



2023-24 CODE

Big Sky Conference
286 South 200 West
Suite 110
Farmington, UT 84025
(801) 392-1978
www.BigSkyConf.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	1
BIG SKY CONFERENCE HISTORY	2
PREAMBLE.....	3
VISION	3
MISSION STATEMENT	3
VALUES.....	3
ARTICLE 1	4
ARTICLE 2	16
ARTICLE 3	17
RULE 1: RECOGNIZED SPORTS.....	18
RULE 2: ELIGIBILITY	20
RULE 3: FINANCIAL AID	22
RULE 4: RECRUITING	23
RULE 5: ENFORCEMENT POLICIES.....	24
RULE 6: ETHICAL CONDUCT, SPORTSMANSHIP & SUPPORT OF CONFERENCE PROGRAMS.....	26
RULE 7: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS	29
RULE 8: AWARDS.....	30
RULE 9: MEDIA DAY & POSTSEASON EVENTS	32
RULE 10: MANAGEMENT	34
RULE 11: MEDIA	38
RULE 12: OFFICIATING	40
RULE 13: CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	44
RULE 14: MEETINGS	45
RULE 15: CONFERENCE OPERATIONS	46
RULE 16: BASKETBALL	47
RULE 17: FOOTBALL	52
RULE 18: SOCCER	55
RULE 19: SOFTBALL	60
RULE 20: TENNIS	65
RULE 21: VOLLEYBALL	68
RULE 22: BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	74
RULE 23: CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS	79
RULE 24: GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	82
RULE 25: SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP	85
RULE 26: SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP	90
RULE 27: TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	96
RULE 28: TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	99
RULE 29: VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP	105
APPENDIX A: 2023-24 FACT SHEET	110
APPENDIX B: 2023-24 ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETINGS	113
APPENDIX C: NOISEMAKER POLICY.....	114
APPENDIX D: AWARDS AND HONORS SYSTEM.....	115
APPENDIX E: AWARDS CHART.....	119
APPENDIX F: BIG SKY CHAMPIONSHIP HOTEL GUIDELINES	120
APPENDIX G: MANDATORY CPR CERTIFICATION	121
APPENDIX H: TENNIS PROTEST PROCEDURES.....	122
APPENDIX I: 2023-24 BIG SKY CALENDAR OF EVENTS	123
APPENDIX J: 2023-24 COACHES MEETING CALENDAR	124
APPENDIX K: CONFERENCE MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS FOR DUE DILIGENCE INQUIRIES	125
APPENDIX L: CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP ATC REQUIREMENTS	126
APPENDIX M: COMMON ACRONYMS.....	128
APPENDIX N: 2023-24 CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE.....	129
APPENDIX O: FOOTBALL AFFILIATE BASKETBALL GAME ROTATION.....	130
APPENDIX P: TENNIS SCHEDULE ROTATION	131
APPENDIX Q: STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE.....	132

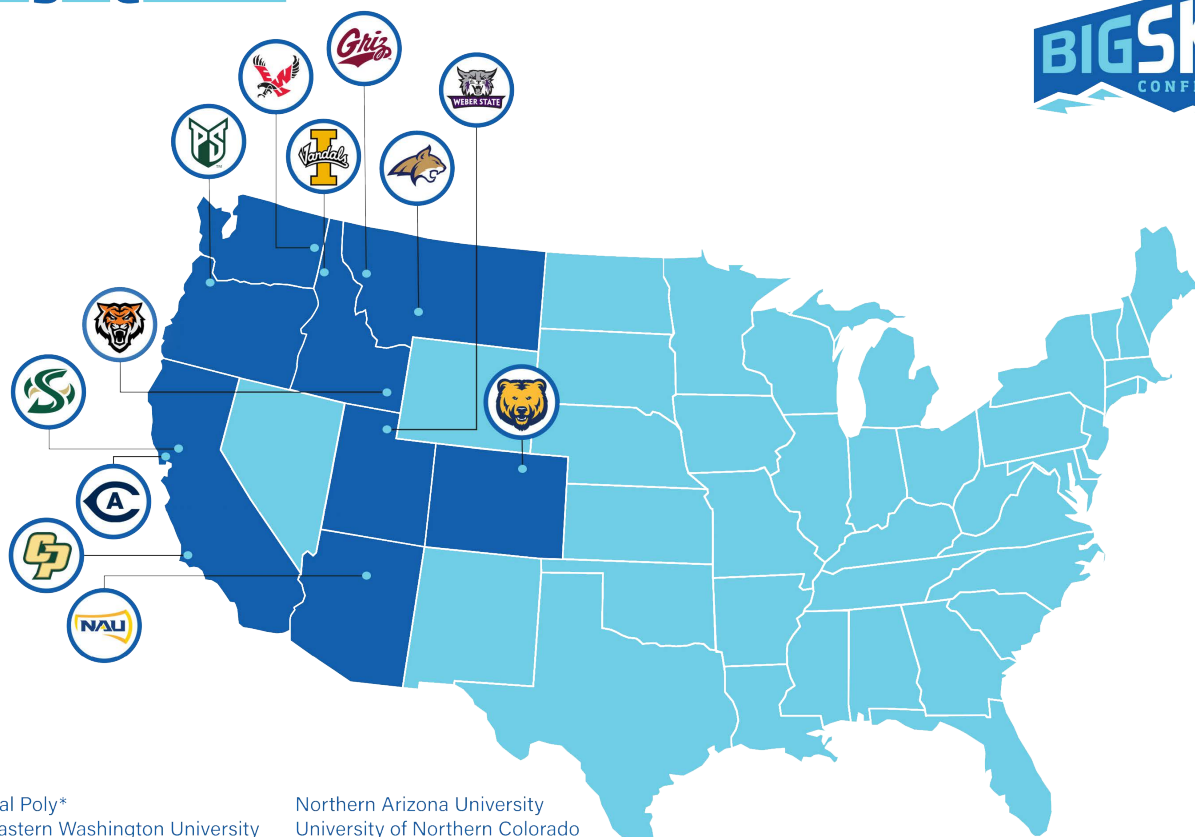
BIG SKY CONFERENCE HISTORY

The Big Sky Conference enters its 60th year overall and 35th year of women's competition during the 2022-23 academic year.

The Conference was established in 1963 by six charter members – Idaho, Idaho State, Gonzaga, Montana, Montana State and Weber State. The name originated in a novel written by A.B. Guthrie of Great Falls, MT, titled "The Big Sky". The six presidents of the charter members adopted the name "Big Sky" for their new conference on February 25, 1963.

The Big Sky is one of three conferences in the western United States playing Division I football and is a national leader in the Football Championship Subdivision. Big Sky teams have won seven national titles in football dating back to 1976, including most recently by Eastern Washington in 2010. In 2016, Northern Arizona won the NCAA Division I Men's Cross Country National Championship, making them the first conference team to win a national championship in a sport other than football. The Lumberjacks followed with national championships in 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021 & 2022.

BIGSKYCOUNTRY



Cal Poly*
Eastern Washington University
University of Idaho
Idaho State University
University of Montana
Montana State University

Northern Arizona University
University of Northern Colorado
Portland State University
Sacramento State University
UC Davis*
Weber State University

* - Football Affiliate Members

bigskyconf.com

PREAMBLE

Members and Affiliate Members of the Big Sky Conference subscribe to the principle that intercollegiate athletics is a vital part of higher education, and that the intercollegiate athletics experience is equally valuable for both male and female students. Members and Affiliate Members are committed to providing athletic opportunities on an equitable basis without regard to gender, race, color, religion, ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, or disability status.

Members and Affiliate Members are also dedicated to a continuing effort to maintain intercollegiate athletics in harmony with the essential educational purposes of the institution. To reinforce this principle, the intercollegiate athletics programs shall be administered and conducted in a manner consistent with their institutions' educational policies.

The Big Sky Conference subscribes to the fundamental purpose, policies, and principles governing the conduct of intercollegiate athletics as adopted by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). It is the function of this Conference to encourage intercollegiate athletics on an amateur basis with institutional control. Fundamental to the successful application of any set of rules is the spirit of mutual confidence and cooperation.

These principles were codified during the 2016 Big Sky Strategic Plan and were reconfirmed during the 2022 Strategic Plan.

VISION

The Big Sky is a preeminent NCAA Division I athletic conference that aspires to provide a world-class student-athlete experience.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Conference shall be to collectively enhance the aspirations and promote the success of each university and their unique communities, while fostering a holistic and balanced experience for student-athletes and developing them as champions for life.

VALUES

We are in this together. Working together as a conference enhances our ability to deliver more for our students than we could as individual institutions.

We are committed to sportsmanship. We play hard and strive to win, but we are respectful to each other, and we revel in the accomplishments of our colleagues.

We do things the right way. We believe in equity in athletics, we follow the rules, and we create opportunities to develop student-athletes for life.

We have Big Sky values. We are collegial, authentic, pioneering, hardworking, inclusive; and we provide our student-athletes with what they need to learn, to compete, and to succeed at life.

ARTICLE 1

1.0 Name.

The name of the organization shall be the Big Sky Conference (hereinafter called the “Conference”).

1.1 Affiliation.

The Conference shall be a Division I member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

1.2 Purposes.

The Conference is organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The purposes of the Conference shall be:

- a) To enhance the aspirations and promote the success of our Member institutions and their communities;
- b) To foster a holistic and balanced experience for student-athletes;
- c) To govern intercollegiate athletics competition of Member institutions;
- d) To promote high standards of academic scholarship and athletics competition;
- e) To provide an atmosphere of trust, confidence, and sportsmanship in all athletics competition;
- f) To develop public appreciation of the educational values of intercollegiate athletics; and
- g) To enhance the administration of intercollegiate athletics.

1.3 Membership.

1.3.1 Members.

Conference membership shall consist of two classes – Member and Affiliate Member.

1.3.1.1 Member.

Members of the Conference are:

Eastern Washington University
University of Idaho
Idaho State University
University of Montana
Montana State University

Northern Arizona University
University of Northern Colorado
Portland State University
California State University, Sacramento
Weber State University

1.3.1.2 Affiliate Member. [Revised: May 2023]

An Affiliate Member shall be defined as any institution that does not compete in all of the Conference’s core sports. Football Affiliate Members of the Conference are:

California Polytechnic State University University of California, Davis

1.3.2 Member Regulations.

Members shall hold Division I membership status in the NCAA and be classified as Football Championship Subdivision in football. Members may participate as members of another conference only in sports not sponsored by the Conference. A Member can vote on all legislative proposals and/or issues, including those pertaining to sports in which it does not compete. Members must sponsor men’s basketball, women’s basketball, football, and women’s indoor volleyball. Additionally, Members must sponsor at least four of the following five men’s sports: cross country, golf, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, and tennis; and at least five of the following seven women’s sports: cross country, golf, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, soccer, softball, and tennis. [Revised: PC-2020-S]

1.3.3 Affiliate Member Regulations.

An institution applying for affiliate membership must be an NCAA Division I member in the applicable sport(s) at the time of application. The initial term of affiliate membership shall be three (3) years. After the initial three-year term, membership will automatically renew each year unless a notice of rescission is provided (see Rule 1.3.3.1). An Affiliate Member can vote only on proposals and/or issues specific to the sport(s) in which it competes and is prohibited from voting on issues pertaining specifically to sports in which it does not compete. These terms may be adjusted on an agreement-by-agreement basis.

1.3.3.1 Rescission.

Proposals to rescind affiliate membership must be presented at a meeting of the Presidents' Council for information and discussion purpose only, with no action being taken on the proposal at same meeting. Action to rescind affiliate membership may be taken at the next meeting of the Presidents' Council and must be an affirmative vote from all Member institutions' Presidents.

1.3.4 New Members.

An institution may become a Member of the Conference by invitation or written application. Admittance requires at least three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor from the Member institutions Presidents' Council. Membership shall not be acted upon at the same meeting at which it is proposed.

1.3.4.1 Entrance Fee.

Upon acceptance, an institution invited to join the Conference as a Member shall pay an entrance fee of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000). It must also pay one share of the current Conference equity. The equity share is computed by dividing the current equity (*as of the most recent audit*) by the current number of members less the new Member. The Presidents' Council may make specific arrangements with an institution for payment of fees other than stated herein. Unless otherwise agreed upon, all fees are due prior to inclusion in Conference schedules.

1.3.4.2 Annual Dues.

A Member shall pay annual dues in the amount agreed upon by the Presidents' Council. The current dues are set at sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000). The Presidents' Council may make specific arrangements with an institution for payment of fees other than stated herein. [Revised: PC-2019-1]

1.3.5 New Affiliate Members.

An institution may become an Affiliate Member of the Conference by invitation or written application. Admittance requires at least three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor from the Presidents' Council. Membership shall not be acted upon at the same meeting at which it is proposed.

1.3.5.1 Entrance Fee.

An Affiliate Member whose membership includes men's basketball shall pay a non-refundable entrance fee of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000). Unless otherwise agreed upon, such an Affiliate Member will begin to share NCAA basketball revenue at the next distribution upon entering the Conference. An Affiliate Member whose membership does not include men's basketball shall pay a non-refundable entrance fee of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). An Affiliate Member is not required to pay a share of the Conference equity; therefore, it will make no claim to Conference equity should there be a distribution from this fund. The Presidents' Council may make specific arrangements with an institution for payment of fees other than stated herein.

1.3.5.2 Annual Dues.

An Affiliate Member shall pay annual dues in the amount agreed upon by the Presidents' Council. A football Affiliate Member's dues each year will be the equivalent of half of the dues assessed that year for the Conference's full Members or thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), whichever is greater. In all other sports, an Affiliate Member shall pay annual dues of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for one (1) or two (2) sports, and twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for any number of sports up to, but not including, those equal to Member status. The Presidents' Council may make specific arrangements with an institution for payment of fees other than stated herein. [Revised: PC-2019-1]

1.3.6 Withdrawal.

A Member or Affiliate Member may withdraw from the Conference by filing an official written notice of withdrawal to the Commissioner and each President at least one (1) calendar year before its official withdrawal date of July 1. Upon at least three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor from the total membership of the Presidents' Council, excluding the withdrawing Member or Affiliate Member, the withdrawal date

may be advanced. Upon its announcement of intent to withdraw, the Member or Affiliate Member shall be immediately ineligible to receive regular (i.e., television, NCAA revenue, surplus, etc.) or special (e.g., new initiative funding, etc.) distribution made from the Conference to its membership. A Member or Affiliate Member that has announced its intention to withdraw shall be immediately ineligible to vote on issues affecting future Conference operation or policy. A withdrawing Member or Affiliate Member shall play all approved athletic competitions scheduled with other Members in accordance with the approved Conference schedules unless such contests are waived by written consent of the Presidents' Council.

A Member or Affiliate Member that has forwarded to the NCAA National Office written notice of its intention to change its football membership classification from Division I Football Championship Subdivision to Division I Football Bowl Subdivision prior to the completion of its final football season with the Conference shall be ineligible for the NCAA Automatic Qualifier and Big Sky Regular Season Championship. This shall be effective on the date the institution's written notice is received by the NCAA National Office.

1.3.6.1 Proper Notification – Fees.

The Presidents' Council, upon at least a three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor from its total membership except the institution(s) involved, may reduce, restructure, or waive the payment required if extenuating circumstances warrant consideration.

1.3.6.1.1 Member.

A withdrawing Member that provides proper notice shall pay the following exit fee based on term of membership in the Conference:

- a) Withdrawing after one year of membership: one million and five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000)
- b) Withdrawing after two years of membership: one million and two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000)
- c) Withdrawing after three years of membership: one million dollars (\$1,000,000)
- d) Withdrawing after four years of membership: seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000)
- e) Withdrawing after five years of membership: five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)
- f) Withdrawing after six or more years of membership: two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000)

1.3.6.1.2 Affiliate Member – Men's Basketball.

A withdrawing Affiliate Member whose membership includes men's basketball that provides proper notice shall pay the following exit fee based on term of membership in the Conference:

- a) Withdrawing after one year of membership: two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000)
- b) Withdrawing after two years of membership: two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000)
- c) Withdrawing after three years of membership: two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000)
- d) Withdrawing after four years of membership: one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000)
- e) Withdrawing after five years of membership: one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000)
- f) Withdrawing after six or more years of membership: one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000)

1.3.6.1.3 Affiliate Member -- Football.

A withdrawing Affiliate Member whose membership includes football that provides proper notice shall pay the following exit fee based on term of membership in the Conference: [Adopted: PC-2020-S]

- a) Withdrawing after one year of membership: one million and five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000)
- b) Withdrawing after two years of membership: one million and two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000)
- c) Withdrawing after three years of membership: one million dollars (\$1,000,000)
- d) Withdrawing after four years of membership: seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000)
- e) Withdrawing after five years of membership: five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)
- f) Withdrawing after six or more years of membership: two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000)

1.3.6.1.4 Affiliate Member – All Other Sports.

A withdrawing Affiliate Member whose membership does not include men's basketball or football that provides proper notice shall pay the following exit fee based on term of membership in the Conference:

- a) Withdrawing after one year of membership: one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000)
- b) Withdrawing after two years of membership: one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000)
- c) Withdrawing after three years of membership: one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)
- d) Withdrawing after four years of membership: seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000)
- e) Withdrawing after five years of membership: fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)
- f) Withdrawing after six or more years of membership: twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)

1.3.6.2 Improper Notification – Fees.

The failure of a Member or Affiliate Member to provide proper notification will result in the Conference, by a three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor from the Presidents' Council except the involved institution(s), excluding all teams from the withdrawing institution from participation in any remaining Conference Championships.

1.3.6.2.1 Member or Affiliate Member.

A Member that fails to provide proper notification will pay a fee of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to the Conference. If an Affiliate Member withdraws from the Conference before the conclusion of the Agreement without providing proper notice as defined in the Conference's Code, the Affiliate Member will owe the Conference a sum equal to the withdrawal fee for a full Conference Member. The Presidents' Council, by a three-fourths (3/4) vote except the involved institution(s), may reduce, restructure, or waive the payment required if extenuating circumstances warrant consideration. [Adopted: PC-2020]

1.3.7 Probation.

The Presidents' Council shall have the power, by three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor, to place a Member or Affiliate Member that violates the rules and regulations of the Conference on probation. The President of the institution(s) charged with misconduct shall not be eligible to vote. Final action may occur at the same meeting at which it is proposed.

1.3.8 Suspension and Expulsion.

The Presidents' Council shall have the power, by a unanimous affirmative vote of all Members, to suspend or expel a Member or Affiliate Member who violates the rules and regulations of the Conference. The President of the institution(s) charged with misconduct shall not be eligible to vote. Final action on the suspension or expulsion shall not be taken at the same meeting at which it is proposed.

1.3.9 Termination.

The Presidents' Council shall have the power, by a unanimous affirmative vote of all Members, to terminate an institution's membership with the Conference. The President of the involved institution(s) shall not be eligible to vote. There is no cause needed for termination. Proposals for this action must be presented at a meeting of the Presidents' Council for information and discussion purpose only, with no action being taken on the proposal at the same meeting. Action may be taken at the next meeting of the Presidents' Council. Notice of termination must be given at least one calendar year before its official termination date of July 1.

1.3.9.1 Improper Notice – Fees.

If not given proper notice of termination, the affected Member or Affiliate Member shall be paid its initial entry fee upon its official termination date of July 1.

1.3.10 Reinstatement.

The Presidents' Council shall have the power, by an affirmative vote of all Members, to reinstate any Member or Affiliate Member that has withdrawn, been terminated, expelled, or suspended. The representative of the Member or Affiliate Member seeking reinstatement shall not be eligible to vote.

1.3.11 Notification of Sport Discontinuation.

A Member or Affiliate Member shall provide an official written notice of discontinuation of a Big Sky Sponsored sport to the Commissioner at least fourteen (14) months prior to the official discontinuation date of July 1. [Adopted: CC-2018-18-S; Revised: PC-2020-S]

1.3.11.1 Improper Notification of Sport Discontinuation.

A Member or Affiliate Member that fails to give one-year notice prior to discontinuing any Conference Sponsored sport may be fined fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). In addition, a Member that discontinues a Core Sport will place the institution in violation of the Constitution, and its membership in the Conference may face suspension, expulsion or termination. [Adopted: 2018-18; Revised: PC-2020]

1.4 Governance.

The governance of the Conference shall be established by this Constitution, the Operating Code, Sports Policies, and Championship Policies. Members and Affiliate Members agree to enact and enforce the necessary measures to carry out Conference rules, both in letter and spirit.

1.4.1 Application of NCAA Legislation.

The Conference is a member of the NCAA and, as such, all member institutions are bound by NCAA Bylaws unless Conference or institutional rules are more restrictive.

1.4.2 Institutional Control.

Membership in the Conference is based on the principle of active institutional control of athletics departments. Responsibility in all matters of Conference athletics policy shall rest with Member institutions.

1.4.3 Controlling.

Members shall be bound by the same controls when competing against non-Conference institutions, unless otherwise specifically noted.

1.5 Conference Commissioner.

The Commissioner shall be chosen by the Presidents' Council. The Commissioner shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Conference, subject to the direction and under the supervision of the Presidents' Council. The Commissioner shall be responsible for ensuring that the objectives, policies, and order of the Presidents' Council are implemented, and shall do and perform other such duties and may exercise such other powers as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by these Articles, Rules of the Operating Code, or by the Presidents' Council. The Commissioner shall serve as the principal enforcement officer of the Code and may, from time to time, designate others to act on his or her behalf to enforce the Code. The Commissioner shall have jurisdiction over all Conference rules and shall have the responsibility for and is authorized to provide ruling and interpretations of the Code. The Commissioner shall be entitled to attend all meetings of all the Councils and Committees of the Conference.

1.6 The Councils.

The Conference shall be governed by five (5) Councils: Presidents' Council, Conference Council, Council of Athletic Directors, Council of Senior Woman Administrators and Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives. [Revised: 2022-22]

1.6.1 Officers.

The officers of each Council shall be a Chair and a Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Council of Athletic Directors, Council of Senior Woman Administrators and the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall rotate annually. The Presidents Council Chair shall be elected every two years, while the Vice Chair shall be elected every year. The terms of the officers shall conclude at the close of the Spring Meeting. For rotations, see [Appendix B](#). [ER: 2023]

1.6.2 Quorum.

A majority of Council members, or their duly authorized representatives, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All items passed during a Council meeting shall go into effect at the beginning of the following academic year, unless otherwise provided, and shall not be retroactive unless specifically provided.

