

Regulation 13

WOMEN'S TENNIS

13.1 General Rules. Conference tennis competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the NCAA, ITA and the Bylaws and Operating Handbook of the Conference.

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

13.3 Regular Season Champion. The regular season team champion shall be the institution with the highest regular season winning percentage in Conference competition.

13.3.1 Regular Season Tiebreaker. Conference tournament seeding shall be based on regular season winning percentage in Conference competition. In the case of multiple team ties, the tiebreaking procedures set forth below shall be used until the tie is reduced to a two-team tie. The process then shall revert to the two-team tiebreaking procedures and shall be applied until the two-team tie is broken.

- a. In the case of a tie between three or more teams in the final standings, position in the tournament bracket shall be determined by a comparison of ITA national rankings. If none of the teams are ranked the positions shall be determined as follows:
 - (1) 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
 - (2) Comparison of tied teams' points versus other Conference opponents in Conference matches, in descending order, beginning with the top-seeded team, until the tie is broken, or
 - (3) A drawing by the Commissioner.
- b. In the case of a tie between two teams in the final standings, position in the tournament shall be determined by a comparison of head-to-head Conference matches among tied teams. (Revised October 2006)

13.4 Championship Tournament. A Conference tournament shall be held to determine the automatic representative to the NCAA Division I Women's Tennis Championship.

13.4.1 Tournament Date. The women's tennis championship shall be conducted two weeks prior to the start of NCAA competition.

13.4.2 Automatic Qualification. The winner of the Conference Championship Tournament shall be the Conference's automatic representative to the NCAA Women's Tennis Tournament.

13.4.3 Cancellation of Championship. In the event the Conference championship cannot be completed, the Conference regular season champion shall be the Conference's automatic representative to the NCAA Women's Tennis tournament. (Revised April 2004).

13.4.4 Minimum Number of Participants. Member institutions that sponsor the sport of women's tennis and participate in Conference competition shall take a minimum of five participants to the Conference Women's Tennis 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 Tennis 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 Tennis 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.

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

13.4.6 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)

13.5 Playing Rules. All Conference matches shall be conducted according to NCAA Women's Tennis and ITA Rules, except as modified by Conference regulations.

13.6 Squad-Size Limitations.

13.6.1 Regular Season. Traveling squads shall be limited to 10 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 squad-size limitation for the home team.

13.6.2 Conference Championship. Squad sizes shall be limited in the Conference Championship to eight student-athletes for each institution.

13.7 Awards. The Conference women's tennis coaches shall select recipients for all women's tennis awards. Coaches shall not vote for themselves or any of their 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 Tennis Championship Handbook.

13.7.1 All-Conference Team. The All-Conference team shall consist of 14 singles players and seven doubles teams selected on the basis of conference and nonconference results. (Revised May 2005 and June 2007).

13.7.2 Individual Awards. Individual awards shall be provided to the Coach of the Year, Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year. (Revised May 2004).

13.8 Meeting of the Coaches. There shall be an annual in-person meeting or conference call of the women's tennis coaches to be held each year in June at a site and 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 July 2006 and July 2008).