (maximum of three goals);
3. Comparison of goals scored within Conference games (maximum of three goals) and, if the teams remain tied,

4. Comparison of the tied teams' win-loss records against other Conference opponents in Conference matches, in descending order beginning with the top-seeded team, until the tie is broken, or (Revised December 2006)
5. A drawing by the Commissioner.

In the case of a tie between three or more teams in the final standings, position in the tournament bracket shall be determined as follows:

1. Comparison of head-to-head Conference matches among tied teams;
2. Comparison of goal differential in games between teams tied (maximum of three goals);
3. Comparison of goals scored in games between teams tied (maximum of three goals);
4. Comparison of goal differentials within Conference games (maximum of three goals);
5. Comparison of goals scored within Conference games (maximum of three goals) and, if the teams remain tied,
6. Comparison of the tied teams' win-loss records against other Conference opponents in Conference matches, in descending order beginning with the top-seeded team, until the tie is broken, or (Revised December 2006)
7. A drawing by the Commissioner.

In the case of multiple team ties, the tie breaking procedures set forth shall be used (in order) until the tie is reduced to a two-team tie. The process shall then revert to the beginning of the tie-breaking procedures and shall be applied (in order) until the two-team tie is broken.

**9.4.6 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)

**9.5 Automatic Qualifier.** The Conference tournament champion shall be the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship.

**9.6 Playing Rules.** All Conference soccer games shall be conducted according to the NCAA Women's Soccer Rules, except as modified by Conference regulations.

**9.7 Video 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 Soccer Game Management Handbook. (Revised October 2001, December 2007 and January 2009).

**9.7.1 Violations of Video/Scouting Report Exchange Policy.** A member institution that exchanges video or scouting reports in the sport of soccer 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.

**9.8 Squad-Size Limitations.** Traveling squad-size limits shall be 22 student-athletes for the regular season and 25 for the Conference championship. 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 squad-size limit on the home team for regular season games. (Revised February 2005)

**9.9 Awards.** The women's soccer coaches shall select recipients for Conference awards at the conclusion of the regular season. Nominees shall be discussed via conference call and ballots shall be submitted by each head coach at the conclusion of the conference call. Should a coach fail to complete the entire ballot, the student-athletes from that team shall not be eligible to receive an award. Additional awards policies and procedures can be found in the game management and championship handbooks. Awards shall be based on regular season Conference-only performances. Coaches shall not vote for themselves or for their own student-athletes.

**9.9.1 All-Conference Team.** The All-Conference team shall consist of 11 first team players and 11 second team players, regardless of position. Each shall be provided an award from the Conference. (Revised January 2006)

**9.9.2 All-Tournament Awards.** An all-tournament team shall consist of 11 players, regardless of position. In addition, a tournament MVP shall be chosen.

The all-tournament team shall be selected by the coaches as follows: the coaches of the teams losing in the semifinals shall select 2 players each from their respective teams, the coach of the runner-up team shall select three players from its team and the winning coach shall select four players from its team, including a MVP. (Revised March 2006)

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

**9.10 Meeting of Coaches.** There shall be an annual in-person meeting to be held in conjunction with the Conference tournament. Attendance by each head coach is mandatory.