1.6.3 Robert's Rules of Order.

All Councils shall operate under Robert's Rules of Order.

1.6.4 Conference Liaison.

The Conference shall provide staff support for all Councils.

1.7 Presidents' Council.

1.7.1 Power of Council.

The Presidents' Council shall be the governing body of the Conference and shall have authority over all functions and activities of the Conference.

1.7.2 Representation.

The President of each institution shall be the representative to the Presidents' Council.

1.7.2.1 Substitute Representation.

Presidents may not send substitute representation to meetings. [PC – 2022]

1.7.3 Functions.

The following matters are reserved to the Presidents' Council: determine all Conference policies; take action on proposed amendments to the Constitution, Operating Code, Sports Policies, and Championship Policies; hire, determine duties, assign responsibilities and conditions of employment, and terminate the employment of the Commissioner; select the location of the Conference's principal place of business; and admit into membership, suspend, expel, terminate, or place on probation any member of the Conference.

1.7.4 Officers and Duties.

The Chair shall preside over all of meetings of the Presidents' Council; collaborate with the Commissioner, or his or her designee, in the areas of Conference policies, rules, and regulations between regular Conference meetings (actions taken are subject to the review of the Presidents' Council); issue calls for Council meetings through the Conference office; appoint members of standing and ad hoc committees; and serve as the spokesperson to the press and public.

[Revised: PC-2018-2-F]

1.7.4.1 Selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

A slate of nominees for the Presidents' Council Chair and/or Vice Chair positions will be determined via nominations/self-nominations. The Council will review the nominations and vote for each position confidentially during the Spring Meeting. [Adopted: PC-2018-2-F]

1.7.4.1.1 Term of Chair.

The Presidents' Council Chair shall serve a term of two (2) years. Concurrent terms are not permitted. [Adopted: PC-2018-2-F]

1.7.4.1.2 Role of Vice Chair.

The Vice Chair shall serve a term of one (1) year and is the Council representative on standing committees. The Vice Chair shall assume the Chair role should the current Chair step down or be otherwise unavailable. [Adopted: PC-2018-2-F]

1.7.5 Meetings.

The Presidents' Council shall hold three (3) in-person meetings each year. See [Appendix I](#) for more details [ER: 2023]

1.7.6 Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the Presidents' Council may be held on call by the Chair or the Commissioner in consultation with the Chair.

1.7.7 Format of Meetings.

The Presidents' Council shall meet once in the Fall and once in the Spring. The following individuals may participate in the Council's meetings: The Presidents, Commissioner, specified staff and other requested individuals. The Chair of the Presidents' Council may convene the Presidents' Council in Executive session to consider matters surrounding individual institutions that, by necessity, require confidentiality.

1.7.8 Executive Committee.

The Presidents' Council Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the Presidents' Council between meetings of the full body and shall provide direction to the Commissioner in matters that require immediate attention. The Committee shall consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, and immediate Past Chair of the Presidents' Council.

1.7.8.1 Immediate Past Chair.

If the Immediate Past Chair is no longer employed at the institution, an alternate for the Executive Committee should be chosen by the Commissioner based on expertise and tenure within the league. [Adopted: PC-2018-2]

1.7.9 Audit and Investment Committee.

The Presidents' Council Audit Investment Committee shall oversee the annual Conference audit, present its findings to the Presidents' Council, and forward their comments to the Council for review. The Committee will also consult on the Conference's investments. The Committee shall consist of three (3) Presidents, selected by their peers. Members shall serve a term of three (3) years.

1.8 Conference Council.

1.8.1 Power of Council.

The Conference Council shall be the operating body of the Conference. It shall have the power to enact matters of management and control all aspects of intercollegiate athletics among Member institutions.

1.8.2 Representation.

The Conference Council shall consist of the Council of ADs, Council of SWAs and Council of FARs. [Adopted: 2022-22]

1.8.3 Functions.

The following matters are reserved to the Conference Council: review and consider all recommendations made by the Council of ADs, Council of SWAs and Council of FARs. Council shall submit such actions to the Presidents' Council. [Adopted: 2022-22]

1.8.4 Officers and Duties.

The Co-Chairs of the Conference Council shall be the Chair of the Council of FARs and the Chair of the Council of ADs. The Chairs shall preside over Conference Council meetings on an alternating basis, and advise staff on which Council should hold the vote based on the issue. For rotation of Chairs, see [Appendix B](#). [Adopted: 2022-22]

1.8.5 Meetings.

The Conference Council shall hold two (2) in-person meetings each year. Additionally, Council may go into executive session upon a majority vote of its members.

1.8.6 Voting.

The Chairs of the three councils will work with staff to determine which Council within the Conference Council will hold the vote based on the topic of the proposal. Each institution shall have one (1) vote and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee president or designee shall have one (1) vote. [Adopted 2022-22]

1.8.6.1 Absence of Representative.

A member of the Council of ADs or Council of FARs may vote by proxy, for any reason, during a Conference Council vote.

1.9 Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives (FARs). [Revised: 2022-22]

1.9.1 Power of Council.

The Council of FARs review matters of academic management and have the primary responsibility to enforce Conference standards, ethics, and eligibility rules. The Council will make recommendations for action to the Conference Council. [Revised: 2022-22]

1.9.2 Representation.

The Council shall consist of individuals appointed by the Presidents of the Member institutions. A FAR must be a member of the institution's faculty or an administrator who holds faculty rank and who does not receive pay primarily for services connected with the institution's athletics department.

1.9.3 Functions.

The Council has general oversight of all academic and eligibility matters, and the enforcement of Conference standards and ethics. The Council shares responsibility for the health, safety and well-being of student-athletes with the Council of ADs and the Council of SWAs. [Revised: 2022-22-S]

1.9.4 Officers and Duties.

The Chair of the FARs shall preside over all meetings of the Council of FARs and serve as co-chair of the Conference Council; issue calls through the Conference office for all Council of FAR and Conference Council meetings; and perform other duties as may be prescribed from time to time. [Revised: 2022-22]

1.9.5 Meetings.

The Council shall hold two (2) in-person meetings each year. Additionally, the Council may go into an executive session upon a majority vote of its members.

1.10 Council of ADs. [Adopted: 2022-22-S]

1.10.1 Power of Council.

The Council of ADs shall be vested with the management and operation of the athletics programs and make recommendations for changes to Conference Council.

1.10.2 Representation.

The Council shall consist of the Athletics Directors (AD) of each Member institution.

1.10.3 Functions.

The following matters are reserved to the Council of ADs: review and provide feedback on all proposals presented by various constituencies and forward items to Conference Council with its recommendation for action; conduct all Conference athletic activities in compliance with policies approved by the Presidents' Council; and make decisions on matters authorized by the Presidents' Council pertaining to the conduct of athletics activities. The Council shares responsibility for the health, safety and well-being of student-athletes with the Council of SWAs and the Council of FARs.

1.10.4 Officers and Duties.

The Chair of the Council shall preside over all meetings. The Chair shall be designated to a Member institution for a period of one (1) academic year. For rotation, see [Appendix B.](#)

1.10.5 Meetings.

The Council will meet at least monthly by videoconference.

1.10.6 Voting.

Each institution shall have one (1) vote.

1.10 Council of SWAs. [Adopted: 2022-22]

1.10.1 Power of Council.

The Council of SWAs holds primary responsibility for reviewing all proposals and seeking feedback from constituents on campus.

1.10.2 Representation.

The Council shall consist of the Senior Woman Administrators (SWA) of each Member institution.

1.10.3 Functions.

The following matters are reserved to the Council of SWAs: review and provide feedback on all proposals presented by various constituencies and forward items to Conference Council with its recommendation for action. The Council shares responsibility for the health, safety and well-being of student-athletes with the Council of ADs and the Council of FARs.

1.10.4 Officers and Duties.

The Chair of the Council shall preside over all Council meetings and shall be designated to a Member institution for a period of one (1) academic year. For rotation, see [Appendix B.](#)

1.10.5 Meetings.

The Council will meet at least monthly by videoconference.

1.10.6 Voting.

Each institution shall have one (1) vote.

1.11 The Committees.

1.11.1 Basketball Committee.

The Basketball Committee is charged with ensuring the appropriate oversight of Big Sky Men's and Women's basketball, including issues related to scheduling and the Big Sky Championship. It is also charged with enhancing the development of the sport and providing feedback or recommendations

related to conference and national legislation in men's and women's basketball.

The Committee shall consist of (7) members: Three (3) ADs, two (2) SWAs, one (1) FAR and one (1) student-athlete. The student-athlete representative will serve for one (1) year and is eligible for reappointment. Remaining members shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years. [Revised: 2022-22]

1.11.2 Budget Review Committee.

The Budget Review Committee (BRC) is charged with reviewing proposed future budgets and provide guidance and feedback to Conference office staff. The Committee shall not have voting rights but will provide feedback on budgetary information presented to it by the Conference office. Approval of the Conference budget and investments is reserved for the Presidents' Council.

The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members: three (3) ADs, two (2) SWAs, and two (2) FARs. Members shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years. [Revised: 2022-22]

1.11.3 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee is charged with increasing engagement, education and equity focused programmatic and resource opportunities of the Conference and member institutions, to create and sustain inclusive cultures across all dimensions of diversity.

The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members: one (1) President, two (2) Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Designees (ADID), one (1) AD, (1) SWA, one (1) FAR and one (1) student-athlete. [Adopted: 2022-22]

1.11.4 Emergency Action Committee.

The Emergency Action Committee (EAC) is charged with the responsibility to address and act on in-season game management, competition and/or policy issues that require immediate action. This Committee serves to make decisions and will work in conjunction with the Commissioner and Conference office staff to address issues that arise during the year and need to be acted upon immediately. Action made by the Committee shall be reported to Conference Council.

The Committee shall consist of five (5) members: two (2) ADs, two (2) SWAs, and one (1) Faculty Athletic Representative. Members shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years. In the event a matter involves the institution of a Committee member, the Commissioner has the right to temporarily replace the member in order to address the conflict of interest.

1.11.5 Ethical Conduct & Violations Committee.

The Ethical Conduct & Violations Committee (ECVC) is charged with reviewing alleged violations of Conference rules, only after a thorough investigation has been conducted by the FAR of the involved institution. At the request of the Commissioner, the Committee may act in matters relating to conduct or ethics that violate the intent or "spirit" of NCAA and/or Conference rules and policies.

The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members: four (4) FARs, two (2) ADs, two (2) SWAs, and one (1) at-large member who shall be an FAR, AD or SWA. Members shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years. A FAR shall serve as Chair of the Committee. [Revised: 2022-22]

1.11.6 Football Committee.

The Football Committee is charged with the appropriate oversight of Big Sky Football and the issues surrounding the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) and its impact on the Conference. It will review and provide insight and feedback on conference scheduling. It is also charged with enhancing the development of the sport and providing feedback or recommendations related to Conference and national legislation in football.

The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members: Three (3) ADs, two (2) SWAs, one (1) FAR and one (1) student-athlete. The student-athlete representative will serve for one (1) year and is eligible for reappointment. Remaining members shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years. [Revised: 2022-22]

1.11.7 Health and Safety Committee.

The Health and Safety Committee shall be charged with reviewing and addressing all medical issues that arise both nationally and within the Conference that would benefit from the insight of medical professionals. This Committee reports to the Council of ADs and the Council of FARs—and is comprised of one medical representative per school, with additional representatives being placed upon recommendation from staff. As such, the institution could replace a member at any time as needed based on the focus of the committee or the ability of the individual to participate. This Committee does not hold power to implement rules changes or requirements and would be advisory in nature, making recommendations for the health and welfare of Big Sky student-athletes, coaches, administrators and fans.

The Committee shall consist of one (1) medical representative from each institution (*Director of Sports Medicine or Team Physician*) as assigned by institution, one (1) Athletic Director, one (1) Senior Woman Administrator, one (1) Faculty Athletic Representative, one (1) mental health expert (*by institutional nomination*) based on expertise and experience and one (1) student-athlete. The AD, SWA, FAR and student-athlete shall serve a one-year term. The mental health expert shall serve as chair to the Mental Health Subcommittee.

1.11.7.1 Mental Health Subcommittee. [Adopted: 2022-22]

The Mental Health Subcommittee shall be charged with helping the Conference and its member institutions understand and change structural and attitudinal barriers to help address the mental health needs of student-athletes, coaches and administrators. This subcommittee will discuss current mental health issues they are addressing on campus, and work to create programming focused on mental health and the variety of factors that impact it. Additionally, the subcommittee will create a Best Practices tool kit designed to provide guidance to institutions.

The subcommittee shall be comprised of one (1) mental health professional from each institution, one (1) academic advisor, one (1) strength and conditioning coach, two (2) head coaches, two (2) athletic trainers, one (1) ADID, one (1) FAR, one (1) AD, one (1) SWA and one (1) student-athlete. The mental health professionals will serve at the discretion of the institution and may be replaced at any time by the institution. The academic advisor, strength coach, athletic trainers and ADID will serve three-year staggered terms. The AD, SWA, FAR, head coaches and student-athlete shall each serve a one-year term.

1.11.8 Legislative Review Committee.

The Legislative Review Committee (LRC) is charged with reviewing all NCAA proposals to determine a conference position, provide an executive summary to the Conference Council for review (and support) each year, and review all NCAA proposals submitted by the membership for Conference sponsorship. The Committee reports to the Council of SWAs.

The Committee shall consist of the senior compliance administrator at each institution, one (1) AD, one (1) SWA, one (1) FAR and the SAAC President, who will all serve a one-year term. [Revised: 2022-22]

1.11.9 Media & Technology Committee.

The Media & Technology Committee (MTC) is charged with reviewing all proposed television contracts for Conference contests and select games for the Conference television package. These selections shall be reviewed by the involved member institutions.

The Committee shall consist of nine (9) members: two (2) presidents, the University of Montana AD, Montana State University AD, two (2) SWAs, two more (2) ADs, one (1) at-large member and one (1) student-athlete. Members shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years. [Revised: 2022-22]

1.11.11 Olympic Sport Committee.

The Olympic Sport Committee is charged with ensuring the appropriate oversight of all Big Sky sports (excluding basketball and football), including issues related to scheduling championships. It is also charged with enhancing the development of each sport and providing feedback or recommendations related to Conference and national legislation as it pertains to specified sports.

The Committee shall consist of nine (9) members: Four (4) ADs, three (3) SWAs, one (1) FAR and one (1) student-athlete. The student-athlete representative will serve for one (1) year and is eligible for reappointment. Remaining members shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years. [Revised: 2022-22]

1.11.12 Presidents' Cup Committee.

The President's Cup Committee is charged with periodically reviewing the process, effectiveness, and criteria of the President's Cup.

The Committee shall consist of five (5) members: two (2) FARs, one (1) ADone (1) SWAs, and one (1) student-athlete. The student-athlete representative will serve for one (1) year and is eligible for reappointment. Remaining members shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years. [Revised: 2023-22]

1.11.14 Sport & Championship Management Committee.

The Sport & Championship Management Committee (SCMC) is charged with reviewing and addressing all issues related to competition, championships, sport management, Conference legislative proposals, and matters relating to officiating and awards. For legislation, the SCMC's authority is limited to recommending a stance. The Committee does not have the authority to approve legislation.

The Committee shall consist of the SWA from each institution.-The chair of the Committee will be the SWA who serves as chair of the Council of SWAs. For rotation, see [Appendix B](#). [Revised: 2022-22]

1.11.15 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is charged with representing the student-athlete voice in Conference discussions. SAAC shall meet annually or at the call of the Commissioner to review legislative proposals and provide feedback-on matters relating to student-athlete welfare.

The Committee shall consist of two (2) student-athletes from each institution designated as leaders in their institutional SAAC.

1.11.16 Additional Committees.

The Presidents' Council or the Commissioner shall have the authority to appoint additional committees or task forces as needed.

1.12 NCAA Governance Service.

The Conference shall adhere to the process by which the subdivisions of Division I select representatives to the NCAA governance structure. The Joint Athletics Administrators' Council shall nominate qualified Conference administrators for various NCAA positions. The Conference Council, by a majority vote, shall select a Conference representative to serve on the NCAA's Board of Directors. Temporary absence to these bodies will be filled by the Commissioner or Conference staff member, if possible.

ARTICLE 2

2.0 Schedule of Meetings.

The Fall Meeting shall be at a designated site and shall generally be scheduled in October or November. The Spring Meeting shall be held on the campus of a Member institution, per the predetermined rotation unless otherwise stated, and shall generally be scheduled in the Spring. The designated dates and sites of Conference meetings for the following year shall be reviewed and scheduled at the Conference Council's Spring Meeting. For rotation, see [Appendix B](#).

2.1 Special Meetings.

Special meetings may be called by Council and Committee Chairs through the Conference office.

2.2 Meeting Agenda.

All agenda items must be circulated in advance of a Conference meeting. Emergency items not circulated must have unanimous consent of the appropriate Council or Committee for consideration. [ER: 2023]

2.3 Emergency Vote.

In case of emergency operational matters, the Commissioner may conduct a vote of the appropriate Council or Committee by conference call or email. A majority vote shall prevail. Results shall be circulated to the appropriate Council(s) and/or Committee(s).

ARTICLE 3

3.0 Amendments.

These Articles may be amended by a vote in favor of at least three-fourths (3/4) of Conference Council. Amendments to the Constitution shall not be voted on at the same meeting at which it is originally proposed. Final approval shall be given by a vote in favor from at least three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Presidents' Council.

3.1 Dissolution.

The Conference shall be dissolved by a vote of no less than three-fourths (3/4) of the Presidents' Council. In the event of dissolution, the assets and/or liabilities of the Conference shall be equally distributed amongst Members.

RULE 1: RECOGNIZED SPORTS

1.0 Conference Membership.

Conference membership shall consist of two classes: Member and Affiliate Member. The Members of the Conference are: Eastern Washington University; University of Idaho; Idaho State University; University of Montana; Montana State University; Northern Arizona University; University of Northern Colorado; Portland State University; California State University, Sacramento; and Weber State University. The Affiliate Members of the Conference are California Polytechnic State University and the University of California, Davis.

1.1 Conference Recognized Sports.

Core Sports

Men

Basketball
Football

Women

Basketball
Indoor Volleyball

Sponsored Sports

Men

Cross Country
Golf
Indoor Track and Field
Outdoor Track and Field
Tennis

Women

Cross Country
Golf
Indoor Track and Field
Outdoor Track and Field
Soccer
Softball
Tennis

1.1.1 Core Sport Participation Requirements.

A Member must compete in the minimum number of regular-season contests with the minimum number of participants as described in the NCAA Division I Membership Sport Sponsorship Requirements. Members must sponsor men's basketball, women's basketball, football and women's indoor volleyball. Additionally, Members must sponsor at least four of the following five men's sports: cross country, golf, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field and tennis and at least five of the following seven women's sports: cross country, golf, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, soccer, softball, and tennis. [Revised: PC-2020]

1.1.1.1 NCAA Sport Sponsorship.

A Member is required to meet the NCAA's minimum sport sponsorship requirements for total number of sports sponsored (*i.e., sponsor a minimum seven sports for men and seven sports for women or six sports for men and eight sports for women*).

1.1.1.2 NCAA/Conference Waiver of Recognized Sport Requirements.

A Member must file a waiver with the Presidents' Council if it files an NCAA waiver regarding sport sponsorship for a Conference Recognized sport. The Presidents' Council must vote in favor of the waiver by at least three-fourths (3/4) vote. [Revised: PC-2020]

1.1.1.3 Failure to Meet Recognized Sport Participation Requirements.

Failure to meet the Recognized Sport participation requirements (see Rule 1.1.1) without a waiver granted by the Presidents' Council shall be reported to the Ethical Conduct & Violations Committee as a violation of Conference rules. [Revised: PC-2020]

1.1.2 Conference Championship Sport Requirements.

A Conference championship shall be conducted in a Recognized sport, except football, if a minimum of six (6) Member or Affiliate Member institutions participate in that sport. [Revised: PC-2020]

1.1.2.1 NCAA Automatic Qualifier.

A minimum of six (6) Members or Affiliate Members must participate in a sport to meet the NCAA automatic qualifier criteria. [Revised: PC-2020]

1.1.3 Dropping a Sport.

1.1.3.1 Minimum Sport Sponsorship.

A Member may drop a Conference Sponsored sport provided it continues to meet sport sponsorship requirements as established in the NCAA manual and Big Sky Rule 1.1.1 and dropping the sport does not jeopardize the Conference's compliance with either the NCAA legislation regarding a multisport conference or the automatic qualifier legislation. [Revised: PC-2020]

1.1.3.1.1 Process and Timeline for Dropping a Sport

A Member or Affiliate Member shall provide an official written notice of discontinuation of a Big Sky Sponsored sport to the Commissioner at least fourteen (14) months prior to the official discontinuation date of July 1. [Revised: PC-2020]

1.1.3.1.2 Conference Multisport Legislation and Automatic Qualifier

The Presidents' Council will deny a Member institution's declaration to drop a Sponsored sport if it would cause the Conference to jeopardize its compliance with either the NCAA legislation regarding a multisport conference or the automatic qualifier legislation. The President's Council may permit an institution to drop a Sponsored sport that would jeopardize the Conference's compliance with the NCAA legislation regarding a multisport conference or the automatic qualifier legislation by at least three-fourths (3/4) vote. [Revised: PC-2020]

1.1.4 Member Participation.

A Member may only participate as a member of another conference in sports not sponsored by the Conference.

1.1.5 Playing Rules.

The rules and policies governing each sponsored sport and championship shall be set forth in the Sports Policies and Championship Policies, respectively.

RULE 2: ELIGIBILITY

2.0 Compliance with NCAA and Conference Legislation.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all matters of student-athlete eligibility except where the Conference has a more restrictive rule.

