

Rule 7

AWARDS

7.1 Scholar-Athlete Award. The Scholar-Athlete Award is the most prestigious academic award conferred by the Mountain West Conference. The award will be presented each spring to student-athletes who meet the following criteria:

- a. Participate in an NCAA-sponsored sport.
- b. Have completed at least two semesters or three quarters at the certifying institution;
- c. Have earned at least a 3.5 cumulative grade-point average at the certifying institution (including graduate and undergraduate work) and;
- d. Have competed in at least one varsity contest.

The institution's faculty athletics representative shall be responsible for informing the Conference office of the student-athletes who qualify for the award. Scholar-Athlete Award recipients shall receive an engraved award from the Conference office.

7.2 Academic All-Conference. Student-athletes who participate in a sport in which the Mountain West Conference sponsors a championship shall be named Academic All-Conference provided they meet the following criteria:

- a. Have participated significantly in at least 50 percent of their team's contests and;
- b. Have earned a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 at the certifying institution.

The institution's faculty athletics representative, after consultation with coaches to ascertain "significant" participation, shall be responsible for informing the Conference office of the students who qualify for the award. Academic All-Conference honorees shall receive a certificate from the Conference office. Those who participate in both indoor and outdoor track shall receive a single award.

7.3 Mountain West Conference Student-Athlete of the Year Award. Two awards shall be presented annually, to the male and female student-athlete who best exemplify the term "student-athlete" by achieving excellence in academics, athletics and community/campus service.

7.3.1 Criteria. The awards shall be presented to the male and female student-athlete who meet the following criteria:

- a. Participate in an NCAA-sponsored sport.
- b. Academic Achievement: All nominees shall have earned at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA at the recommending institution (including undergraduate and graduate work).
- c. Athletic Achievement: All nominees shall have demonstrated superior athletic achievement and brought significant recognition to his/her institution.
- d. Community/Campus Service: All nominees shall have demonstrated significant contributions to the campus or community through service opportunities.

7.3.2 Procedures

- a. The faculty athletics representative at each member institution shall serve as the point person for receiving and completing the nomination packets.
- b. The nominee shall complete applicable forms.
- c. The nominee shall submit an official academic transcript with his or her nomination form.
- d. The Conference office shall distribute the nomination packet to the faculty athletics representative at each member institution in March of each year. Nominations shall be forwarded to the Conference office no later than July 1. (Revised February 2009)
- e. The Recognition Committee shall review all nominations and select the award winners. The award shall be presented on campus the following fall. (Revised April 2006)

7.4 Albert C. Yates Distinguished Service Award. The Albert C. Yates Distinguished Service Award is presented to an individual who has performed significant service in support of the Mountain West Conference.

7.4.1 Criteria. The award shall be presented in the spring to the individual who meets the following criteria:

- a. The award recipient shall be a current or former athletics administrator, faculty athletics representative, other institutional staff member or other individual who has supported and promoted the Mountain West Conference.
- b. The award recipient shall be an individual who has served, supported and promoted the goals and ideals of the Mountain West Conference or member institution and who, through personal effort and dedication, has enhanced the ability of the Conference and/or its member institutions to provide a positive experience for the student-athletes enrolled at any member institution.

7.4.2 Procedures

- a. Each Joint Council member may nominate one individual each year with a maximum of three nominations per institution each year. Any individual who meets the criteria may be nominated regardless of their affiliation.
- b. The Conference office shall send nomination forms to Joint Council members during the first week in February. Nominations shall be forwarded to the Conference office and postmarked no later than April 1.
- c. Nomination forms **MUST** be signed by the president/chancellor of the nominating university before the nominees are submitted for consideration. In the event one or more nominees are presented by an MWC institution other than their own, the president/chancellor of the nominating institution(s) must contact the president/chancellor of the nominees' institutions for their approval prior to submitting the application. (Revised June 2007)
- d. The Recognition Committee shall annually review the nominations and make the selection. (Revised April 2006)
- e. The award recipient shall be recognized at the spring meeting of the Joint Council. (Revised April 2006)

- f. In an effort to recognize only one award winner per academic year, nominees not selected for that year's award may be submitted in subsequent years, provided they continue to meet the criteria for selection.
- g. The award recipient shall receive an appropriate award to recognize receipt of this award.
- h. It shall not be mandatory that the award be presented each year.

7.5 Commissioner's Award. The Commissioner's Award is presented to an individual who has achieved a singularly distinguished accomplishment that has significantly enhanced the Mountain West Conference or a member institution.

7.5.1 Criteria. The award shall be presented in the spring to the individual who meets the following criteria:

- a. The award recipient may be any person associated with the Mountain West Conference and may be a current or former athletics administrator, faculty athletics representative, coach, Conference office staff member or an individual not associated directly with any institution or the Conference office.
- b. The award recipient shall be an individual who, through dedicated effort and service has achieved a singularly distinguished accomplishment, during the current academic year, that has significantly enhanced the Mountain West Conference or a member institution.

7.5.2 Procedures

- a. Each Joint Council member may nominate one individual each year with a maximum of three nominations per institution each year. Any individual who meets the criteria may be nominated regardless of their affiliation.
- b. The Conference office shall send nomination forms to Joint Council members during the first week in February. Nominations shall be forwarded to the Conference office and postmarked no later than April 1.
- c. The Recognition Committee shall annually review the nominations and make the selection. (Revised April 2006)
- e. The award recipient shall receive an appropriate award to recognize receipt of this award.
- f. It shall not be mandatory that the award be presented each year.
- g. This award will not generally be given to coaches for achieving an outstanding record or having a very successful year in as much as the "Coach-of-the-Year" award, in each sport, is designed to recognize these achievements. This award could be given to a coach for achievements, other than team success or in very unusual circumstances, i.e. a national championship, for team-related accomplishments.

7.6 Sport Awards. Official Conference awards shall be presented in all sports. The awards for each sport are set forth in the sport regulations section of this handbook.