

## Regulation 10

# SOFTBALL

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

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

**10.3 Regular Season Champion.** The regular season champion shall be determined by regular season winning percentage in Conference competition. In the event of a tie between two or more teams, such teams shall be considered co-champions. (Revised June 2008)

**10.4 Automatic Qualifier.** The Conference regular season champion shall be the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Softball Championship. (Revised April 2006)

**10.4.1 Tie-Breaking Procedures.** In the case of a two-way tie in the final standings, the automatic qualifier 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, beginning at first place and working down the standings to the tied position or until the tie is broken;
- c. Evaluation of results from games of those teams tied during regular season play against those teams finishing below the tied position, beginning at the tied position and working through last place, until the tie is broken; or
- d. The tie shall be broken by a comparison of the two teams' NCAA RPI (as of the most recent publication). The team with the better NCAA RPI shall gain the advantage. (Revised June 2008)

In the case of a multiple-team tie in the final standings, the automatic qualifier 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 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, beginning at first place and working down the standings to the tied position or until the tie is broken;
- c. Evaluation of results from games of those teams tied during regular season play against those teams finishing below the tied position, beginning at the tied position and working through last place, until the tie is broken;
- 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 position higher than the other team(s); or

- d. The tie shall be broken by a comparison of the two teams' NCAA RPI (as of the most recent publication). The team with the better NCAA RPI shall gain the advantage. (Revised June 2008)

**10.5 Playing Rules.** All Conference softball games shall be conducted according to NCAA Softball Rules, including rules adopted for NCAA tournament competition, except as modified by Conference regulations.

**10.6 Scouting of Opponents.** In softball, scouting of a Conference opponent is prohibited. Coaches and/or administrators may attend games versus a Conference opponent that involves a member of the coach's or administrator's immediate family and provided no scouting activities take place. (Revised July 2002 and June 2008).

**10.7 Video/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.

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

**10.8 Squad-Size Limitations.** Traveling team squad-sizes shall be limited to 20 student-athletes for regular season 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 conference competition after the violation has been reported. There shall be no squad-size limit on the home team.

**10.9 Time Between Games.** The time between games of a doubleheader shall be a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes. The host institution shall inform the umpires as to the time between games.

**10.10 Awards.** The softball coaches shall select recipients for each Conference award. 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 Softball Game Management Handbook.

**10.10.1 All-Conference Team.** The All-Conference team shall consist of 20 student-athletes. Each shall be provided an award from the Conference.

**10.10.2 Individual Awards.** Individual awards shall be provided to the Coach of the Year, the Player of the Year, the Pitcher of the Year and the Freshman of the Year.

**10.11 Meeting of Coaches.** There shall be an annual in-person meeting of the softball 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. (Revised April 2006)