2.1 Ineligible Participation.

The Commissioner must be immediately notified when an ineligible student-athlete represents a Member institution in any Conference or non-Conference intercollegiate contest. The Commissioner, or his or her designee, shall review the violation and if precedence exists or it is determined that the violation is de minimis, the Commissioner, or his or her designee, with the approval of the Chair of the Ethical Conduct & Violations Committee, shall issue an immediate ruling. If precedence does not exist or the violation is not considered de minimis, the violation shall be submitted to the ECVC for review. Review by the Committee may be expedited when the regular-season standings or Conference Championship may be affected by the outcome of the deliberations.

The ECVC shall review all contemporaneous evidence including Committee precedent, and to what degree the present violation was inadvertent, intentional, and/or repetitive. The Committee may take any of the following actions pending approval of the FARC:

- a) Find the violation de minimis and not deserving of sanction; or
- b) Find the violation deserving of sanction, which may include forfeiture, fine, suspension of coach and/or student-athlete from future competition, submission of a new or revised policy for comment and approval, and/or letter of reprimand. Forfeiture may involve points scored by a student-athlete (*in individual sports*) or a win by the team. If the forfeit involves a Conference contest(s), the forfeit shall count as a loss by the forfeiting team and a win by the opponent.

2.2 Certification of Eligibility.

The eligibility of each student-athlete shall be certified by the institution's FAR and kept on file at the institution. Full and complete data must be included on the eligibility certificate for student-athletes new to fall sports programs who desire to participate in spring practice.

2.3 Residence.

A student-athlete shall be considered a resident at a collegiate institution when:

- a) The registrar or admissions officer certifies that the student-athlete officially registered and enrolled at the institution on the opening day of classes in any term;
- b) The student-athlete attended at least one course in any term; or
- c) The AD certifies that the student-athlete reported on call for the regular uniformed practice prior to the beginning of any term. Summer session is excluded.

2.4 Serious Misconduct Rule.

A current or prospective student-athlete who has been convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to a felony or misdemeanor involving Serious Misconduct, or has been subject to official institutional or athletic department disciplinary action at any time during enrollment at any high school or collegiate institution (*excluding limited discipline applied by a sports team or temporary disciplinary action during an investigation*) due to Serious Misconduct shall not be eligible for athletically-related financial aid, practice, or competition at a Big Sky Member institution. An institution shall conduct an appropriate inquiry into a prospective student-athlete's background that, at a minimum, complies with the Big Sky Conference Minimum Expectations for Due Diligence Inquiries ([see Appendix K](#)) prior to providing athletically-related financial aid to a prospective student-athlete or allowing him/her to participate or compete. [Revised: PC-2019-1; Revised: PC-2020-1]

2.4.1 Definition.

For purposes of this provision, "serious misconduct" is defined as any act of sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, or any assault that employs the use of a deadly weapon or causes serious bodily injury.

2.4.2 Waiver.

Waiver relief from the Serious Misconduct Rule may be granted only when:

- a) A panel from the applicable University, following a review of the pertinent facts, concludes that compelling exceptional circumstances exist for a waiver of the Serious Misconduct Rule;
- b) The Serious Misconduct Rule Panel submits a written report to the President of the University that describes the basis for its conclusion; and
- c) The University President and Big Sky Commissioner review the Panel's report.

2.4.3 Institution's Rule Panel.

The Big Sky Conference Serious Misconduct Rule Panel must consist of the University's Title IX Coordinator, FAR, and one individual appointed by the President, who must be external to athletics. [Revised: PC-2018-1]

2.4.4 Advisory Council.

A Big Sky Serious Misconduct Advisory Committee will provide advisory opinions (*as requested*) on the application of the Serious Misconduct Rule to assist Member institutions in their consideration of a current or prospective student-athlete's unique case.

2.5 Conference Interpretations.

Any clarification of eligibility rules shall be communicated by the Commissioner to Member institutions.

2.6 Amendments.

Amendments shall be retroactive if less restrictive.

RULE 3: FINANCIAL AID

3.0 Compliance with NCAA and Conference Legislation.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all matters concerning financial aid to student-athletes except where the Conference has a more restrictive rule.

3.1 Eligibility for Aid.

A student-athlete must be enrolled in a full-time program as defined by the certifying institution or meet a legislated NCAA exception. [Revised: 2018-2]

3.1.1 Night School, Extension or Correspondence Course.

Member institutions shall not provide grant-in-aid for night school, extension, or correspondence courses unless the institution considers enrollment in such courses as regular course enrollment for all students.

RULE 4: RECRUITING

4.0 Compliance with NCAA and Conference Legislation.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern the recruiting of prospective student-athletes by Conference Member institutions except where the Conference has a more restrictive rule.

4.1 National Letter of Intent.

The Conference annually subscribes to the National Letter of Intent program. Member institutions and any prospective student-athlete who signs such a Letter of Intent shall be bound by the regulations in effect at the time of such signing.

RULE 5: ENFORCEMENT POLICIES

5.0 Authority.

The ECVC shall have the duty to review alleged violations of NCAA and Conference rules. The Committee shall consider only those violations submitted by the Commissioner, or his or her designee, and may take action on violations by conference call between meetings if deemed necessary by the Commissioner. The Committee must make a full report to the FARC with recommendations for disciplinary action or dismissal. Upon direction from the Presidents' Council, the Commissioner may become involved in the investigation of potential Code violations.

5.1 Self-Disclosure.

5.1.1 NCAA Violations.

It is the duty of institutional staff members, coaches, and student-athletes to report to their FAR any suspected or known violation(s) of NCAA rules. The FAR is obligated to work with institutional staff to immediately report to the NCAA in writing any information he or she has regarding any violation or any possible violation of NCAA rules committed by any person associated with the institution. The Conference office must be designated as a case contact on all violations. The Conference office must sign all violation reports involving the use of an ineligible student-athlete prior to its submission to the NCAA. Institutions must contact the Conference office immediately when a Level I or II violation is discovered. The Conference office will provide a summary of all NCAA violations to the ECVC for review.

5.1.2 Conference Code Violations.

It is the duty of institutional staff members, coaches and student-athletes to report to their FAR any suspected or known violation(s) of the Conference Code. The FAR is obligated to work with institutional staff to immediately report to the Commissioner, or his or her designee, in writing any information he or she has regarding any violation or any possible violation of the Conference Code committed by any person associated with the institution. The violation shall be submitted to the Commissioner via the [Conference Reporting Form](#). The Conference office will provide a summary of all Code violations to the ECVC for review.

5.2 Investigations.

The investigation of all alleged NCAA and Conference violations is the responsibility of each Member institution. In cases where violations are admitted or of such nature that they are undeniable, the Commissioner may submit the facts to the ECVC without further investigation.

5.2.1 Misconduct Alleged by Another Conference Institution.

Information regarding alleged violations of Conference rules committed by another Member institution shall be reported by the alleging institutions FAR to the Commissioner or his/her designee. The report shall be specific and include any available documentation.

At the request of the Commissioner or his/her designee, the FAR of the involved Member institution shall conduct a thorough investigation of the matter and send to the Commissioner or his/her designee a detailed report that either verifies the allegations in a violation report or provides information that no violation occurred. If a violation occurred, the matter will be sent to the ECVC.

5.2.2 Misconduct Alleged by an Outside Source.

Where a complaint has been made to the Commissioner by a source outside the Conference that may have some validity, or where the Commissioner has reasonable suspicion of a Code violation, the Commissioner or his/her designee shall direct the FAR of the involved Member institution to conduct a thorough investigation of the matter. The FAR shall prepare and submit a full report to the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall place the case before the ECVC at the Committee's next meeting.

5.3 Hearings.

If the representative from the involved Member institution serves as the Chair of the ECVC, FARC or Presidents' Council, then all hearings involving that institution shall be chaired by the Vice Chair.

5.4 Voting and Sanctions.

Members of the ECVC, by a vote in favor of three-fourths (3/4), shall have the authority to impose sanctions, except probation, suspension and expulsion, upon a Member institution. The representative of the Member institution charged with misconduct shall not vote in matters related to its case in the ECVC, FARC or Presidents' Council. The actions of the ECVC shall be final pending approval by the FARC and Presidents' Council. Any revenue derived from sanctions imposed on a Member institution will be received by the Conference office and set aside in the strategic reserve.

5.5 Notification.

Pending Council of FAR approval, the Chair of the ECVC shall provide written notification of the actions taken by the Committee to the following individuals: Commissioner, Chair of the Presidents' Council, Chair of the FARC, and President, FAR and AD of the Member institution charged with misconduct. The institution shall report to the ECVC at the next Conference meeting. [ER: 2023]

5.6 Appeals.

Any Member institution, through the President of the institution, or any individual subject to the penalty, may appeal the ECVC's decision as to the penalty, by giving a written notice of appeal to be received by the Commissioner, or his or her designee, within thirty (30) days after receipt of the ECVC's report. The request to appeal shall specify the basis for the appeal and include relevant information. The FARC shall have the authority to hear all appeals of the ECVC's actions.

A majority vote of the FARC shall determine whether the request for an appeal shall be granted. The representative of the involved Member institution shall not be eligible to vote. The FARC may review all available information, including the results of the investigation, the ECVC report and recommendations, and arguments from the involved Member institution. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Council is required to sustain the appeal. The FAR of the involved Member institution shall not be eligible to vote. Actions taken by the FARC shall be final pending approval by the Presidents' Council.

5.7 Probation.

Action to place a Member institution on probation must be passed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Presidents' Council. The representative of the institution charged with misconduct shall not be eligible to vote.

5.8 Suspension.

Action to suspend a Member institution from the Conference must be passed by a unanimous affirmative vote of the Presidents' Council. The representative of the institution charged with misconduct shall not be eligible to vote. In the event of suspension, all athletics relations will be suspended between the involved Member institution and the Member institutions of the Conference for one calendar year, beginning with the day on which suspension action becomes official.

5.9 Expulsion.

Action to expel a Member institution from the Conference must be passed by a unanimous affirmative vote of the Presidents' Council. The representative of the institution charged with misconduct shall not be eligible to vote. In the event of expulsion, the institution so disciplined may apply for re-admission to the Conference after expiration of one calendar year, in the same manner as any other non-Member institution seeking admission.

RULE 6: ETHICAL CONDUCT, SPORTSMANSHIP & SUPPORT OF CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

6.0 Ethical Conduct.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all matters concerning ethical conduct. It is the responsibility of each Member institution to investigate and report any incident that violates the principles of ethical conduct per Bylaw 10 of the NCAA manual. If such action is not initiated by the Member institution, it shall be the responsibility of the Commissioner and/or the ECVC to take action regarding any incident that violates the principles of ethical conduct.

6.1 Support of Conference Programs.

Support by each Member institution and its representatives of the Conference's programs, regulations, administrators, and game officials is required as a condition of Conference membership. This rule stipulates how that support must be demonstrated and what punitive action by the Conference may be anticipated by a Member institution when it is absent, or when Conference regulations are broken in a manner or to a degree that dictates an immediate and timely action by the Commissioner rather than a Conference response through formal enforcement procedures. It applies to all contests, Conference and non-Conference, in all Conference-sponsored sports. For purposes of this rule, "institutional personnel" shall include all coaches, athletics department staff members, and other institutional personnel involved with the athletics department.

6.1.1 Sportsmanship.

6.1.1.1 Coaches, Student-Athletes, and Institutional Personnel.

Student-athletes and institutional personnel must always remember, even in the midst of the emotion of a contest, that they are representatives of institutions of higher education, its administration, student body, and faculty. Accordingly, they will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner which will reflect credit to their institution and the Conference and create a collegiate atmosphere in which to conduct competition. Institutional personnel must also be aware that they are an example to student-athletes and other students.

6.1.1.1.1 Comments about Officiating.

Student-athletes and institutional personnel are prohibited from verbal and written comments on officiating matters of any nature other than to the Conference office. Public derogatory comments on opposing teams, officiating or other Conference programs to the media during postgame interviews or at other times; on radio or television shows; at booster gatherings; on social media platforms; in press releases; or under any other conditions when their comments may become public are also prohibited. Institutional personnel who criticize officials in public will be addressed by the Commissioner and may be subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Commissioner including, but not limited to, a letter of reprimand, fine, or an automatic suspension for the next scheduled game. The Commissioner's actions will be reviewed by the ECVC.

6.1.1.2 Officials.

Officials will be directed to apply without hesitation or reservation the rules governing conduct and sportsmanship during each Conference competition. When doing so as directed, the official will have the support of the Conference, each Member institution, and its administrators. Officials shall not discuss incidents having to do with their performance at public gatherings or with representatives of the news media. Officials may not speak publicly about Conference or officiating matters.

6.1.2 Commissioner's Authority Regarding Misconduct.

Misconduct by institutional personnel or student-athletes may result in disciplinary action by the Conference including, but not limited to, private or public reprimand, ejection, and suspension. The Commissioner shall determine whether immediate action or referred action is required in response to a matter of misconduct. Misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following: dishonesty; unsportsmanlike conduct; unprofessional behavior; breach of federal or state law occurring incident to, en route to, from or at the locale of competition or practice that discredits the event, intercollegiate athletics, or the Conference. The Commissioner shall have the authority to vacate reprimands and suspensions, if such action is warranted. The Commissioner shall forward and/or report all misconduct to the ECVC.

6.1.2.1 Immediate Action.

The Commissioner shall have the authority to act at his or her discretion in the event that immediate action is needed to alleviate or control a situation which by its nature and possible effect threatens orderly administration or operation of the Conference or its programs and precludes the timetable of due process contained herein or the action is in the best interest of the Conference. The Commissioner may issue any penalty, which he or she believes appropriate, to an institutional personnel or student-athlete who has violated the rules pertaining to misconduct when the Commissioner concludes that immediate action is required. The actions of the Commissioner shall be final and binding, and shall be reported to the ECVC, for further action, if deemed necessary.

6.1.2.2 Referred Action.

In cases where immediate action is not required, but where the Commissioner believes it is in the best interest of the Conference that action be taken to handle incidents of misconduct, the Commissioner shall report such incidents to the ECVC. The Conference's normal hearing procedure shall be utilized in this event.

6.1.3 Flagrant Fouls.

6.1.3.1 Flagrant Fouls other than Fighting.

A student-athlete who commits a flagrant foul other than fighting, on-the-field/court, or at the game site, or commits any other unsportsmanlike conduct shall be immediately reported to the Commissioner, or his or her designee, by the institution's AD. The following penalties shall be imposed on the student-athlete:

- a) First offense minimum: Official reprimand
- b) Second offense minimum: Suspension for the next regularly scheduled contest
- c) Third offense minimum: Suspension for the remainder of the season

If necessary, the Commissioner shall investigate that may include a study of game film(s), game officials' reports, and any other available information. Further action may be required after the review, including, but not limited to, permanent ineligibility of the student-athlete, ineligibility for a fixed period, or a private warning to the student-athlete, coach, and institution.

6.1.3.2 Fighting.

In sports where fighting is not covered in its rule book, the action in Flagrant Fouls other than Fighting (see Rule 6.1.3.1) shall be followed.

6.1.4 Appeals of Decisions.

6.1.4.1 Written Notice of Appeal Request.

The FAR of the involved institution may appeal the decision of the ECVC by giving a written notice of appeal to be received by the Commissioner (*or his or her designee*) within fifteen (15) days after the Committee's decision was given to the FAR. The Commissioner (*or his or her designee*) shall then convene as soon as possible a hearing to be conducted by the Council of FARs. [ER: 2023]

6.1.4.2 Bases for Appeal. [ER: 2023]

The decisions rendered by the ECVC shall not be set aside on appeal unless the Council of FARs determines:

- a) The Committee took action inconsistent with established precedent;
- b) The Committee deviated from its approved, written procedures; or
- c) The Committee's decision is inconsistent with the documented information presented by the institution submitting the appeal.

6.1.4.3 Eligible Members.

All FARs shall be eligible to participate and vote at the hearing of the appeal, except those FARs who either:

- a) Served on the Committee that participated in the most recent decision regarding the case in question (*and any other FAR from the same institution of a FAR who served on such Committee*), or
- b) Are representing the involved institution.

6.1.4.4 Quorum.

The FAR of at least four (4) institutions that are eligible to participate and vote on the case in question shall be required for, and shall constitute, a quorum to hear an appeal.

6.1.4.4.1 Manner of Acting.

The decision on the case being appealed may be amended, reversed, or otherwise modified only by the act of the majority of the FARs present and eligible to vote at an appeals hearing at which a quorum is present. Each Member institution (through its FAR) shall have one vote. Affiliate Member institutions are able to cast a vote only on items that pertain to the sport their institution sponsors in the Conference.

If a quorum is present when a duly called and held appeals hearing is convened, the FARs that are present and eligible to participate and vote may continue to act until adjournment, even though the withdrawal of a number of the FARs originally present results in less than the number otherwise required for quorum; provided, however, in such event the decision on the case on appeal may be amended, reversed or otherwise modified only upon three affirmative votes of those then present and eligible to participate and vote.

6.1.4.5 Chair.

The Chair of the Council of FARs, if eligible, shall be the presiding officer at the appeal hearing; otherwise, the presiding officer at such hearing shall be selected from among the FARs who are eligible to participate in such hearing. [ER: 2023]

6.1.4.6 Hearing and Decision.

A written statement from the involved individuals may be included in the appeal materials. In the event the hearing is regarding an intra-conference transfer student, a written statement from the involved student-athlete must be included in the appeal materials. The presiding officer of the hearing and the FAR of the involved institution may make statements and respond to questions. The decision of the FARs shall be final, pending approval from the Presidents' Council.

RULE 7: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

7.0 NCAA and Conference Reports.

Institutions shall be required to submit reports and forms requested by the NCAA or Conference as a means to ensure each institution's athletics department is acting in accordance with NCAA and Conference rules. The AD of each institution shall be responsible for the completion and timely transmission of all reports and forms.

7.1 Institutional Safety Plan.

All institutions are required to submit a Spectator, Officials, and Student-Athlete Plan to the Conference office annually. The Plan must address spectator access to the court or field of play before, during, and after competition.

7.2 Strategic Plan Attestation. [Adopted: Strategic Plan 2022-27]

All institutions are required to attest annually that they are meeting the 2022-27 Strategic Plan requirements per the effective dates. See [Appendix Q](#) for more details.

RULE 8: AWARDS

8.0 Conference Awards.

The Conference shall determine the awards given in each sport. The qualifications and types of awards are outlined in the [Appendix D](#).

8.1 Academic All-Conference Award.

To be eligible for this award, a student-athlete must have:

- a) competed in at least half of the team's contests; and
- b) earned at least a 3.2 cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 scale) at the conclusion of the most recently completed term. Freshman student-athletes are eligible to earn this award after they have completed one academic term at the current Member institution.
 - i. Transfer student-athletes are eligible to earn the award after they have completed one academic term at the current Member institution; the GPA considered will be that earned at the Conference institution.
 - ii. Softball pitchers can be considered for the award if they competed in at least 30 percent of their institution's games.
 - iii. Track and Field student-athletes may be considered for the award if they compete at or qualify for the Conference Championship. [Adopted: 2018-10]

8.2 All-Conference Award.

All-Conference teams will be selected in each Conference-sponsored sport. A student-athlete under current suspension is not eligible for nomination or selection. A student-athlete must receive a minimum of three (3) coaches' votes in order to earn Honorable Mention on any team. Wildcards or any version thereof that seeks to provide an award to an individual who does not receive the minimum number of votes are not permitted in any sport. The breakdown of All-Conference Awards per sport is as follows: [Revised: 2022-21]

ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS			
<i>Sport</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
Basketball	7	6	5
Cross Country	10		
Football	37	37	37
Women's Golf	7	7	5
Men's Golf	5		5
Soccer	12	12	
Softball	12	12	3 Vote Minimum
Tennis	7S/4D	7S/4D	3 Vote Minimum. Cap at 3S/3D
Volleyball	10	10	
Track & Field	Top 3		

8.2.1 Cross Country.

The All-Conference team shall consist of the top ten (10) finishers.

8.2.2 Golf.

Selections shall be made following the conclusion of the regular season.

8.2.3 Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field.

The All-Conference team shall consist of the top three (3) finishers in each event, including relays.

8.2.4 All Other Sports.

Only head coaches may vote for All-Conference players. Specific instructions for All-Conference selection will be sent to head coaches prior to the voting. In football, a virtual meeting will be scheduled. [ER: 2023]

8.3 All-Sports Award.

The All-Sports Award shall be presented to the institution accumulating the most points during the year in men's and women's sports. There shall be two (2) All-Sports Awards: one (1) for men's sports and one (1) for women's sports. Points shall only be awarded in Conference-sponsored sports.

8.4 Athlete of the Week Award.

The Athlete of the Week Award is selected by the Conference office to recognize outstanding performances each week in each Conference sport. A student-athlete under current suspension is not eligible to receive this award.

8.5 Coach of the Year Award.

The Coach of the Year Award shall be selected by means of a poll of the coaches conducted by the Conference office after the Conference Championship (*for cross country, golf, tennis, and track & field*) or at the conclusion of regular-season competition (*for all other sports*). Selections must be made prior to regional and national Coach of the Year selections. A coach under current suspension is not eligible for nomination or selection.

8.6 Community Service Team.

The Community Service Team shall consist of one football student-athlete from each institution selected upon by the head coach. [Adopted: 2019]

8.7 Individual Awards.

Individual awards (e.g., *Freshman of the Year, Player of the Year*) will be presented on a sport-by-sport basis.

8.8 Nancy Graziano Distinguished Service Award.

The Nancy Graziano Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies the mission and vision of the Big Sky Conference and is a champion of student-athlete success. Honorees will have demonstrated a consistent pattern of leadership at the institutional, conference, and/or national level, and will have made a significant impact on their colleagues and student-athletes.

Named for the 35-year Senior Woman Administrator in the Idaho State University Department of Athletics, the Nancy Graziano Distinguished Service Award will be presented when Conference leadership deems appropriate to individuals within the Conference who demonstrate excellence in one or more of the following areas: professional experience and service, visionary leadership and legacy building, and integrity and character. [Adopted: 2019]

8.9 Presidents' Cup Award.

The Presidents' Cup Award shall be presented to the institution that excels academically and athletically.

8.10 Scholar-Athlete Award.

Each year, the most outstanding female and male scholar-athlete from each institution shall be awarded the Big Sky Conference Scholar-Athlete Award. To be eligible for this award, the student-athlete must have:

- a) Exhausted his or her intercollegiate athletic eligibility and/or be a member of the graduating class;
- b) Earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 (on a 4.0) scale;
- c) Been a participant in a Conference-sponsored sport;
- d) Completed at least two (2) years of intercollegiate competition at the institution; and
- e) Been a letter winner.

The Conference shall sponsor a Conference Honor Roll that shall recognize all of the Big Sky Conference Scholar Athletes. Each Member institution shall receive a Conference Honor Roll placard with the name of the Scholar-Athletes engraved on it.

RULE 9: MEDIA DAY & POSTSEASON EVENTS

9.0 Participation.

The Conference gives automatic consent to Member and Affiliate Member institutions to participate in NCAA and postseason events.

9.1 Financial Distribution.

Net revenue from the Conference Championships, NCAA Championships, and other preseason and postseason playoffs and tournaments must be distributed to the individual Member institutions within ninety (90) days of receipt. All net revenues derived from participation in any NIT shall be divided in equal shares and distributed to the eligible Member institutions and the Conference office. The net revenues of the NCAA Division I Equal Conference Basketball distribution shall be distributed in equal shares to all eligible Member institutions and the Conference office, once the Conference office initial portion of \$300,000 is deducted. All gross revenues from the NCAA Division I Basketball Performance ("Performance") distribution shall be distributed in equal shares to the eligible Member institutions and the Conference office. In the first year of distribution of the Performance fund, all gross revenues shall be divided. The institution that wins the game shall receive half of the additional share, with the other nine (9) full Members and the Big Sky Conference splitting the remaining fifty (50) percent equally. The winner will receive this additional revenue for one (1) year. In subsequent years, the Performance fund shall be divided into eleven (11) equal shares and distributed to all eligible Member institutions and the Conference office. [Revised: JAC-2019-15]

50/50 NCAA Basketball Performance Distribution Model \$277,712 Share		
<i>Institution</i>	<i>Earned</i>	<i>Distribution</i>
A	x	\$138,856
B		\$13,885
C		\$13,885
D		\$13,885
E		\$13,885
F		\$13,885
G		\$13,885
H		\$13,885
I		\$13,885
J		\$13,885
Big Sky		\$13,885
Total		\$277,712

9.2 Academic Performance Distribution.

The Big Sky Conference utilizes a hybrid model for the NCAA Academic Performance distribution. Member institutions earning funds will receive sixty percent (60%) of the allocation, with the remaining funds pooled and distributed in equal shares to all Member institutions, including those that did not earn funds (provided they are eligible according to 9.2.1), and the Conference office.

9.2.1 Non-Compliance.

The following policy will be followed when institutions do not earn the academic point in a given year or for multiple years:

Years One and Two.

Institution will be required to use its Academic Performance distribution share to enhance student-athlete academic support.

- The institution's FAR shall be charged with chairing an internal committee tasked with developing an academic improvement plan that will include how the funds will be used to improve student-athlete academic support.
- The institution's FAR will provide a report to the Big Sky Council of FARs at the Spring Meeting outlining how distribution will be used.
- The institutions FAR will provide a follow-up report to the Big Sky Council of FARs regarding how distribution was used at the following Spring Meeting.

Year Three and Beyond.

No distribution will be awarded to the institution and its share will be reallocated to the pool of funds.

- a) An institution may appeal to the Big Sky Council of FARs based on compelling and exceptional circumstances.

9.3 Media Day.**9.3.1 Football.**

In football, all head coaches, sports information directors over football, and select student-athletes shall attend the Conference Football Kickoff event.

9.3.2 Basketball.

In basketball, all head coaches and select student-athletes shall participate in the Conference's media day. The media day may be in-person, virtual or via teleconference.

9.3.3 All Other Sports.

In all other sports, when applicable, all head coaches may be required to attend the Conference's media day.

RULE 10: MANAGEMENT

10.0 Conference Championship Expense.

The Conference office will provide trophies, medals, and other awards related to Conference Championships. Each participant in a Conference Championship shall receive a memento provided by the Conference office.

10.1 Cross Country, Golf, Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field, Soccer, Softball, Tennis & Volleyball.

The host institution shall be financially responsible for and retain any income from championships in cross country, golf, indoor and outdoor track & field, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball. Institutions hosting a Conference championship shall send a financial report to the Conference office within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the event.

10.2 Basketball.

The Conference office is financially responsible for the hosting and expenses of the Big Sky Basketball Championships. Institutions are responsible for team travel, lodging, and per diem.

10.3 Contracts for Sporting Events.

The Conference office will provide each institution with a Conference schedule in all team sports. Contracts will not be used to schedule Conference competition. Contracts may be used when scheduling Conference contests for individual sports, sports not sponsored by the Conference, or non-Conference contests against Conference opponents (*football*).

10.3.1 Rescheduling and Modifications.

Modifications of Conference schedules are permitted only upon mutual agreement between the ADs of the participating institutions, and the change is approved by the Conference office. The [Schedule Change Request Form](#) must be signed by both ADs and the Commissioner, or his or her designee. Approved changes must be provided to all concerned parties in writing and sent to the FARs of the participating institutions and the Commissioner, who will notify the appropriate Coordinator of Officials.

10.4 Conference Consent.

Conference consent is automatically granted to all Conference institutions to use excerpts of game or television tapes of Conference games for coaches' and highlight shows.

10.5 Cheer Squads.

All cheerleading squads must conform to the guidelines set by the American Association of Cheerleader Coaches and Administrators (AACCA). Neither the Conference nor host institution shall be responsible for supervising or monitoring routines performed by cheerleaders at championship events. Except as noted, the supervision of cheerleading squads is the sole responsibility of the participating institution. The participating institution shall ensure that the squad has sufficient training, supervision, and equipment for all routines. Tournament Directors must inform participating institutions if the host facility has more stringent requirements. If so, each AD must apprise his or her cheer squad of such requirements and ensure their compliance with the rules. Additionally, the placement of cheer squads will be the responsibility of the host institution according to common practice. Exceptions must be approved by both participating institutions.

10.6 Fall Women's Golf Tournament. [Adopted: 2022-12]

All Big Sky Conference women's golf members must compete in the 2023 Big Sky Sponsored Title IX Golf Tournament, September 24-26, 2023. The tournament will be hosted at the Talon's Cove Golf Club in Saratoga Springs, Utah.

The tournament is a 54-hole stroke-play tournament with a team and individual champion. The format will be as follows:

- Sunday Practice Round: Shotgun start on Sunday
- Monday Morning (Round 1): Shotgun start at 7:30 a.m.
- Monday Afternoon (Round 2): Shotgun start at 1 p.m.
- Tuesday Morning (Round 3): Shotgun start at 7:30 a.m.

The Conference will host a banquet for all teams on Sunday evening.

10.8 Fueling Stations.

All institutions must provide a fueling station for student-athletes. See [Appendix Q](#) for more details. [Adopted: Strategic Plan 2022-27]

10.7 Mental Health Professional.

All institutions must provide a FTE mental health professional with designated responsibilities for student-athletes. See [Appendix Q](#) for more details. [Adopted: Strategic Plan 2022-27]

10.8 Video Boards.

For controversial plays, video boards shall be limited to the showing of one (1) replay of each play at game speed only. If the display is in the line of sight of a free throw shooter or field goal kicker, the footage or camera work must not be of a distracting nature.

10.9 Replay.

All Conference institutions shall have full video replay capabilities for officials' review in football and all regular-season volleyball and basketball contests, including exhibition contests. [Revised: 2019-1]

10.10 Discontinued & Interrupted Contest.

10.10.1 Crowd Control & Game Management.

Crowd control shall be the home institution's responsibility. Institutional personnel, coaches, student-athletes, and game officials influence crowd behavior by their actions and attitudes. As such, proper conduct by these groups is essential to crowd control, to which the Conference has assigned a high priority to assure that attendance at Conference games is a safe and enjoyable experience. Coaches and players can assist in controlling crowd reactions by controlling their own reactions to the play of the game; game officials can materially aid in such situations by clearly and quickly signaling penalties.

10.10.1.1 Crowd Control Procedure.

Inasmuch as crowd control is the home institution's responsibility, each institution should have and implement a plan of action to minimize the effect of crowd behavior on game administration. Host institutions must provide security and protection for the visiting team and officials and their vehicles immediately upon arrival on campus continuing through their departure. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or home management responsibilities regarding crowd control and interruptions shall be forwarded to the Conference office. The Conference's sportsmanship statement will be read by the public address announcer prior to each regular season and Championship contest. The statement shall read as follows:

"The Big Sky Conference and (name of host institution) promote good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches, and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racial or sexist comments, or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches, or team representatives will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition."

If debris is thrown on the playing floor and the offender(s) can be identified as a certain team's fan(s), the offended team may be rewarded as defined under NCAA rules. If the offender(s) cannot be identified, the debris shall be removed, a warning announcement given, and the game resumed. If conditions prevail that prevent the game from being resumed, the referee shall direct both teams to return to their benches or dressing rooms until it is deemed appropriate and safe for the game to resume. In such cases, the following announcement will be made outlining the actions by the game officials:

"The game officials and the coaches and players of both teams have been directed by the Big Sky Conference to remain off the field/court until such time as order has been restored."

Whenever a game is interrupted because of events beyond the control of responsible administrative authorities, it shall be continued from the point of interruption unless the teams mutually agree otherwise. In all cases where the offender(s) can be identified, immediate ejection from the facility shall be made by the home team's management. A team will only be penalized for crowd behavior as a last resort.

10.10.2 Suspension of Games in Progress.

10.10.2.1 Temporarily Suspended Contest.

Game officials may temporarily suspend a game in progress when conditions warrant such action (e.g., electrical storm, power outage, riot, etc.). Teams will be sent to their benches and/or dressing rooms. All game information including, but not limited to, possession, down and distances in football, score, penalties, and time remaining, will be recorded by game officials and agreed to by each of the officials and head coaches prior to leaving the field or court. A suspended game shall not be resumed after midnight local time or after the game has been suspended for three (3) consecutive hours. If a game is suspended for three (3) consecutive hours, the Athletic Directors from each of the participating institutions (in consultation with the Commissioner and/or their designee, provided the Commissioner and/or their designee are available) can mutually agree to extend the time of the suspension, but in no case can the game resume after midnight local time. Prior to a suspended game being resumed, each institution shall be allotted fifteen (15) minutes to warm up. [Revised: 2022-2]

10.10.2.2 Permanently Suspended Contest.

The home team's game management and administration shall make every reasonable effort to restart a contest within the one-hour time period. In the event a contest has been declared permanently suspended, the score at the time of suspension will be considered the final score if the contest is seventy-five percent (75%) completed. A tie will be declared when the contest is less than seventy-five percent (75%) completed or is seventy-five percent (75%) completed but the score was tied. The Commissioner shall have the authority to declare a contest a tie or completed should unusual circumstances warrant such a ruling.

10.10.3 Postponement & Cancellations.

Conference contests may not be postponed or canceled without consultation with the Conference office. If an institution is unable to play a contest through its own fault, it shall forfeit such contest to its opponent. Any forfeited contest shall be regarded as a conference loss for the team assigned the forfeit and a conference win for its opponent. The Commissioner has the discretion to determine whether an institution is at fault or primarily at fault for an inability to play a contest based on the facts of the situation. For competitions that are canceled or postponed due to issues out of the control of the institutions (*transportation, facility, equipment, weather, etc.*), the Commissioner may assign a makeup date for the contest. The Commissioner shall also have the authority to cancel a contest if there is no opportunity to compete and may declare it a no contest.

It is the responsibility of the visiting team to arrive on site with enough lead time to start games on time. Although there are no guarantees for Conference play in the Conference, teams unable to travel to play a scheduled contest may be subject to a forfeit and/or fine. The fine is typically enforced when the visiting team fails to exhaust all means to travel in time to play the scheduled contest. The fine will be determined by the Commissioner and will not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

If issues arise regarding conference regular-season competition (*e.g., transportation, facility, equipment, officials, etc.*), the following procedures shall be followed:

- a) When the issue is recognized, the appropriate administrative representatives from the participating athletics departments shall communicate immediately and work toward a mutual agreement.
 - i. If the issue is related to COVID-19, institutions must notify the Conference office immediately.

- ii. If a competition is cancelled due to COVID-19 and cannot be rescheduled, such competition will be considered a no-contest.
- b) If the athletics administrators from the participating institutions cannot resolve the issue, the Conference office shall be contacted for assistance. If the matter cannot be adjudicated, the Commissioner shall rule on the matter with the primary goal to be the maintenance of competitive equity among all Conference members.
 - i. If the Commissioner determines that one of the institutions is at fault or primarily at fault and an immediate decision is necessary, the Commissioner may direct that it forfeit the contest(s) to its opponent(s).
- c) If an institution's representatives do not abide by a decision of the Conference Commissioner, such action may be grounds for forfeiture of a contest(s).
- d) Any forfeited contest shall be regarded as a loss for the team making the forfeit and a win for its opponent. [Revised: 2021-8; 2021-34]

10.10.3.1 Inclement Weather.

The following individuals must be notified without delay if inclement weather (or other unforeseen emergency) threatens the opportunity for safe departure and arrival on site: The ADs and head coaches of the participating institutions, Conference office sport administrator, Coordinator of Officials, and game officials.

10.11 Conference Logo Requirement.

10.11.1 Playing Surface – Basketball and Football.

All Conference institutions must have the current Conference logo placed on football and basketball playing surfaces. The logo quality and placement must be consistent with the Conference's [branding guidelines](#). In basketball, Member institutions may choose to place the logo in the key. Exceptions may be made for logo placement where the Member institution does not own the facility.

10.11.2 Uniforms.

All Big Sky teams must have the Conference logo on their uniforms. These logos must comply with conference [branding guidelines](#).

RULE 11: MEDIA

11.0 Media.

11.1 Radio.

Member institutions shall designate their official radio station(s) and notify the Conference office no later than September 1 of each year. A visiting team's radio station shall not be charged for the installation of a phone line for its use. It shall be charged only for the cost of its calls, when applicable.

11.1.1 Media Time-Out Format.

The Conference shall use the media format adopted by the NCAA and/or ESPN.

11.2 Television.

11.2.1 Live Broadcasts of Non-Conference Contests.

A Member institution participating in a non-Conference athletics contest shall award the rights for a television broadcast and shall negotiate and retain the rights fees.

11.2.2 Live Broadcasts of Conference Contests.

The rights to all live Conference contests, defined as games involving two (2) Conference institutions, shall be the property of the Conference, and will be administered by the Media & Technology Committee (MTC). This rule does not apply to a non-Conference contest involving two (2) Conference institutions. This rule applies the rights to all "new media" forms of distribution, including, but not limited to, video streaming.

The MTC, with the consultation of the ADs, shall provide direction to the Commissioner regarding rights fees. The Commissioner shall award the rights for television broadcasts of Conference athletics contests and shall negotiate the rights fees, with guidance by the MTC. The Conference shall request bids. The Commissioner may choose to accept late bids, subject to the approval of the MTC. The station with a right-of-last-offer will be given the option of matching the high bid and receiving the rights, provided the station's initial bid was at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the high bid.

All rights fees for live broadcasts of Conference athletics contests shall be remitted to the Conference office by May 31 of the academic year in which the events occur. The Conference office shall distribute the fees. Members, along with the Conference office, shall receive an equal share of the total rights obtained through traditional linear TV and revenue from video streaming. Affiliate Members shall receive a half share. [Adopted: 2018-12]

The Conference office shall assign a "red hat" for each live broadcast of a Conference football game. The originating station shall pay \$125 for these services. The MTC must obtain the expressed prior written consent of the AD(s) of the institution whose game is to be televised if a local telecast is to be in the same market as the game (i.e., a Portland State University home game is to be televised in Portland - - the Portland State University AD must give consent.). A local telecast is a telecast that is not regional or national. A statewide telecast will be considered a local telecast. Expressed prior written consent of the AD of the institution whose game is to be televised is also required when the telecast involves material modifications of agreed upon terms surrounding the contests, including, but not limited to, scheduled dates and times.

11.2.3 Live Broadcasts of Conference Championships.

The Commissioner shall award the rights for television broadcasts of Conference championships and shall negotiate the rights fees, with guidance from the MTC. The rights fees shall be part of the revenue of a tournament or championship.

11.2.4 Media Time-Out Format.

For media timeouts, the Conference shall use the media format adopted by the NCAA and / or ESPN or an agreed upon format by the Conference and timeout entity.

11.2.5 Delayed Telecasts of Athletics Contests.

Each Conference institution shall award the rights and negotiate and retain the rights fees for a local delayed telecast of an athletics contest in which the institution participates. Delayed telecasts shall not begin prior to 10:30 p.m. on the day of the contest. A football game is presumed to be four (4) hours in length and a basketball game is presumed to be two (2) hours in length.

11.3 Video Streaming.

The following sports shall broadcast on ESPN+ during the regular-season and championship games: basketball, football, softball, soccer, and volleyball. [Revised: 2019-4; 2021]

11.3.1 Technical Standards and Minimum Equipment.

See the ESPN Production Guidelines for Packagers and Producers for Programing.

ESPN+ Minimum Specs Per Sport						
Sport	Basketball	Football	Soccer	Softball	Track	Volleyball
Cameras	2 (CF/High Home)	4	2 (Game/ Tight)	2 (CF/Hi Home)	3+	2 (Game/Tight)
Replay	1	1	1	1	0	1
Commentary	PxP/Analyst	PxP/Analyst	PxP	PxP	PxP	PxP
Graphics	Clock/ Score/Inserts	Clock/ Score/Inserts	Clock/ Score	Score	Clock/ Score	Clock/ Score

RULE 12: OFFICIATING

12.0 Selection.

The Conference shall operate its own Officiating Bureau in football, soccer, softball, and women's basketball. In men's basketball, the Conference shall participate in the Western Officiating Consortium. In volleyball, the conference shall participate in the W5 Women's Volleyball Officiating Consortium. In all other sports, the selection of officials shall be the responsibility of the host institution or assigning body.

12.1 Responsibility of Coordinator of Officials.

The Coordinators of Officials shall be responsible for selecting, assigning, training, and evaluating football, soccer, softball, volleyball, and women's basketball games officials for all contests hosted by a Conference institution. In volleyball, host institutions are responsible for providing line judges.

12.2 Conference Policies.

12.2.1 Criteria.

The criteria for the selection and assignment of games official shall include, but is not limited to, the following: competence and dependability, evaluations, development of new officials, avoidance of overexposure at one institution, and travel expense considerations.

12.2.2 Training and Evaluation.

The Conference shall attempt to follow all nationally standardized rules, interpretations, and mechanics. The Coordinator of Officials shall train officials by conducting clinics and evaluating their performance at contests. The Conference office may choose to use game film of controversial incidents at clinics and may request officials to review film of games they have worked. Constructive criticism shall be solicited from coaches, qualified observers, and fellow officials. Official forms shall be used to rate an official's performance in individual games and over an entire season. When appropriate, mean ratings shall be reported to coaches and ADs.

12.2.3 Relations among Game Officials, Coaches, News Media, & the Public.

The host institution's AD is responsible for spectator behavior at each event. The Commissioner shall suggest remedies if inappropriate spectator behavior persists during a contest. Member institutions shall provide adequate and suitably located dressing rooms for officials in all sports. The host institution shall provide security and protection for game officials and their vehicles immediately upon arrival on campus, while in the venue, and continuing through their departure. It should be possible for officials to access their dressing room without mingling with spectators or participating teams. The officials' dressing room must be locked during contest play and unauthorized access is prohibited before, during, and after the contest. This rule applies to all contests, including non-Conference and postseason contests.

12.2.4 Public Comments.

Coaches, student-athletes and institutional personnel shall not criticize officials on social media, at public gatherings or in the presence of representatives of the news media. Coach, student-athlete or institutional personnel who criticize officials in public may be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, a letter of reprimand, suspension for the next scheduled game, etc. Head coaches and ADs may communicate questions and constructive criticisms to the Coordinator of Officials, who shall review game film and provide a response. Information provided to the Coordinator of Officials is confidential and must not be shared with representatives of the news media. This prohibition extends to critical comments about officiating during news conferences and television shows. Additionally, institutional press releases shall contain no statements that refer to the quality of officiating.

Officials shall not discuss incidents regarding their performance on social media, at public gatherings or with representatives of the news media.

12.2.5 Blackball Policy.

The Conference shall not adopt a policy that would permit institutions to "blackball" an official.

12.2.6 Pool Reporter for Officiating Interpretations.

Upon request for a rule interpretation, a pool reporter will be selected by the host institution for the purpose of obtaining that interpretation from the Chief of the officiating crew.

12.2.7 Announcement of Officials.

Institutions shall not publish the names of officials in official game programs.

12.2.8 Communications with the Coordinator of Officials and Officials.

In all sports, there shall be no contact by coaches or administrators with the Coordinator of Officials prior to noon the day following a contest. Institutional representatives are prohibited from communicating directly with an official to raise questions or complain about the official's performance. Officials are prohibited from responding directly to a coach or other institutional representative.

12.2.9 Official Change Request.

The Conference office shall consider a request to change officials' assignments only in exceptional circumstances.

12.2.10 Commissioner's Authority.

The conduct of coaches and other institutional personnel toward officials shall be above reproach. The Commissioner shall have the authority to take appropriate action, when such action is warranted.

12.3 Fees, Travel Allowance, & Per Diem.

The per diem allowance for Conference officials is two hundred dollars (\$200). Per diem shall be paid only when the distance traveled exceeds one hundred and fifty (150) miles one way. Two (2) days per diem may be provided if surface travel exceeds three hundred (300) miles one way. The Conference office may approve an additional half or full day of per diem allowance when travel arrangements warrant such approval. The travel expense allowance for officials shall be sixty-three cents (\$0.63) per mile or round-trip airfare at the best available rate. [Revised: 2022-11]

12.3.1 Regular-Season Home Contests.

In soccer, softball, and volleyball, the Conference office shall be responsible for the payment of officials' travel, per diem and game fees for all regular-season home contests, unless the game contract makes clear the officials' assignment is not the responsibility of the Conference. In men's and women's basketball and football, the Conference office shall be responsible for the payment of officials' flat fees, unless the game contract makes clear the officials' assignment is not the responsibility of the Conference. Institutions shall deposit funds with the Conference office for these expenses. In all other sports, institutions shall pay directly all of the game fees and officials' expenses for regular-season contests. [Revised: 2019-16]

12.3.2 Championship Contests.

In men's basketball, women's basketball, soccer, softball, and volleyball, the Conference office shall select and assign officials for the Conference championships. In soccer, softball, and volleyball, the Conference office will pay the officials' travel allowances, per diem, and game fees. In men's and women's basketball, the conference will distribute the flat rate game fee. In track and field, the Conference office will pay the head officials' travel expenses, per diem and fees. In golf and tennis, the Conference office will pay officials' fees and any other per diem/travel as necessary. These expenses are shared equally by all Conference institutions that participate in that sport. Institutions shall deposit funds with the Conference office for these expenses. [Revised: 2019-16]

12.3.3 Official's Interrupted Travel.

When an official has started to travel to the site of a Conference contest to which he or she has been assigned and is unable to arrive due to circumstances beyond his or her control, the Conference office shall pay the travel expenses, but not the game fee. In soccer, softball, and volleyball, the conference shall pay the game fee and any travel expenses for the substitute official. In men's and women's basketball, the conference shall pay the game fee for the substitute official. [Revised: 2019-16]

12.3.4 Cancelled, Postponed and Rescheduled Games.

If a game is cancelled or postponed before an official begins their travel to the game site, game fees will not be paid and per diem and travel (e.g., airline ticket) shall be returned to the Conference office. If a game is cancelled or postponed after a volleyball, soccer, or softball official has started their travel to a Conference game, full game fees and reimbursement shall be paid. If a game is cancelled or postponed after a football, men's basketball, or women's basketball official has started their travel to a Conference game, a half-game fee shall be paid. [Revised: 2020-79, 103, and 107]

12.3.5 Mileage & Per Diem.

The Conference will utilize the following schedule for mileage and per diem for those officials not receiving a flat fee.

MILEAGE & PER DIEM SCHEDULE				
Type	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Mileage	\$0.45	\$0.63	\$0.63	\$0.63
Per Diem	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$225

12.3.6 Game Fees.

12.3.6.1 Basketball.

Upon Conference approval, the Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officials and the Coordinator of Women's Basketball Officials shall assign each official into a tier for their respective sport. The per-game fee for three (3) basketball officials shall be: [Revised: 2021; 2022-11]

BASKETBALL FEE SCHEDULE				
Tier	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,350	\$2,350
2	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,925	\$1,925
3	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,500	\$1,500

For preseason scrimmages with full game conditions, the three (3) officials shall be paid \$1,200 total. For intra-squad and non-game setting scrimmages, each official shall be paid \$75. The Conference will handle all collections and payments for Conference-assigned officials.

12.3.6.2 Football.

The Conference office shall organize football officials into crews and assign crews for all games. Each crew will consist of seven (7) on-field officials, one (1) replay official, one (1) replay communicator, one (1) video evaluator, and one (1) replay technician. The game fee shall be: [Revised: 2021-51; 2022-11]

FOOTBALL FEE SCHEDULE				
Position	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Head Referee	\$1,375	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600
On Field (6) & Replay (1)	\$1,345	\$1,550	\$1,550	\$1,550
Video Evaluator	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Replay Technician	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Replay Communicator	\$475 + Travel	\$475 + Travel	\$475 + Travel	\$475 + Travel

For fall and spring practice, one game fee shall be paid per crew, per scrimmage.

12.3.6.3 Soccer. [Revised 2022-11]

The per game fee for four (4) soccer officials shall be as follows:

SOCCER FEE SCHEDULE				
Position	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
<i>Head Referee</i>	\$235	\$235	\$235	\$280
<i>Assistant Referees (2)</i>	\$140	\$140	\$140	\$175
<i>4th Referee</i>	\$140	\$140	\$140	\$100
NON-CHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT FEE SCHEDULE				
<i>Head Referee</i>	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175
<i>Assistant Referees (2)</i>	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150

Officials will not receive mileage or per diem.

12.3.6.4 Softball.

The per game fee for three (3) softball umpires, one crew chief and two other umpires, shall be as follows: [Revised: 2019-7; 2021-28; 2022-11]

SOFTBALL FEE SCHEDULE				
Position	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
<i>Crew Chief</i>	\$170	\$170	\$170	\$210
<i>On-Field Ump</i>	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$200

12.3.6.5 Volleyball. [Revised 2022-11]

The match fee for two (2) volleyball officials and two (2) line judges in both regular season and championship matches shall be the following:

VOLLEYBALL FEE SCHEDULE				
Position	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
<i>Referees (R1 & R2)</i>	\$345	\$345	\$345	\$400
<i>Line Judges</i>	\$50 <i>minimum</i>	\$50 <i>minimum</i>	\$50 <i>minimum</i>	\$50 <i>minimum</i>

12.4 Complimentary Admissions.

Officials and observers are entitled to two (2) complimentary admissions to all games they officiate or observe. Institutional personnel are responsible for the distribution of tickets to officials and observers.

RULE 13: CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

13.0 Championship Events.

The dates and sites of all championship events for the following year shall be reviewed and set by the athletics administrators at the Conference's Spring Meeting. (See [Appendix N](#))

13.1 Bids.

If a Member institution or other entity (*e.g., visitor's bureau, country club*) wishes to submit a bid to host a Conference championship, the bid should contain any associated fees, available facility times, area lodging options, travel options and cost, support staff plans, and area weather conditions if applicable.

13.1.1 Banquets.

There shall be no championship banquets, unless submitted as part of a championship hosting bid.

13.2 Hot Team Host.

In all sports, hot-team host shall be a prohibited championship format. [Adopted: 2021-1]

13.3 Participation Gifts.

Each participant in a Conference championship shall receive a memento supplied by the Conference office. Institutions shall deposit funds with the Conference office to fund these expenses.

13.4 Championship Director.

Each Big Sky Championship shall have a Championship Director. For men's and women's basketball, men's and women's golf and men's and women's tennis, the Tournament Director shall be a member of the Conference staff. For men's and women's cross country, soccer, volleyball, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field, and softball, the host institution shall appoint a Championship Director. This person should be knowledgeable and experienced in tournament administration and game management. The function of the Tournament Director is to ensure the policies of the Big Sky Conference are observed. Specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to, direction and supervision of facility arrangements, ticket sales, development of participant information, security, transportation, hospitality, promotions, financial administration and adherence to the policies outlined in the Code and Operations Manual.

13.5 Disqualification of Student-Athlete

At all Big Sky Championships, a student-athlete's on-site team physician or sports medicine professional will examine and determine whether a student-athlete with an injury or illness should continue to participate or should be disqualified. In the absence of a team physician or sports medicine professional, or if medical advice from those professionals is ignored by the student-athlete, coach or administrator, the Championship team-physician or sports medicine professional (*host Athletic Trainer*) will examine the student-athlete and has valid medical authority to disqualify him or her if the student-athlete's injury, illness or medical condition poses a potentially life-threatening risk to himself or herself.

The Big Sky Conference Championship Administrator (*the Conference administrator in attendance at the Championship*), in coordination with the Championship Games Committee shall be responsible for administrative enforcement of the medical judgment, if it involves disqualification. [Adopted: 2022-19]

RULE 14: MEETINGS

14.0 Conference Meetings.

14.1 Annual Business Meetings.

The Conference Council, Council of ADs, Council of SWAs and Council of FARs shall meet twice annually at the Spring and Fall meetings.

14.2 Coaches Meetings. [Adopted 2022-10]

IN-PERSON MEETING SCHEDULE			
<i>Annually</i>	<i>Every Three Years</i>	<i>Even Years</i>	<i>Odd Years</i>
Men's & Women's Basketball Football Volleyball	Track & Field <i>Beginning 2023</i> Men's & Women's Golf <i>Beginning 2024</i>	Softball <i>Beginning 2024</i>	Soccer <i>Beginning 2023</i> Tennis <i>Beginning 2023</i>

Exceptions may be made based on sport needs. Meetings shall not be held during a Conference championship. Participation by all head coaches shall be mandatory. Any institution whose head coach does not participate will have violated a Code Rule and will be reported to the ECVC. If a head coach cannot attend the meeting, the AD of the involved institution must approve the absence, notify the Commissioner, and arrange for a replacement to attend the meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Chair through the Conference office.

14.3 Other Meetings.

Other meetings (*e.g., sports information directors, compliance, SAAC*) shall be at the discretion of the Conference office or the Commissioner. Sports Information Directors shall meet annually in conjunction with the Conference Football Kickoff. SAAC shall meet annually during the summer. [Revised: 2022-22]

14.3.1 In-Person Orientation.

Presidents, FARs, AD, and SWAs are required to attend an in-person orientation at the Conference office during their first year of employment at a Member or Affiliate Member institution. [Adopted: PC-2019]

14.3.2 Videoconference Orientation.

All athletics department staff members are required to participate in a videoconference orientation during their first year of employment at a Member institution. The requirement applies for those who are involved with sports that are Affiliate Members. Additionally, current staff members are required to attend a videoconference orientation once every three years. The Conference will host two videoconference orientations for coaches and two videoconference orientations for administrators each year, one for each group during the fall and one for each group during the spring. [Adopted: PC-2019-F]

14.4 Minutes.

Procedure minutes of all meetings shall be made available promptly to meeting participants by the Conference office.

RULE 15: CONFERENCE OPERATIONS

15.0 Travel.

The Commissioner is authorized to approve travel and per diem expenses necessary for the conduct of official Conference business. The travel expense of all official Conference meetings called by Conference authority through the Conference office shall be at institutional expense.

15.1 Conference-Wide Proposals.

Any Conference-wide proposals from private businesses are to be referred to the Conference office for screening and initial analysis prior to the meeting at which they are to be presented.

15.2 NCAA Regulations.

NCAA rules shall apply in any cases not herein listed. The same five (5) designees authorized to call the NCAA for interpretations are permitted to call the Conference office for interpretations. Those individuals are the AD, SWA, FAR, compliance administrators, and President of each Member institution.

RULE 16: BASKETBALL

16.0 Rules for Conference Play.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all basketball contests played by Conference institutions.

16.1 Bands.

Bands or amplified music are not permitted to play while the game is in progress. Artificial noisemakers, air horns, balloons and electronic amplifiers (*except as a component of a band*) are not permissible. No bands shall be placed directly behind the visiting team's bench in Conference arenas.

16.2 Cheerleaders and Mascots.

No more than twelve (12) uniformed cheerleaders and one (1) costumed mascot may be admitted via a pass list. The institution must submit the pass list to the game manager. All other institutional representatives shall be admitted only upon presentation of a ticket. A maximum of twelve (12) cheerleaders and one (1) mascot shall be allowed on the floor when the clock is stopped. Additional cheerleaders will be allowed to perform before the game and at halftime only. The twelve (12) cheerleaders and one (1) mascot shall be placed in an area at the end of the playing court as designated by the game manager. Additional cheerleaders must sit in the stands while the game is being played. There shall be no interaction, verbal or otherwise, with an institution's mascots toward game officials.

16.3 Complimentary Admissions.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all matters related to complimentary admissions except as otherwise stated in this rule. The number of complimentary admissions given to a visiting institution shall not exceed forty-five (45), except as otherwise agreed upon by the participating institutions. Thirty (30) of the 45 tickets shall be seats directly behind the visiting team bench. The additional fifteen (15) tickets may be located elsewhere in the arena. "Hard tickets" shall not be mailed, and identification must be verified upon receipt of a ticket. Officials and observers are entitled to two (2) complimentary admissions to all contests they officiate or observe. Institutional personnel are responsible for the distribution of tickets to officials and observers.

16.4 Contests against Non-Division I Opponents.

In basketball, no more than three (3) contests against non-Division I opponents are permissible during the regular season. Exhibition contests are exempt from this rule. [Revised: 2022-16]

16.4.1 Multiple-Team Events.

There are no MTE exceptions. Member institutions must be aware of possible opponents in multiple-team events prior to signing agreements and/or account for the possibility of a non-Division I opponent in a multiple-team event and schedule accordingly.

16.4.1.1 Multiple-Team Events Recommended Contract Language.

As part of <Big Sky team> committing to participate in the <year and name of MTE>, <tournament organizer> is committed to providing <Big Sky team> with <number of games> games against NCAA Division I opponents as part of this event. If the tournament organizer is unable to fulfill that stipulation, then <Big Sky team> would have the sole option to void this tournament contract with no penalty and either not participate in <year and name of MTE> or to modify this tournament contract with no penalty to not participate against the non-Division I team in order for <Big Sky team> to abide by the Big Sky Conference's Code regarding the number of permissible games against non-Division I opponents in the same season.

16.5 Crowd Control.

Crowd control rests with the host institution. Competitors and fans are expected to always demonstrate sportsmanship. The Conference's sportsmanship statement will be read by the public address announcer prior to each game.

16.6 Determining Conference Champion.

The team with the best win-loss percentage in Conference play shall be recognized as the official Regular-Season Conference Champion and receive the #1 seed. The next best win-loss percentage in Conference play will be seeded #2 and so forth until all seeds have been determined. If two or more teams end the regular season with identical records, they will be declared Regular-Season Conference Co-Champions. The Big Sky Basketball Championship winner will represent the Conference in the NCAA Basketball Championship.

16.6.1 Tie Breaker.

The tie-breaking process will be used only for the purpose of determining the Conference Championships tournament seeding. If there are multiple groupings with ties, then the grouping with the best record in the Conference regular season standings will undergo the tiebreaking process first and descending in the standings as needed. If a better-seeded grouping requires 16.6.1.b (ii) to break a tie, and a worse-seeded grouping has two or more tied teams, then the better-seeded teams will use their performance against the entire worse-seeded grouping to determine if the tie can be broken by this step.

- a) The following process will be used for ties between two (2) teams until seeding is complete:
 - i. head-to-head record during the Conference season
 - ii. performance against Conference teams in descending order of finish beginning with the #1 seed

Example: Teams B and C have identical Conference records after the regular season. In head-to-head competition, each team went 1-1. Team A is the #1 seed. Team B went 1-1 against Team A while Team C went 0-2 against Team A. Team B will receive the seed one better than Team C.

- iii. NCAA NET rankings as of the day after the final Big Sky Conference regular season game has been completed
 - iv. coin flip between the tied teams
- b) The following process will be used for ties among three (3) or more teams until seeding is complete. If only two (2) teams remain tied after any of the following tie-breaker processes, then the tie-breaking process will restart between those two (2) teams beginning with 16.6.1.a (i).
 - i. Head-to-head record among all of the tied teams

Example: Teams A, B, C, and D have identical Conference records after the regular season. In head-to-head competition, Team A emerges with 4-2 record against the other tied teams, Team B and Team C have a 3-3 record and team D has a 2-4 record. Teams A and D can receive a seed while Teams B and C return to criteria "i) head-to-head record during the Conference season" and continue within 16.6.1.a as needed to resolve the tie between Teams B and C.

Example: Teams A, B, and C have identical Conference records after the regular season. In head-to-head competition, Team A emerges with a 3-1 record against the other tied teams, Team B went 2-2, and Team C went 1-3. All three teams can be seeded.

- ii. Performance against Conference teams in descending order of finish beginning with the #1 seed

Example: Teams A, B, C, and D have identical Conference records after the regular season. In head-to-head competition, Team A emerges with 6-0 record against the other tied teams, while teams B, C and D have 2-4 records. Team A receives the best seed based on the above criteria. The tie-breaking process will restart between those three (3) teams beginning with 16.6.1.b (i). If Teams B, C, and D each have a 2-2 head-to-head record, then the tiebreaking procedure continues with 16.6.1.b (ii), which will include Team A as seeded. If Team B went 2-0 against the top seed that Teams C and D went 1-1 against, then Team B will be seeded just below Team A while Teams C and D will revert to 16.6.1.a (i).

Example: Teams A, B, and C have identical Conference records after the regular season. These teams went 2-2 against each other. Teams E, F, and G also have identical Conference records after the regular season. Teams A, B, and C have identical Conference records against Team D. To proceed with the tiebreaker process, Teams A, B, and C will compare their head-to-head records against Teams E, F, and G collectively. If Team A went 5-1 against Teams E, F, and G, and Teams B and C went 4-2 against Teams E, F, and G, then Team A will receive the highest seed in that group while Teams B and C will revert to 16.6.1.a (i).

- iii. NCAA NET rankings as of the day after the final Big Sky Conference regular season game has been completed
- iv. Coin flip between the tied teams

16.7 Game Film Policies and Exchange.

All regular-season contests will be uploaded for exchange on Synergy, including tournament, non-Conference and Conference contests. Video-streamed broadcasts may not be uploaded for exchange; however, institutions may use the stream feed provided it only includes the high center camera and does not cut out to different angles or show replay. Films must be in HD (720p minimum) and show all timeouts. Halftime programs shall not be included in the file. The score shall be displayed at regular intervals. An institution may not alter or edit game film. [Revised: 2020-1; Revised 2020-121]

16.7.1 Upload Times.

All home games shall be uploaded by midnight following the completion of the contest. The game file for all road games must be uploaded no later than noon the day after the team returns to campus.

16.7.2 Storage Device.

The home team shall provide a USB to the visiting team following each contest.

16.8 Game Time.

Games will begin one (1) minute past the hour or half-hour (e.g., 2:01 pm MT; 7:31 pm PT). Saturday contests shall not have a tip time earlier than 2:01 pm. The Saturday tip-time regulation may be waived upon written agreement by the ADs of the participating institutions or as dictated by television.

16.9 Guarantees.

There shall be no guarantees for Conference basketball games. In the event of a no-show, the ADs of the involved institutions and the Commissioner are responsible for resolving the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved, the no-show team may be subject to a fine, not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), as determined by the Commissioner.

16.10 Host Institution Obligations.

The host institution shall provide the following items and services:

16.10.1 Facility Regulation.

The host institution shall arrange:

- a) Separate locker room for each team for pregame and halftime meetings. Each locker room must have a whiteboard and markers.
- b) Practice time at least six (6) hours before the start of the contest in the game facility on the day of the game. This practice should be sixty (60) minutes in length and to the extent possible, be a closed practice.
- c) Practice, upon request by the visiting team, the day before the contest for a minimum of sixty (60) minutes and a maximum of ninety (90) minutes. To the extent possible, this shall be a closed practice.
- d) The court shall be available for warm-ups sixty (60) minutes prior to the scheduled contest time unless arrangements have been made with the host institution for earlier court availability.
- e) Written schedule of protocol that follows the Conference's guidelines shall be provided to the visiting team.
- f) Team benches consisting of nineteen (19) seats in a single row.

16.10.2 Equipment.

The host institution shall provide:

- a) Towels
- b) Minimum of six (6) balls at any practice session. These balls shall be the Conference's official game ball.

16.10.3 Support Services.

The host institution shall provide:

- a) Athletic trainer
- b) Trained scorers, timers, and statisticians
- c) Game management personnel.

16.10.4 Statistics.

Statistics must be available to both teams and the media within the first five (5) minutes of halftime and immediately after the game. Courtside statistics must be computerized and kept by appropriately trained personnel who are under the supervision of the host institution's sports information staff. Live statistics must be available at all regular-season contests.

16.11 Official Ball.

The official ball for Conference play is the Wilson EVO NXT. Institutions are required to play with this ball for all Conference games. [Revised: 2021-4-F]

16.12 Player Introductions.

Regular-season introductions shall be made by announcing the visiting team's starters first followed by the home team's starters. Introductions shall be no more than three (3) minutes in duration.

16.13 Schedule.

The following scheduling parameters will guide the formation of a Conference regular season schedule with eighteen (18) games: [Adopted: 2019-17]

- a) Each institution shall have a minimum of four (4) weekend home games each season.
- b) Only one (1) stretch of four (4) consecutive Conference road games over a period of four (4) years is permitted per program.
- c) Institutions will not be initially scheduled for back-to-back weeks where they play only one Conference game.
- d) Teams will play against travel partner pairs in the same Thursday-Saturday weekend except for one (1) pair once per season.
- e) The first Conference game shall not be played until after Christmas.
- f) No more than six (6) Conference games will be initially scheduled over a period of fifteen (15) days.
- g) The final game will finish no closer than five (5) days before the start of the Conference championship.

16.13.1 Football Affiliate Basketball Game Rotation

Member institutions will compete against the University of California, Davis at least once in both genders and California Polytechnic State University at least twice in both genders over the course of twenty (20) years during the 2021-22 through 2040-41 seasons. An institution that cancels a contest scheduled per this rule will be subject to a fifty thousand dollar (\$50,000) fine. See [Appendix O](#) for the rotation. [Adopted: 2020-99]

16.14 Scouting.

All live scouting of Conference teams by Conference coaches shall be prohibited except as permitted by NCAA rules.

16.15 Statistical Services.

16.15.1 Conference Office.

The Conference office will begin to publish statistics the first week of the season. Statistics will be made available to the media and each institution following the final contest of that day. A complete release to include Conference and overall standings, win-loss records, and scores from the previous week's contests will be published.

16.15.2 Institution.

Each institution shall keep statistics covering individual Conference contests as well as cumulative statistics covering the entire season. Statistical data must be submitted to the Conference office using software approved by the Conference office, including individual game statistics, as specified and required by the Conference office. Scores and game statistics must be emailed to the media, the institution's next opponent, and the Conference office following each contest.

16.16 Uniforms.

Uniforms shall be light for the home team and dark for the visiting team.

RULE 17: FOOTBALL

17.0 Rules for Conference Play.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all football contests played by Conference institutions.

17.1 Ball Crew.

Each member of the ball crew must be at least eighteen (18) years old.

17.2 Complimentary Admissions.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all matters related to complimentary admissions except as otherwise stated in this rule. Home institutions shall mail one hundred and fifty (150) complimentary passes to the visiting team's AD. The two institutions shall communicate the arrangement, if applicable, for distribution once on site. Officials and observers are entitled to two (2) complimentary admissions to all contests they officiate or observe. Institutional personnel are responsible for the distribution of tickets to officials and observers.

17.3 Crowd Control.

The responsibility for crowd control rests with the host institution. Competitors and fans are expected to always demonstrate sportsmanship. Spectators shall not be allowed to have musical instruments or amplified artificial noisemakers (e.g., *Vuvuzelas*, *duck calls*) in the game facility. The Conference's sportsmanship statement will be read by the public address announcer prior to each game.

17.4 Determining Conference Champion.

The team with the best win-loss percentage in Conference play shall be recognized as the official Regular-Season Conference Champion. If two or more teams end the regular season with identical Conference win percentages, they will be declared Regular-Season Conference Co-Champions. An institution must compete in seven (7) Conference games to be named the Regular-Season Conference Champion or Co-Champion. [Revised: 2021-9]

17.4.1 Tie Breaker.

The tie-breaking process will be used only for the purpose of determining which institution receives the NCAA FCS Championship automatic bid. [Revised: 2021-9]

- a) The following process will be used for ties between two (2) teams until the tie can be broken:
 - i. Head-to-head record including contests played against Conference opponents as non-conference games;
 - ii. Win percentages against common Conference opponents not including contests played against Conference opponents as non-conference games;
 - iii. Win percentages against common non-conference opponents including opponents that sponsor football in a different division (*FBS, FCS, Division II, Division III, or NAIA*);
 - iv. Sagarin Rating as of the Sunday preceding the final week of the regular season;
 - v. Coin flip between the tied teams
- b) The following process will be used for ties among three (3) or more teams until the automatic bid recipient is determined. If only two (2) teams remain tied after any of the following tie-breaker processes, then the tie-breaking process will restart between those two (2) teams beginning with 17.4.1.a (i).
 - i. Head-to-head record including contests played as non-conference games
 - ii. Win percentages against common Conference opponents not including contests played against Conference opponents as non-conference games

Example: Teams A, B, and C have identical Conference win percentages after the regular season. Team A beat team B, Team B beat Team C, and Team C beat Team A. Teams A, B, and C have all played Teams D, E, and F. Against Teams D, E, and F, Team A went 3-0, Team B went 2-1, and Team C went 3-0. Teams A and C would return to criteria "i. head-to-head record during the Conference season" and continue within 17.4.1.a as needed to resolve the tie between Teams A and C.

- iii. Win percentages against common non-Conference opponents including opponents that sponsor football in a different division (*FBS, FCS, Division II, Division III, or NAIA*)
- iv. Sagarin Rating as of the Sunday preceding the final week of the regular season.

17.5 Equipment.

The host institution shall provide the following equipment items:

- a) A player telephone installed on both sidelines to the coaches' box.
- b) A kicking net for the visiting team.
- c) A node/jack system that will allow for wireless systems to plug in at the sideline.
 - i. Visiting teams are not allowed to string wires in the host institution's stadium.
 - ii. A visiting team may provide its own wireless headsets. If the visiting team's headsets fail, the host institution shall not be responsible to repair, equalize, or provide additional headsets.

17.6 Game Film Policies and Exchange.

17.6.1 Filming Rules.

All regular-season contests will be uploaded for exchange, including Conference, non-Conference, and post-season contests. Television and video-streamed broadcasts may not be uploaded for Offense, Defense, Kick (ODK) film. An institution may not alter or edit game films. Games must remain on film exchange as outlined by the National Open Video Exchange Rules. [Revised: 2019-Su]

17.6.1.2 Footage Specifications.

All files shall show the scoreboard prior to every play, which shall include:

- a) Time remaining, down, and distance.
- b) A shot of the secondary as the offense is breaking the huddle.

17.6.1.2.1 End Zone Shot.

The end zone shot must include all kicking plays and will be taped from linebacker to the deepest running back and will include both lines of the personal protector, not to include the punter.

17.6.2 File Rules.

Uploaded files for exchange between teams shall be a combo or weave incorporating end zone and sideline shots of every play, and three (3) separate files shall be uploaded for team exchange: Offense, Defense, Kicking and Continuous. All games must include .mp4 file and .xchange files. If the video editing system can "mark" film, it is highly recommended that marks be included with the uploaded files. Game files shall be labeled "G01", "G02", etc., and in each game file there shall be three (3) separate folders (*e.g., UMdefvsMSUoff; UMoffvsMSUdef; UMspvsMSUsp*). These files shall be uploaded in native format to ensure quality (*absolutely no zip files*), and Catapult / XOS must be set to "send automatically" to every Conference institution. The home team, or the road team in a non-conference road game, must also upload the XML file to Catapult / XOS. [Revised: 2019]

17.6.3 Upload Timing.

17.6.3.1 Home Conference Contest.

The most recently played home contest must be uploaded to Catapult / XOS and sent to the next opponent no later than six hours following the contest. (*This also applies to all weekday games.*) [Revised: 2019]

17.6.3.2 Conference Road Contest.

Conference road contests must be uploaded by the visiting team to its platform no later than noon Sunday local time the day following the contest barring an extenuating circumstance. [Revised: 2019]

17.6.3.3 Non-Conference Road Contest.

For non-Conference road contests, files must be uploaded no later than noon Sunday the day following the contest and sent to the next week's opponent.

17.6.4 Coordinator of Officials File.

A complete game file for the Coordinator of Officials with combo or weave plays (end zone and sideline) in sequential order shall be uploaded no later than noon the day following the game. This file shall also show the scoreboard prior to every play.

17.6.5 National Open Video Exchange.

All institutions are required to participate in the National Open Video Exchange. For filming and upload specifications, review the National Open Video Exchange Rules.

17.6.6 Broadcast Copies of Games.

Institutions may have access to the broadcast version of games soon after the completion of the game for team use. [Adopted: 2021-52]

17.7 Game Time.

Contests will begin two (2) minutes past the hour or half-hour (*e.g., 2:02 pm MT; 7:32 pm PT*). If a stadium does not have lights, games played following the beginning of standard time in the fall shall start no later than 12:02 p.m. local time.

17.8 Game Protocol.

The Conference shall use the NCAA pre-game and half-time format.

17.9 Mascots.

There shall be no interaction, verbal or otherwise, with an institution's mascot towards game officials.

17.10 Statistical Services.

Statistical data must be submitted to the Conference office as specified and required by the Conference office using software approved by the Conference office. Live statistics must be available at all regular-season contests.

17.11 Uniforms.

Uniforms shall be dark for the home team and white or light for the visiting team.

RULE 18: SOCCER

18.0 Rules for Conference Play.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all soccer contests played by Conference institutions.

18.1 Complimentary Admissions.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all matters relating to complimentary admissions except as otherwise stated in this rule. The number of complimentary admissions given to a visiting institution shall not exceed forty-five (45). "Hard tickets" shall not be mailed and identification must be verified upon receipt of a ticket. Officials and observers are entitled to two (2) complimentary admissions to all contests they officiate or observe. Institutional personnel are responsible for the distribution of tickets to officials and observers.

18.2 Contests against Non-Division I Opponents.

In soccer, an institution may compete in one contest against a non-Division I opponent during the NCAA Championship segment of the season. Exhibition contests and contests against non-Division I opponents in bracketed team events are exempt from this rule. [Revised: 2020-14]

18.3 Crowd Control.

Crowd control rests with the host institution. Competitors and fans are expected to always demonstrate sportsmanship. Musical instruments and artificial noisemakers may be used at any time during the game. The Conference's sportsmanship statement will be read by the public address announcer prior to each game.

18.4 Determining Conference Champion.

If all scheduled conference matches are played or a win/loss/draw is declared for all matches, the team with the most points in Conference play shall be recognized as the official Regular-Season Conference Champion and receive the #1 seed. The next best point total in Conference play will be seeded #2 and so forth until all seeds have been determined. If two or more teams end the regular season with the same point total, they will be declared Regular-Season Conference Co-Champions. The Big Sky Soccer Championship winner will represent the Conference in the NCAA Women's Soccer Championship.

If one or more matches are cancelled and cannot be rescheduled, the team with the highest points per match average (*total points accumulated divided by total matches played*) during conference play shall be recognized as the official Regular-Season Conference Champion and receive the #1 seed. The next best highest points per match average in Conference play will be seeded #2 and so forth until all seeds have been determined. If two or more teams end the regular season with the same points per match average, they will be declared Regular-Season Conference Co-Champions. A team may not have more than two (2) no contests in conference play to be eligible for the regular season championship and to be able to participate in the conference championship. The Big Sky Soccer Championship winner will represent the Conference in the NCAA Women's Soccer Championship. [Revised: 2021-18]

18.4.1 Tie Breaker.

The tie-breaking process will be used for the purpose of determining Conference championship seeding and the site of the subsequent season's Conference championship. [Revised: 2021-18]

If all scheduled Conference matches are played, or a win/loss/draw is declared for all matches:

If there are multiple groupings with ties, then the grouping with the most points in the Conference regular season standings will undergo the tiebreaking process first and descending in the standings as needed. If a better-seeded grouping requires 18.4.1.b (ii) to break a tie, and a worse-seeded grouping has two or more tied teams, then the better-seeded teams will use their performance against the entire worse-seeded grouping to determine if the tie can be broken by this step. [Revised: JAC-2020-13]

- a) The following process will be used for ties between two (2) teams until seeding is complete:
 - i. head-to-head competition during the Conference season
 - ii. performance against Conference teams in descending order of finish beginning with the #1 seed

Example: Teams B and C have identical Conference records after the regular season. In head-to-head competition, the teams played to a draw. Team A is the #1 seed. Team B went 1-0 against Team A while Team C went 0-1 against Team A. Team B will receive the seed one better than Team C.

- iii. goal differential against all Conference opponents using a maximum of three (3) goals per match
 - iv. goals allowed against all Conference opponents
 - v. goals for tied teams against the rest of the Conference
 - vi. coin flip between the tied teams
- b) The following process will be used for ties among three (3) or more teams until seeding is complete. If only two (2) teams remain tied after any of the following tie-breaker processes, then the tie-breaking process will restart between those two (2) teams beginning with 18.4.1.a (i).
- i. head-to-head record among all of the tied teams
 - ii. performance against Conference teams in descending order of finish beginning with the #1 seed

Example: Team A is the #1 seed. Teams B, C, D, and E have identical Conference total points after the regular season. In head-to-head competition, Team B emerges with nine (9) total points against the other tied teams, while teams C, D and E have three (3) total points each. Team B receives the best seed based on the above criteria. The tie-breaking process will restart between those three (3) teams beginning with 18.4.1.b (i). If Teams C, D, and E each have a 1-1 head-to-head record, then the tiebreaking procedure continues with 18.4.1.b (ii), which will include Team B as seeded. If Team C went 1-0 against Team A, the #1 seed, and Teams D and E went 0-1 the top seed, then Team C will be seeded one seed worse than Team B while Teams D and E will revert to 18.4.1.a (i).

- iii. goal differential between tied teams using a maximum of three (3) goals per match
- iv. goal differential against all Conference opponents using a maximum of three (3) goals per match
- v. goals allowed between tied teams
- vi. goals allowed against all Conference opponents
- vii. goals for tied teams against tied teams
- viii. goals for tied teams against the rest of the Conference
- ix. coin flip between the tied teams

If any institution has one or more matches that are declared no contests and cannot be rescheduled, then the following tiebreaker will be used for the purpose of determining Conference championship seeding and the site of the subsequent season's Conference championship. Top six (6) teams with the highest points per match average (*total points accumulated divided by total matches played*) will play in the Big Sky Championship provided each team has met the minimum match requirement defined in 18.4.

- a) The following process will be used for ties between two (2) teams until the tie can be broken:
- i. head-to-head competition during the Conference season
 - ii. points against common Conference opponents in descending order of finish.
 - iii. Combined conference highest points per match average of all opponents defeated

Example: Team A's seven victories came over teams with a points per match average of 1.43. Team B's six victories came over teams with a combined winning percentage of 1.57. Team B wins the tiebreaker in this scenario.

- iv. goal differential against common Conference opponents using a maximum of three (3) goals per match
 - v. goals allowed against common Conference opponents
 - vi. goals for tied teams against the rest of the Conference
 - vii. coin flip by Commissioner
- b) The following process will be used for ties among three (3) or more teams until the tie can be broken. If only two (2) teams remain tied after any of the following tie-breaker processes, then the tie-breaking process will restart between those two (2) teams beginning with a (i).
- i. head-to-head point totals among all of the tied teams

Example: Teams A, B and C are tied. Team A played Team B. Team B played Team A. Team C did not play Teams A or B. This step will be skipped, and the process will move to ii.

- ii. points against common Conference opponents in descending order of finish
- iii. Combined conference highest points per match average of all opponents defeated
- iv. goal differential between tied teams using a maximum of three (3) goals per match
- v. goal differential against all Conference opponents using a maximum of three (3) goals per match
- vi. goals allowed between tied teams
- vii. goals allowed against all Conference opponents
- viii. goals for tied teams against tied teams
- ix. goals for tied teams against the rest of the Conference
- x. coin flip by Commissioner between the tied teams

18.5 Game Film Policies and Exchange.

18.5.1 Filming Rules.

There shall be no videotaping of a Conference contest other than by the two participating institutions. All home contests shall be recorded using High Definition (HD) cameras. No videotape exchange or scouting information, by any means, shall be distributed to non-Conference institutions. An institution may not alter or edit game film.

18.5.1.1 Footage Specifications.

Game films shall show the scoreboard/game clock at regular intervals every fifteen (15) minutes but shall not do so while the ball is in play or about to be played (e.g., corner kick, free kick, etc.). The film should include all extracurricular action that may occur even though play has stopped (e.g., coach/official interaction, fights, etc.).

18.5.2 Video Exchange Product.

The Conference utilizes InStat as the Conference video exchange product. [Revised: 2019-9; 2020-10]

18.5.3 Upload Timing.

Game film shall be uploaded by 10:00 a.m. local time the day following the game.

18.5.4 Storage Device.

The host institution shall provide a USB to the visiting team immediately following the game.

18.6 Game Time

Contests will begin five (5) minutes past the hour or half-hour (e.g., 2:05 pm MT; 7:35 pm PT).

18.6.1 Final Playing Date of the Season.

On the final regularly scheduled playing date of the season (e.g., October 23, 2022), all conference matches will begin at 1:05 p.m. MT / 12:05 p.m. PT. Upon approval from the conference office, match times may be changed due to circumstances outside an institution's control (e.g., inclement weather). [Adopted: 2021-55]

18.7 Game Protocol.

NCAA Soccer Protocol shall be the official protocol for all Conference contests.

18.8 Host Institution Obligations.

The host institution shall provide the following items and services:

18.8.1 Facility Regulations.

- a) Minimum regulation playing facilities as prescribed by the NCAA Soccer Rulebook.
- b) Visible clock running for sixty (60) minute pregame countdown.
- c) Designation of visiting team bench.
- d) Visual scoring system and public address system.
- e) Separate and private locker rooms for teams and officials.
- f) Written plan for access to medical facilities must be provided to the visiting teams. It is recommended that a physician and an ambulance be present at all games.
- g) For the visiting team, a practice time of at least ninety (90) minutes at the game site the day before the contest and a practice time of at least sixty (60) minutes at the game site the day of the contest. Requests for practice times must be made one (1) week prior to the start of the contest. If practices must be held at another location due to field or weather conditions, all teams practicing must be allowed to use the same field.
- h) A copy of the NCAA Soccer Rulebook at the scorer's table.

18.8.2 Equipment.

- a) Equipment (*e.g., corner flags, horn for substitutions, etc.*) as prescribed by the NCAA Soccer Rule Book
- b) Towels
- c) Cups and water
- d) A minimum of ten (10) balls for practice times and pregame warmups if the visiting team does not provide its own
- e) Four headsets for officials' communication [Adopted: 2021-56]

18.8.3 Support Services.

- a) Certified athletics trainers are recommended to attend practices
- b) At least two (2) ball retrievers

18.9 Mascot.

There shall be no interaction, verbal or otherwise, by an institution's mascot toward game officials.

18.10 Schedule.

The Conference schedule shall be a round-robin format.

18.10.1 Lone Wolf Schedule.

The team designated as the lone wolf (the team without a travel partner) shall play matches on Thursday and Sunday. [Adopted: 2021-54]

18.10.1.1 ESPN+ Exception

The lone wolf's soccer match may not be played on Thursday if the home institution cannot ensure the match will be streamed due to a conflicting athletics event being hosted at the same institution on the same day. In the event an institution cannot ensure the soccer match will be streamed, the match remains on the typically scheduled Friday. A schedule change request is permitted to compete on another day (*e.g., Wednesday of the same week*).

18.10.2. Split Week Matches.

During weeks when teams compete at home one match and away for the other match, Friday matches may be moved to Thursday. [Adopted: 2021-43]

18.10.1.1 ESPN+ Exception

An institution's soccer match may not be played on Thursday if the home institution cannot ensure the match will be streamed due to a conflicting athletics event being hosted at the same institution on the same day. In the event an institution cannot ensure the soccer match will be streamed, the match remains on the typically scheduled Friday. A schedule change request is permitted to compete on another day (*e.g., Wednesday of the same week*).

18.11 Scouting.

All live scouting of Conference teams by Conference coaches shall be prohibited except as permitted by NCAA rules.

18.12 Statistical Services.

18.12.1 Conference Office.

The Conference office shall maintain and publish those statistics required by the national governing body, including Conference and overall statistics. These statistics shall be reported to the Conference office by all Member institutions on the approved stat form.

18.12.2 Institution.

Game statistics for both home and visiting teams shall be the responsibility of the host institution. Statistical data must be submitted to the Conference office as specified and required by the Conference office using software approved by the Conference office. Completed statistics shall be made available immediately following the contest. Copies of the score sheets and contest statistics shall be provided to the visiting coach. Each institution shall share overall and team statistics via weekly press releases. The statistics should incorporate the information on the approved stat form and sent to the Conference office. Live statistics must be available at all regular-season contests.

18.12.2.1 Game Rosters.

Game rosters submitted to the scorekeeper and the opposing coach must include each player's total number of cautions and ejections in the appropriate column. Such information should not be included in the official's copy.

18.12.2.2 Weekly Statistical Leaders.

Goalkeepers who meet the minimum statistical requirement shall be included in the weekly statistical leaders list only if they have competed in at least half of their team's minutes.

18.13 Uniforms.

In the first contest of the weekend, uniforms shall be light for the home team and dark for the visiting team. In the second contest of the weekend, uniforms shall be dark for the home team and light for the visiting team. The host institution will choose one game as its "pink" game.

18.14 Water Break / Heat Index.

Institutions will refer to the NCAA's water break / heat index rule.

RULE 19: SOFTBALL

19.0 Rules for Conference Play.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all softball contests played by Conference institutions.

19.1 Bands.

Bands or amplified music are not permitted to play while the game is in progress. Artificial noisemakers, air horns, balloon and electronic amplifiers (except as a component of a band) are not permissible. No bands shall be placed directly behind the visitor's dugout or bench in Conference stadiums.

19.2 Bat Testing.

The host institution is required to have the NCAA approved bat tester on site prior to the first (or only) game of each day. The host on-site administrator shall conduct the bat testing according to the pre-game protocol. Bats shall be tested prior to the first (or only) game each day. The bat tester will place the logo of the opponent on the bat once it is approved. Any bat that does not pass the tests shall be removed from competition by the home plate umpire for the duration of the series and stored with the host on-site administrator. Upon series completion, the bat will be returned to the team. The Conference office will provide each institution a roll of institutional logo stickers prior to the Conference season and colored Big Sky logo stickers for bat testing at the Championship. [Revised: 2022-4]

Example: If Team A is playing at Team B, Team A's logo sticker will be placed on Team B's bats and Team B's logo sticker will be placed on Team A's bats.

19.3 Complimentary Admissions.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all matters related to complimentary admissions except as otherwise stated in this rule. The number of complimentary admissions given to a visiting institution shall not exceed forty-five (45). "Hard tickets" shall not be mailed, and identification must be verified upon receipt of a ticket. Umpires and observers are entitled to two (2) complimentary admissions to all contests they officiate or observe. Institutional personnel are responsible for the distribution of tickets to umpires and observers.

19.4 Contests against Non-Division I Opponents.

In softball, no more than four (4) contests against non-Division I opponents are permissible during the NCAA Championship segment of the season.

19.5 Crowd Control.

Crowd control rests with the host institution. Competitors and fans are expected to always demonstrate sportsmanship. The Conference's sportsmanship statement will be read by the public address announcer prior to each contest.

19.6 Determining Conference Champion.

The team with the best win-loss percentage in Conference play shall be recognized as the official Regular-Season Conference Champion and receive the #1 seed. The next best win-loss percentage in Conference play will be seeded #2 and so forth until all seeds have been determined. If two or more teams end the regular season with identical records, they will be declared Regular-Season Conference Co-Champions. The Big Sky Softball Championship winner will represent the Conference in the NCAA Softball Championship.

19.6.1 Tie Breaker.

The tie-breaking process will be used for the purpose of determining Conference championship seeding and the site of the subsequent season's Conference championship. If there are multiple groupings with ties, then the grouping with the best record in the Conference regular season standings will undergo the tiebreaking process first and descending in the standings as needed. If a better-seeded grouping requires 19.6.1.b (ii) to break a tie, and a worse-seeded grouping has two or more tied teams, then the better-seeded teams will use their performance against the entire worse-seeded grouping to determine if the tie can be broken by this step.

- a) The following process will be used for ties between two (2) teams until seeding is complete:
 - i. head-to-head competition during the Conference season
 - ii. performance against Conference teams in descending order of finish beginning with the #1 seed

Example: Teams B and C have identical Conference records after the regular season. In head-to-head competition, each team went 1-1. Team A is the #1 seed. Team B went 1-2 against Team A while Team C went 0-3 against Team A. Team B will receive the seed one better than Team C.

- iii. NCAA RPI rankings as of the conclusion of the regular season

- b) The following process will be used for ties among three (3) or more teams until seeding is complete. If only two (2) teams remain tied after any of the following tie-breaker processes, then the tie-breaking process will restart between those two (2) teams beginning with 19.6.1.a (i).
 - i. head-to-head record among all of the tied teams

Example: Teams A, B, C, and D have identical Conference records after the regular season. In head-to-head competition, Team A emerges with 6-3 record against the other tied teams, Team B and Team C have a 5-4 record and team D has a 2-7 record. Teams A and D can receive a seed while Teams B and C return to criteria “i) head-to-head record during the Conference season” and continue within 19.15.1.a as needed to resolve the tie between Teams B and C.

- ii. performance against Conference teams in descending order of finish beginning with the #1 seed
- iii. NCAA RPI rankings as of the conclusion of the regular season

19.7 Game Film Policies and Exchange.

There shall be no videotaping of a Conference contest other than by the two (2) participating institutions. No videotape exchange or scouting information, by any means, shall be distributed to non-Conference institutions.

19.8 Game Time.

Contests will begin two (2) minutes past the hour or half-hour (e.g., 2:02 pm MT; 4:32 pm PT). On the first day of competition, the first contest shall begin no earlier than 12:02 pm but no later than 5:02 p.m. local time. There shall be an intermission of twenty (20) minutes between games, unless mutually agreed upon by the head coaches. On the second day of competition, the contest shall begin no earlier than 11:02 a.m. local time, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by the head coaches or a make-up contest is required due to inclement weather on day one. Sites that do not have lights must begin play no later than 5:02 p.m. local time, unless mutually agreed upon by the head coaches. Sites that have lights must begin play before midnight, in accordance with NCAA rules.

19.9 Host Institution Obligations.

The host institution shall provide the following items and services:

19.9.1 Visiting Team Practice. [Adopted: 2022-7]

- a) 90 minutes of practice time on the field – weather permitting – the day before the start of a three-game series.
- b) Screens
- c) Balls and hitting tees
- d) Mats
- e) Other necessary practice equipment as listed in 19.9.3.

19.9.2 Regulation Facility.

- a) Regulation playing facilities, including outfield fences at NCAA-specified distances.
- b) Designation of visiting team bench.
- c) On-site restrooms (permanent preferred).
- d) Visible scoreboard.
- e) Pregame Protocol.
- f) Separate dressing rooms for both teams and umpires preferred (may be offsite).
- g) Current NCAA rule book and Conference sports policies.

19.9.3 Equipment.

- a) Regulation softballs.
- b) Water cooler and cups.
- c) Athletic training room services, including ice at team bench.
- d) Practice balls and hitting tees.

19.9.4 Support Staff.

- a) Public address announcer.
- b) Official scorekeeper.

19.10 Inclement Weather.

The Conference shall adhere to all NCAA softball rules pertaining to suspended contests, makeup policies and the number of contests that can be started in one (1) day. In the event of inclement weather, student-athlete safety is priority, followed by the goal of completing the three (3) games of the series within two (2) days or as many contests as possible in two (2) days. If the site temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit (according to the accuweather.com “real feel” indicator) at the scheduled contest time as determined by the host administrator, then the contest will be postponed or canceled. The decision to alter the format for the series due to inclement weather shall be made by the host institution administration in consultation with the visiting team’s administration and the Conference office (i.e. flexibility to change game times and number of contests played in one (1) day in order to complete all three (3) contests played based upon weather forecast).

19.10.1 Inclement Weather Master Plan.

The Inclement Weather Master Plan shall be as follows:

Situation	Day One	Day Two
No Inclement Weather	Two (2) 7-inning games	One (1) 7-inning game
Inclement Weather – Day One	<i>Cancelled games</i>	Two (2) 7-inning games
Inclement Weather – Day Two	Two (2) 7-inning games	<i>Cancelled game</i>
Inclement Weather – Both Days	<i>Cancelled games</i>	<i>Cancelled game</i>

19.10.2 Umpire-in-Chief.

The Umpire-in-Chief has sole authority to call the contest for unplayable conditions. Both coaches shall be consulted, but neither coach shall interfere with this decision. Visiting teams have the responsibility of remaining at the host site for two (2) full days. If any contests cannot be played within the scheduled time frame of two (2) days, there shall be no makeup dates. If agreed upon by the two (2) teams’ administrations and the Conference office, a trip may be extended in order to complete contests if the weather forecast for day three (3) is favorable to complete the series contests; or games may be moved off location to an agreed-upon site.

19.11 Mascots.

There shall be no interaction, verbal or otherwise, by an institution’s mascot toward game umpires.

19.12 Pre-Game Protocol.

The following protocol shall be utilized, unless mutually and formally agreed upon by the head coaches and acknowledged by on-site officials [Revised 2022-4]:

PRE-GAME PROTOCOL	
<i>Timing</i>	<i>Action</i>
One Hundred and Twenty (120) Minutes Prior To First Game	Bat Testing
One Hundred and Five (105) Minutes Prior To First Game	Field Available for Warmup • Home Team in Batting Cage
Seventy (70) Minutes Prior To First Game	5-Minute Batting Cage Changeover
Sixty (65) Minutes Prior To First Game	Visiting Team in Batting Cages
Thirty (30) Minutes Prior To First Game	Home Team Takes Infield
Twenty-Two (22) Minutes Prior To First Game	Visiting Team Takes Infield
Ten (10) Minutes Prior To First Game	Umpires And Coaches Meeting
Six (6) Minutes Prior To First Game	Team Introductions
Three (3) Minutes Prior To First Game	National Anthem
Immediately After National Anthem	Any Ceremonial First Pitch

Each team shall be allowed seven (7) minutes of infield warm-up prior to each game, with the home team first. If mutually agreed upon by the head coaches, both teams may share a 14-minute warm-up period (*shuttle infield warm-up*). In the event alternate warm-up facilities or batting cages are used, they must be equitable (time, distance, and type) for both institutions.

19.13 Schedule and Format.

The Conference schedule shall be a single round-robin format. Conference scheduling shall use a Friday-Saturday format, with a doubleheader to be played on Friday and a single contest on Saturday. All Conference contests shall be seven (7) innings unless tied at the end of regulation. All extra innings shall be played out. There will be no tie-breaker system.

19.14 Scouting.

All live scouting of Conference teams by Conference coaches shall be prohibited except as permitted by NCAA rules.

19.15 Statistical Services.

19.15.1 Conference Office.

The Conference shall maintain and publish those statistics required by the national governing body, including Conference and overall statistics. These statistics shall be reported to the Conference office by all Conference institutions.

19.15.2 Institutions.

Game statistics for both home and visiting teams shall be the responsibility of the host institution. An official NCAA box score or summary sheet shall be made available immediately after the contest. Statistical data must be submitted to the Conference office as specified and required by the Conference office using software approved by the Conference office. Each institution shall share overall and team statistics via weekly press releases. Live statistics must be available at all regular-season contests.

19.15.2.1 Weekly Statistical Leaders.

Conference statistics used for the weekly statistical leaders list shall be based on a minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of contests played in at all positions except for pitchers who are only required to have competed in forty percent (40%) of her team's contests.

19.16 Umpires.

Three (3) umpires shall be assigned to all regular-season Conference contests. The Big Sky coordinator of softball officials shall assign umpires.

19.17 Uniforms.

On Friday, uniforms shall be light for the home team and dark for the visiting team. On Saturday, uniforms shall be dark for the home team and light for the visiting team.

RULE 20: TENNIS

20.0 Rules for Conference Play.

The rules of the following organizations (in order of authority) shall govern all tennis contests played by Conference institutions: NCAA, Conference, and Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).

20.1 Determining Conference Champion.

The team with the best win-loss percentage in Conference play shall be recognized as the official Regular-Season Conference Champion and receive the #1 seed. The next best win-loss percentage in Conference play will be seeded #2 and so forth until all seeds have been determined. If two or more teams end the regular season with identical records, they will be declared Regular-Season Conference Co-Champions. The Big Sky Tennis Championship winner will represent the Conference in the NCAA Tennis Championship.

20.1.1 Tie Breaker.

The tie-breaking process will be used only for the purpose of determining the Conference Championships tournament seeding. If there are multiple groupings with ties, then the grouping with the best record in the Conference regular season standings will undergo the tiebreaking process first and descending in the standings as needed. If a better-seeded grouping requires 20.1.1.b (ii) to break a tie, and a worse-seeded grouping has two or more tied teams, then the better-seeded teams will use their performance against the entire worse-seeded grouping to determine if the tie can be broken by this step.

- a) The following process will be used for ties between two (2) teams until seeding is complete:
 - i. head-to-head record during the Conference season
- b) The following process will be used for ties among three (3) or more teams until seeding is complete. If only two (2) teams remain tied after any of the following tie-breaker processes, then the tie-breaking process will restart between those two (2) teams beginning with 20.1.1.a (i).
 - i. Head-to-head record among all of the tied teams

Example: Teams A, B, C, and D have identical Conference records after the regular season. In head-to-head competition, Team A emerges with 3-1 record against the other tied teams, Team B and Team C have a 2-2 record and team D has a 1-3 record. Teams A and D can receive a seed while Teams B and C return to criteria "i) head-to-head record during the Conference season" and continue within 20.1.1.a as needed to resolve the tie between Teams B and C.

- ii. Performance against Conference teams in descending order of finish beginning with the #1 seed
- iii. Total matches won among tied teams
- iv. Total matches won versus teams in descending order of finish beginning with the #1 seed
- v. Total sets won among tied teams
- vi. Total sets won versus teams in descending order of finish
- vii. ITA rankings as of the conclusion of the regular season
- viii. Coin flip between the tied teams

20.2 Facilities.

Coaches must coordinate with each other regarding location of practice and competition a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours prior to the match. If an agreement cannot be made, the Conference will intercede as appropriate.

20.2.1. Courts.

The following rules apply to courts and court access for Conference regular season matches.

- a) Matches should be played outdoors.
 - i. A minimum of three indoor courts should be available, but only used in case of inclement weather.
- b) 48 hours prior to the match, coaches must coordinate with each other regarding location of practice and competition.
 - i. If an agreement cannot be made, the Conference will intercede as appropriate.

- c) If an institution does not have access to indoor courts, it must petition the Conference Council for a waiver. [Revised: 2022-22]

20.3 Format.

20.3.1. Singles.

All Conference regular season matches must be played out.

20.3.1.1 Exception.

Singles matches may be played to clinch if coaches from both institutions agree to this provision due to inclement weather or scheduling concerns. [Adopted: 2019-10]

20.3.2. Doubles.

All Conference regular season matches will play to clinch, unless both coaches agree to play it out prior to the beginning of the match.

20.4 Host Responsibilities.

In addition to the responsibilities listed in the ITA Rules, the host institution shall provide:

- a) Parking permits (if needed)
- b) A trainer at the courts during warm up and competition.
- c) Bathroom facilities
- d) A list of key contact numbers, including a stringing service
- e) A minimum of four cans of balls (regular or altitude as appropriate)
- f) Court access as outlined below:
 - i. A minimum of two (2) courts should be made available for sixty (60) minutes as requested prior to the match for practice. The request must be made a minimum of seven (7) days in advance and the host institution is responsible to book and pay for the courts.
 - ii. A minimum of sixty (60) minutes to warmup on competition courts prior to the start of a match.

20.5 Interrupted Matches.

Any match that is interrupted and rescheduled shall be resumed using both lineups and the score at the point of interruption.

20.6 Lineups.

- a) The dual-match lineup rule in effect for the NCAA Championships shall apply.
- b) If a player submitted in the lineup for the first match of a weekend series is unable to play in that match for any reason, he/she shall be eligible to play in the second match of that series.
- c) All lineups must conform to the ITA's "order of strength" rule.
- d) Both singles and doubles lineups shall be submitted simultaneously to the opposing coach sixty (60) minutes prior to the start of the match.
- e) If a coach feels that the opponent's lineup as presented is unfair, the coach should notify the designated Referee and opposing coach of the protest.
- f) Any coach who wishes to submit a match protest (*after the completion of the match*) must first inform the opposing coach in by e-mail, with a copy sent at the same time to the Conference office. This is necessary even when the opposing coach and designated Referee were informed of the protest at the time of the match.
- g) This written protest must be made within forty-eight (48) hours of the start of the match.
- h) Coaches will be allowed to protest a violation of the ITA "one position move" rule even if the coach is not directly involved with the match. This means that if a coach is not competing against a team whose lineup is in violation, this coach can report this infraction to the Conference. [Revised: 2018-1]

20.7 Playing Rules.

Matches shall be governed by the ITA rules book except as modified below.

20.7.1 Ball Changes.

The ball change policy shall be used at the NCAA Championships.

20.7.2 Communication.

During competition, players and coaches are allowed to communicate with only their own team members.

20.7.3 Handshake.

After all regular season conference matches, institutions shall shake hands with the opponents as a team.

20.7.4 Record Books.

Tennis coaches must keep their record books from the previous year.

20.7.5 Scoring.

The scoring system employed by the NCAA Championship shall be used.

20.8 Protests Procedure for Conference Matches.

If a protest for a Conference match is unable to be resolved at the time of the match, the following must take place. See [Appendix H](#) for additional details:

- a) The challenging coach must notify the opposing coach and match referee that a "Match Protest Form or Email" will be submitted to the Conference office after the completion of the match.
- b) The "Match Protest Form" must be signed or verified by email by the referee of the match and must be submitted to the Conference League office within forty-eight (48) hours of the start of the match.
- c) All decisions by the Tennis Protest Committee are final and binding.

20.9 Scheduling. Institutions must submit their finalized conference schedule to the Conference office for the subsequent season by November 1 (*e.g., 2023-2024 conference schedule submitted by November 1, 2022*). [Adopted: 2020-19]

20.9.1 Schedule Rotation

Institutions will create their Conference opponent schedule per the rotation detailed in [Appendix P](#). [Adopted: 2020-136]

20.10 Scouting Reports. A coach shall not send film or video tape or give written or verbal scouting report on a Conference Member to any institution outside the Conference.

20.11 Umpires.

Selection of the officials shall be at the discretion of the host institution. Payment of officials is to be made by the host institution.

20.11.1 Minimum Number of Umpires.

There shall be a minimum of two (2) officials at all Conference matches.

- a) If there are less than two (2) officials, the match will be played on a maximum of three (3) courts, unless approval of use or more courts is given by the visiting coach.
- b) The host institution shall pay a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) to the Conference for each match played with less than two officials, regardless of approval of the visiting coach, and will be found in violation of the Conference Code.

RULE 21: VOLLEYBALL

21.0 Rules for Conference Play.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all volleyball contests played at Conference institutions.

21.1 Bands.

Bands or amplified music are not permitted to play while the game is in progress. Artificial noisemakers, air horns, balloon and electronic amplifiers (*except as a component of a band*) are not permissible. No bands shall be placed directly behind the visitor's bench in Conference arenas.

21.2 Challenge Review System (CRS).

Challenge Review System (CRS) is mandatory for all Conference match, and NCAA rules governing CRS must be followed. The Conference utilizes ECHO technology for all member institutions and requires the following minimums:

21.2.1 Minimum CRS Requirements. [Revised: 2022-18]

- a) Five camera angles
 - i. Net
 - ii. Elevated
 - iii. Endline Elevated
 - iv. Opposing Sidelines Elevated
- b) Cameras should be capable of at least 120 frames/second and cover all boundary lines.
- c) Dedicated internet specifically for CRS or access to reliable internet;
- d) Appropriately trained technician to run CRS at each match.
 - i. Technicians shall not offer opinions or judgments on the application of the decision of the reviews.
 - ii. Technicians only facilitate angles of review and shall not comment to the media or via social media concerning instant replay, its procedures, or decisions made by officials using the instant replay system.

21.2 Complimentary Admissions.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all matters related to complimentary admissions except as otherwise stated in this rule. The number of complimentary admissions given to a visiting institution shall not exceed forty-five (45). "Hard tickets" shall not be mailed, and identification must be verified upon receipt of a ticket. Officials and observers are entitled to two (2) complimentary admissions to all contests they officiate and observe. Institutional personnel are responsible for the distribution of tickets to officials and observers.

21.3 Conference Match Protest Procedure.

The NCAA rule book shall be consulted between referees, coaches, and captains for correct decisions. If there is no rule to cover the situation, the first referee has the authority to make the final decision. If after discussion the dispute is still unresolved, the match resumes under protest. Regardless of the decision made and the match outcome, the facts of the protest should be forwarded to the Conference office for review.

21.3.1 Necessary Facts to be Recorded.

A protest must be made at the time of the protest situation. The game must be stopped in process and the following facts recorded:

- a) Score at time of protest
- b) Players in the game at the time of protest and their positions on the court.
- c) Player substitutions and team substitutions made prior to the protested situation.
- d) Team timeouts charged prior to the protested situation.
- e) A synopsis of the situation that caused the protest and the rule violated or omitted or the penalty improperly imposed.
- f) Signatures of the scorer, both coaches, and the first referee to indicate facts have been accurately recorded.

21.4 Conference Protest Committee.

If a protest of an interpretation of a rule has not been settled satisfactorily by the courtside conference, the protesting team, at the conclusion of the match, shall make a full report to the Conference Protest Committee in care of the Commissioner. If the protest is judged by the Conference Protest Committee to be valid, the protested match will begin from the point of the protest and continued to conclusion. Time, date, and details shall be determined by the Commissioner in consultation with the athletics administrators of the involved Member institutions. All expenses incurred by either institution as a result of a rescheduled protested match shall be shared equally by both institutions. Protest Committee members shall be the Commissioner, the Coordinator of Volleyball Officials, and the SCMC Chair.

21.5 Contests against Non-Division I Opponents.

In volleyball, no more than one (1) contest against a non-Division I opponent is permissible during the NCAA Championship segment of the season.

21.6 Crowd Control.

The responsibility of crowd control rests with the host institution. Competitors and fans are expected to always demonstrate sportsmanship. Home fans are not allowed to "follow" the visiting team to harass them. The Conference's sportsmanship statement will be read by the public address announcer prior to each match.

21.7 Determining Conference Champion.

The team with the best win-loss percentage in Conference play shall be recognized as the official Regular-Season Conference Champion and receive the #1 seed. The next best win-loss percentage in Conference play will be seeded #2 and so forth until all seeds have been determined. If two or more teams end the regular season with identical records, they will be declared Regular-Season Conference Co-Champions. The Big Sky Volleyball Championship winner will represent the Conference in the NCAA Volleyball Championship.

21.7.1 Tie Breaker.

The tie-breaking process will be used for the purpose of determining Conference championship seeding and the site of the subsequent season's Conference championship. If there are multiple groupings with ties, then the grouping with the best record in the Conference regular season standings will undergo the tiebreaking process first and descending in the standings as needed. If a better-seeded grouping requires 21.7.1.b (ii) to break a tie, and a worse-seeded grouping has two or more tied teams, then the better-seeded teams will use their performance against the entire worse-seeded grouping to determine if the tie can be broken by this step.

- a) The following process will be used for ties between two (2) teams until seeding is complete:
 - i. head-to-head record during the Conference season
 - ii. percent of total games won between tied teams (games won divided by total games)
 - iii. Scoring margin of game between tied teams (the sum of points scored minus the sum of points allowed all divided by total games played)

***Example:** Teams A and B have identical Conference records after the regular season. In head-to-head competition, each team went 1-1. In their first contest, Team A beat Team B 25-21, 25-19, 25-20. When the two teams played again, Team B beat Team A 25-20, 25-19, 25-22. In total, Team A scored 136 points and Team B scored 135 points. Team A's scoring margin is .083 while Team B's scoring margin is -.083. Team A receives the better seed.*

- iv. Performance against Conference teams in descending order of finish beginning with the #1 seed
 - v. NCAA RPI rankings as of the week prior to the championship
- b) The following process will be used for ties among three (3) or more teams until seeding is complete. If only two (2) teams remain tied after any of the following tie-breaker processes, then the tie-breaking process will restart between those two (2) teams beginning with 21.7.1.a (i).
 - i. head-to-head record among all of the tied teams

Example: Teams A, B, C, and D have identical Conference records after the regular season. In head-to-head competition, Team A emerges with 4-2 record against the other tied teams, Team B and Team C have a 3-3 record and team D has a 2-4 record. Teams A and D can receive a seed while Teams B and C return to criteria “i) head-to-head record during the Conference season” and continue within 21.17.1.a as needed to resolve the tie between Teams B and C.

- ii. percent of total games won among tied teams (games won divided by total games)
- iii. Scoring margin of game among tied teams (the sum of points scored minus the sum of points allowed all divided by total games played)
- iv. performance against Conference teams in descending order of finish beginning with the #1 seed
- v. NCAA RPI rankings as of the week prior to the championship

21.8 Game Film Policies and Exchange.

21.8.1 Filming Rules.

Institutions are required to upload all matches played during the championship segment of the season, including non-Conference and tournament matches, which count towards their record and/or would trigger a student-athlete year of eligibility. An institution may not alter or edit game film. There shall be no videotaping of a Conference match other than by the two (2) participating institutions. No videotape exchange or scouting information, by any means, shall be distributed to non-Conference institutions.

21.8.2 Video Exchange Product.

The Conference will utilize Hudl as its video exchange product. All Member institutions are required to purchase a Hudl subscription that will guarantee access to the Interconference Exchange throughout the season. All teams shall use the Hudl Portal for transferring video of matches via a process that shall be automated through the Hudl Portal. Video of all matches played by an institution must be available to all other Conference teams. Officials shall have access to Hudl via the Conference office. The Interconference Exchange will be governed by the following guidelines: [Revised: 2020-4]

21.8.2.1 Filming Specifications.

Match videos shall meet the following standards:

- a) Matches shall be filmed from a central position behind an end line.
- b) Cameras shall be elevated so that the far end line is visible through the net.
- c) All four (4) corners of the court, the top of the antennae, and a few feet behind the near end line must be visible.
- d) Only the competition court and the head referee should be in the frame.
- e) Jerseys and numbers must be easily readable and of contrasting colors.
- f) The video quality must be HD (at least 720p at 1280 x 720).
- g) The camera must remain in the same position throughout the match and not switch sides as the teams change sides.
- h) The camera should not be turned off at any time during the match, so that no video is omitted (*i.e. video between rallies or sets*).
- i) If the facility does not provide a location to produce the required angle for video, the home team must provide the visiting team a feed of the home team's permanent camera.
- j) Game films shall contain sound and show player introductions.
- k) The score shall be displayed at regular intervals.

21.8.3 Storage Device.

The home institution shall provide a USB to the visiting team following each contest.

21.8.4 Upload Requirements.

The video of each match is required to be uploaded to the corresponding match slot on the Hudl Portal. Television and video-streamed broadcasts may not be used for exchange.

21.8.4.1 Upload Responsibility.

The away team has no responsibility for uploading matches when playing at another Member institution's facility. During Conference competition, if the home team's system is down for any reason, the visiting team may be asked to upload the match. The Conference office will facilitate such scenarios. When a neutral match is played, both teams share the responsibility for uploading the video.

21.8.4.2 Time Requirements.

The video of each match must be uploaded to the corresponding match slot by 11:59 p.m. local time of the event on the day the match is played or else the team will be locked out from accessing any video except for its own matches until its match is uploaded to the Portal.

21.8.4.3 Box Scores.

Copies of each match scoresheet and final box score shall be uploaded to the corresponding match slot with the same deadline as video uploads or else the team will be locked out from accessing any video except for its own matches. In regard to scoresheet quality and compliance:

- a) Scoresheets and box score should be uploaded in picture or PDF format and as single file.
- b) If the institution is using the Hudl Computerized scoresheet system, the upload will happen automatically, and the home team should simply verify the upload happened properly.

21.8.5 Match Availability.

Each week's matches will become available to other Interconference Exchange teams at 2:00 p.m. PT on Sundays during the NCAA competition season.

21.8.6 Recourse for Non-Compliance.

Any non-compliance issue should be brought up to the Conference Sport Administrator who will be able to evaluate and take proper action. The sanctions connected to specific violations are as follows:

21.8.6.1 Late Video/Scoresheets.

A team will be automatically locked out from accessing any video except for its own matches until the content is uploaded.

21.8.6.2 Poor Quality Video/Scoresheets.

The Conference Liaison will be able to give a warning or lock out a team from accessing any video except for its own matches until the content is re-uploaded into the Portal.

21.8.6.3 Camera View or Jersey Standards.

The team will be given a warning at the first occurrence. If the issue persists, the Conference Liaison will be able to lock out a team from accessing any video except for its own matches until the issue is addressed and the team starts complying with the standards.

21.8.6.4 Any Other Issue.

The team will be given a warning at the first occurrence. If the issue persists, the Conference Liaison will be able to lock out a team from accessing any video except for its own matches until the team starts complying with the standards.

21.8.6.5 Further Penalties.

Further sanctions – including monetary fines – can be imposed by the Conference office.

21.9 Game Time.

Contests will begin two (2) minutes past the hour or half-hour (e.g., 2:02 pm MT; 7:32 pm PT). There shall be a minimum of twenty-one (21) hours between the start of one match to the start of the following match, unless otherwise mutually agreed in writing by the participating head coaches.

21.10 Host Institution Obligations.

The host institution shall provide the following items and services:

21.10.1 Regulation Facility.

- a) Regulation playing facilities.
- b) Visible clock running for warm-ups.
- c) Designation of visiting team bench.
- d) A visual scoreboard.
- e) Separate dressing rooms for teams and officials.
- f) Separate areas for each team pregame, including a chalkboard.
- g) Upon request and availability, the host institution should make every effort to provide the visiting institution with a practice time at the match site. Requests for practice times must be made as early as possible with a minimum of forty-five (45) minutes and a maximum of ninety (90) minutes allowed.
- h) If a Monday night match is scheduled, the host institution shall be required to provide practice facilities on Sunday to the visiting team.
- i) Packets containing officials' evaluation forms, line-up sheets, protest forms and a complete protocol for that match will be on the visitor's bench no later than sixty (60) minutes before match time.
- j) A current rule book, copy of the Conference Protest Procedures, and a Protest Form shall be at the scorer's table.

21.10.2 Equipment.

- a) Regulation equipment and balls.
- b) Four (4) ball carts for warm-up.
- c) A minimum of sixty (60) balls per team (same as game ball) for practice and pre-match warm-up.

21.10.3 Support Staff.

- a) Scorer's table personnel shall be available thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of each match for a conference with the officiating crew.
- b) A minimum of three (3) ball-shaggers to implement the three (3) ball system during the match.
- c) Line persons dressed in dark pants and white shirts.

21.10.4 Statistics.

Statistics must be available to coaches between games and immediately after the conclusion of the match. Courtside statistics must be computerized and kept by appropriately trained personnel who are under the supervision of the host institution's sports information staff. Live statistics must be available at all regular-season contests.

21.11 Mascots.

There shall be no interaction, verbal or otherwise, by an institution's mascot toward game officials.

21.12 Official Ball.

The Molten NCAA Championship Volleyball is the official ball for Conference play.

21.13 Protocol.

The Conference shall use the NCAA Pregame Protocol. Visiting teams have from ninety (90) minutes to sixty (60) minutes prior to match time for serve and pass time. Maximum of three (3) minutes between games. Matches will adhere to the NCAA's intermission policy. Timeouts in all Conference matches shall be seventy-five (75) seconds in length. The floor shall be swept between games four (4) and five (5). Line-up announcements shall be concise and not exceed the allowed time schedule.

21.13.1 Introduction Format.

Unless specified otherwise by NCAA rules, the introduction format shall be National Anthem first followed by introduction of starters, the libero, and head coaches only. Starters and the libero should be on the end line while being introduced. Exception to the pre-match protocol may be made in order to recognize seniors and parents. The visiting team must be notified of these exceptions in advance.

21.14 Schedule.

The following scheduling parameters will guide the formation of a Conference schedule comprised of eighteen (18) matches. [Adopted: 2019-3]

- a) The Conference season will start after four (4) weekends of preseason.
- b) The Championship will occur during the week of Thanksgiving.
- c) The one-off matches will change after two years. The schedule will be made in two-year increments with a mirror flip with internal rotation.
- d) Teams will not have a road stretch of four (4) matches in consecutive years.
- e) During the week teams compete against its travel partner and lone wolf, the team who plays the away contest on Tuesday will not play its subsequent contest until Saturday.
- f) There will be a home/away start and finish balance so that teams do not play four game home or road stretches to start the season.

21.15 Scouting.

All live scouting of Conference teams by Conference coaches shall be prohibited except as permitted by NCAA rules.

21.16 Statistical Services.

21.16.1 Conference Office.

The Conference office shall maintain and publish those statistics required by the national governing body, including Conference and overall statistics. These statistics shall be reported to the Conference office by all Conference institutions.

21.16.2 Institutions.

Game statistics for both home and visiting teams shall be the responsibility of the host institution. Completed statistics shall be made available immediately after the match. Copies of the score sheets and contest statistics shall be provided to the visiting coach. Statistical data must be submitted to the Conference office using software approved by the Conference office as specified and required by the Conference office. Each institution shall share overall and team statistics via weekly press releases. Live statistics must be available at all regular-season contests.

21.16.2.1 Weekly Statistical Leaders.

Conference statistics that are used for the weekly statistical leaders shall be based on the following: a minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of games played in all categories and a minimum of three (3) attempts per game, a hitting percentage of at least twenty-five (.250) and a minimum three (3) attempts per game, and an assist percentage of at least thirty (.300).

21.17 Uniforms.

Opposing team uniforms should contrast as specified in the NCAA volleyball playing manual.

RULE 22: BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

22.0 General Administration.

The Conference Basketball Championships are under the immediate jurisdiction of the Conference office.

22.1 Awards.

The Conference office staff shall administer the Conference Championship awards ceremony.

22.1.1 All-Tournament Team.

The All-Tournament Selection Committee shall determine an All-Tournament Team with six (6) members, including the Most Valuable Player.

22.2 Championship Structure.

The Basketball Championships will consist of eligible teams finishing one (1) through ten (10) at the conclusion of the regular season. Seeding is determined by the Conference standings at the end of the regular season. [Revised: 2021-21]

Championship Bracket				
First Round	Quarterfinals	Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Championship
Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 - #9 seed vs. #10 seed	3- #1 seed vs. Game 1 winner	5- #4 seed vs. #5 seed	7- Game 3 winner vs Game 5 winner	9- Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 winner
2- #7 seed vs. #8 seed	4- #2 seed vs. Game 2 winner	6- #3 seed vs. #6 seed	8- Game 4 winner vs. Game 6 winner	

22.3 Coaches and Athletic Administrators Meeting.

The head basketball coaches, athletic administrators, and sports information staff will meet via conference call before the Championships to review Championship procedures. It is mandatory that the head coach and athletic administrator from each institution participate in this meeting. All Directors of Basketball Operations are encouraged to participate on the call.

22.4 Crowd Control.

The responsibility of crowd control rests with on-site security in consultation with the Conference office, and the AD, SWA, or designated representative of each participating institution. Designated representatives (other than coaches) shall be available at the site of the Championship to assist in controlling the crowd. Competitors and fans are expected to always demonstrate sportsmanship. The Conference's sportsmanship statement will be read by the public address announcer prior to each contest.

22.5 Dates and Sites.

The 2023-24 championships shall be held March 9-13, 2024, in Boise, Idaho, at Idaho Central Arena.

First Round – March 9
Quarterfinals – March 10 and 11
Semifinals – March 12
Championship – March 13

22.6 Determining Conference Champion – Non-Completion.

In the case where the postseason tournament cannot be completed by NCAA Selection Day (*e.g., inclement weather, natural disaster*), the automatic representative for the NCAA Championship shall be the No. 1 seeded team as determined by the tie-breaking procedure, or the highest remaining seed if the tournament is already in progress.

22.7 Game Times.

Starting times for all games shall be determined by the Conference office. Starting time for the Championship games shall be determined by the Conference office with input from television partners.

22.8 Instructions to Competing Teams.

22.8.1 Arrival.

All participating teams must arrive at the Championship site the day preceding their first scheduled contest. It is preferred that teams arrive prior to their first scheduled practice time.

22.8.2 Bands.

Thirty-five (35) band members and one (1) band director shall receive complimentary admission to the facility for only their team's sessions. Artificial noisemakers, air horns, and electronic amplifiers are not permissible in the arena. Non-amplified megaphones are permitted only for cheerleaders, who may not use them to create sound (e.g., hit on the court). The Tournament Director is responsible for removing non-permissible instruments from the arena. Bands, or any component thereof, are not allowed to play during a free-throw attempt or while the ball is in play. Bands shall be seated in a section designated by the Tournament Director. Bands are not permitted to exit their designated seating area and perform in any area at any time. If a band does not comply with this rule, the AD of the involved institution shall rectify the situation.

22.8.3 Banners and Signage.

All banners and signs are subject to Conference standards of sporting and ethical behavior.

22.8.4 Cheerleaders and Mascot.

No more than twelve (12) uniformed cheerleaders and one (1) costumed mascot may be admitted via a pass list submitted to the Tournament Director by the competing institutions for sessions in which their teams are competing. All other institutional representatives shall be admitted only upon presentation of a ticket. A maximum of twelve (12) cheerleaders and one (1) mascot shall be allowed on the floor when the clock is stopped when their team is participating at timeouts designated by the Tournament Director. Additional cheerleaders will be allowed to perform only before the game and at halftime. The twelve (12) cheerleaders and one (1) mascot shall be placed in an area at the end of the playing court as designated by the Tournament Director. Cheerleaders are allowed in this designated area only when their team is participating. Additional cheerleaders must sit in the stands while the game is being played. There shall be no interaction, verbal or otherwise, by an institution's mascot toward game officials.

22.8.5 Game Balls.

The official Championship basketball is the Wilson EVO NXT. [Revised: 2021-4]

22.8.6 Game Video.

The Conference office will coordinate all filming aspects of the Championship. All game film will be uploaded by the Conference office to the Synergy Sports internet video exchange system immediately after each game. The Conference office will coordinate with DV Sport to provide uploads to teams of each contest in which it has competed, and the most current tournament game of its next opponent.

22.8.7 Lodging.

The Conference office will reserve twenty (20) hotel rooms for men's teams and twenty (20) hotel rooms for women's teams per night for use by student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and any other individuals or groups the institution wishes to include in its team block. Each men's team shall receive and pay for twenty (20) double rooms per night while participating in the tournament. Each women's team shall receive and pay for twenty (20) double rooms per night while participating in the tournament. The cost of such rooms shall be paid by the individual Member institution teams directly to the designated hotel. Teams are required to stay in the assigned hotel the night prior to their first scheduled contest, and all subsequent nights they remain in the tournament. There is a minimum purchase requirement of three (3) nights.

22.8.8 National Anthem.

The National Anthem shall be played with twelve (12) minutes on the clock prior to the first contest of each day. Participants, including head coaches and staff, are required to remain on the court.

[Revised: 2018-16]

22.8.9 Non-Participant Seating.

For all first-round contests, a special section with one hundred and seventy-six (176) seats shall be reserved for non-playing participants, which would cover the twenty-two (22) members of each institution's official travel party. For all semifinal sessions, a special section with one hundred and thirty-two (132) seats shall be reserved for non-playing participants, which would cover the twenty-two (22) members of each institution's official travel party. For the Championship session, a special section with eighty-eight (88) seats shall be available, upon request by the non-winning teams of the semifinals, if they wish to remain for the Championship game. [ER: 2023]

22.8.10 Practice.

All teams shall be provided a practice of sixty (60) minutes at the official practice facility on the day prior to their first contest. All additional practices at the official practice facility shall be sixty (60) minutes. All practices are closed to the general public. Each institution must designate an administrator to be present at the team's closed practice to assist the Conference office in verifying admittance of only those individuals affiliated with the institution or designated by the head coach to attend. Media from radio and TV may be allowed to watch the closed practice session.

22.8.11 Programs.

The official Championship program shall be the responsibility of the Conference office. The sports information directors of the participating institutions shall forward requested materials to the Conference's sports information staff by provided deadlines.

22.8.12 Scorer's Table / Personnel.

The game staff shall be assigned by the Conference office and shall include an official scorer, timer, shot clock operator, scoreboard operator, public address announcer, two (2) ball persons, a dressing room attendant, and a Championship physician. The scorer's table shall be designated in a distinctive manner and the scorer shall wear an official's shirt or jacket. There shall be no ornamentation in front of the scorer's table other than that of the Conference. The official NCAA Basketball Scorebook will be used for scoring Championship games.

22.8.13 Scouting.

Each institution still in contention shall be provided two (2) scouting seats during each game that features its next opponent.

22.8.14 Statistics and Reports.

Official box scores shall be kept for each contest. During each contest, each coach shall be provided courtside, computerized statistics at each media timeout, halftime, and at the conclusion of the contest. A file of all championship box scores and statistical reports shall be maintained in the media workroom. Live statistics must be available at all Championship games.

22.8.15 Team and Coaches Seating Area.

The team bench shall seat a maximum of twenty-five (25) individuals. Only approved members of the official team pass list will be provided credentials to sit on the bench. No additional participant credentials will be provided. Bench assignments shall be determined by seeding and assigned by the Championship Director.

22.8.16 Team Filming.

Participating teams are permitted to video their games from a courtside section determined by the Conference office. Each participating institution will receive one (1) credential that will be issued to a person who will film the game from this area.

22.8.17 Team Introductions.

The announcer shall introduce the starting players in the following order, beginning with the lower-seeded team: Forward, Forward, Center, Guard, Guard. The coach for the lower-seeded team will then be introduced. The announcer shall then introduce the starting players from the higher-seeded team as follows: Forward, Forward, Center, Guard, Guard. The coach for the higher-seeded team will then be introduced. The two (2) head coaches then shall shake hands in front of the official scorer's table.

22.8.18 Tickets.

Ticket prices for the Championship shall be determined by the Conference and Idaho Central Arena. Each participating institution must purchase one hundred (100) men's all-session tickets and fifty (50) women's all-session tickets. Officials and observers are entitled to two (2) complimentary admissions to all contests they officiate and observe. Conference office personnel are responsible for the distribution of tickets to officials and observers.

22.8.19 Transportation.

Each team is responsible for its own local ground transportation.

22.9 Media Arrangements.

22.9.1 Credentials.

22.9.1.1 Press Credentials.

Subject to limitation of space, press credentials shall be assigned to the working press in accordance with the following priorities: two (2) writers representing and designated by the AD and/or sports information director of each participating institution followed by press agencies, in the locale of the participating institutions, that have staffed the institution's contests on a regular basis throughout the season.

22.9.1.2 Photo Credentials.

Subject to limitations of space, photo credentials shall be issued in accordance with the following priorities: one (1) photographer representing and designated by the AD and/or sports information director of each participating institution followed by press agencies, in the locale of participating institutions, that have staffed the institution's games on a regular basis throughout the season. Credentials shall be issued only to those organizations completing an online credential request application for working members of the new media. Photographer may not place tripods on or beside the playing court.

22.9.2 News Video.

Television stations, approved by the media coordinator at the site, shall be limited to two (2) minutes of footage on a regular news sports broadcast. A television station may not sell, loan, or give away Championship footage to any individual or agency, or use footage on any non-sports news program produced or aired by the station.

22.9.3 Photographers.

The Conference office shall provide official championship photographers. Only authorized photographers with proper credentials will be permitted to work on the floor, and they must shoot from designated areas on the court as determined by the Media Coordinator. Photos will be made available to each institution's media relations staff during and following the tournament.

22.9.4 Post-Game Interviews.

Coaches and student-athletes will be available for interviews in the designated interview area after the "cooling-off" period. The Conference office's communications staff shall select a minimum of two (2) student-athletes to accompany him or her to the interview area five (5) minutes after the game for the winning team, and fifteen (15) minutes after the game for the non-winning team. The only exception shall be that after the Championship game the non-winning team will attend the press conference first. Dressing rooms are closed following the conclusion of all contests.

22.9.5 Press Conferences.

The Conference office is responsible for the format and time of press conferences. Head coaches are required to participate in all press conferences and each institution shall make players available at all scheduled press conferences. An official press conference may be scheduled on the day preceding the first-round contests. All other press conferences will be held when appropriate. The sports information director representing each institution in the Championship game shall obtain quotes from the coach during the awards ceremony to distribute to the media facing early deadlines.

22.9.6 Radio.

The official designated radio station(s) of each institution will be accommodated for game broadcasts. Stations desiring to broadcast any game or session of the championship should contact the host institution's media coordinator for permission to broadcast and reserve space. There will be an originating fee of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) per station to broadcast contests in the championship tournament. University radio stations shall be exempt from rights fees.

22.9.7 Sideline Video Cameras.

The media coordinator at the site may permit a television station to air up to two (2) minutes of video footage on a sports news broadcast. If a video camera is utilized to document Championship action, a television station may not broadcast live reports showing game action. Videotape game coverage may only be presented on a sports news broadcast after the game being documented has been completed. A television station is also prohibited from airing live video reports of any part of a Championship game in progress for any purpose.

22.9.8 Television.

All television rights, both "live" and "taped", shall be under the jurisdiction of the Conference office. There is no black-out restriction if the session is sold out. If the session is not sold out forty-eight (48) hours in advance, there is a television broadcast restriction within two hundred and fifty (250) miles. Exceptions to the 250-mile restriction may be negotiable through the Conference office. All television contracts are negotiated through the Conference office.

22.10 Medical Personnel/Facilities.

Championship contests require:

- a) The presence of institutional staff certified athletic trainers to render emergency care. Each institution shall provide its own ATC and athletic training supplies.
- b) The presence of a physician, preferably a team physician, for prompt medical evaluation.
- c) Planned access to a medical facility, including a plan for communication and transportation between the athletic site and medical facility for prompt medical services.
- d) An EMT and/or ambulance that is on site for all Championship games.
- e) All institutions to have access to emergency equipment, including but not limited to AED, crutches, splints, blanket to treat for shock, materials to handle blood-borne pathogens, fluids and ice at the competition site, in locker rooms, and at practice sessions.

22.11 Safety Policies.

22.11.1 Air Quality Index Policy.

The NCAA air quality index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the air quality index for unsafe conditions. The Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have authority to delay, postpone, or cancel the contest.

[The air quality index and recommendations can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-18]

RULE 23: CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

23.0 General Administration.

The rules of the NCAA shall govern all cross country meets conducted by Conference institutions except as otherwise stated in the Code. The Conference Cross Country Championship is under the control, direction, and supervision of the host institution, subject to the requirements, standards, and conditions prescribed by the Conference and NCAA. Championship policies, dates, and sites of these championships are subject to approval by the Presidents' Council.

23.1 Awards.

The Conference maintains a standard award structure for all Conference sports. See [Appendix D](#) for details.

23.2 Coaches Pre-Championship Meeting.

A dinner should be planned by the host institution for officials and coaches of participating teams the evening prior to the Championship. This time should be used by officials to review the race procedures and answer any questions from the participating coaches.

23.3 Course Access.

The designated course for the Championship shall be made available to participants the day prior to the Championship. The host institution will inform all participating teams of the time the course will be open the day prior to the Championship.

23.4 Crowd Control.

Crowd control rests with the host institution. Competitors and fans are expected to always demonstrate sportsmanship. Institutions are expected to communicate with their fans prior to the competition to encourage enthusiastic support within the confines of good sporting behavior.

23.5 Date and Site.

The Championship shall be held two weeks prior to the NCAA District qualifying meets. The site of the Championship shall be reviewed and set annually by the Presidents' Council. Montana will host the 2023 Conference Cross Country Championships on October 27, 2023.

23.5.1 Host Institution Unable to Host.

In the event the host institution is unable to host the championship, the host institution must provide the Conference office a one-year notice for championships that are determined based on rotation unless noted by sport championship section of Big Sky Code. [Adopted: 2018-14]

23.5.2 Rotation

The following rotation shall be employed for determining the host of the Cross Country championship. [Revised: 2020-129]

Year	Host	Year	Host
2023	Montana	2027	Idaho
2024	Idaho State	2028	Sacramento State
2025	Montana State	2029	Northern Colorado
2026	Northern Arizona	2030	Weber State

23.6 Entries.

Entries shall comply with NCAA rules.

23.7 Instructions to Competing Teams.

Select Hospitality shall arrange lodging accommodations for each participating institution. Institutions are required to stay in the hotel arranged for them by Select Hospitality. The host institution shall make athletic training facilities available to participating teams, if requested. Each institution is required to provide at least one athletic trainer. Transportation arrangements to and from the site of the Championship shall be made by the participating teams. [Revised: 2018-19-F]

23.8 Interrupted Event.

If a threat of lightning exists, and to avoid a stoppage of competition during a race, the Games Committee/Referee will determine sixty (60) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the first race if the Championship will start at the scheduled time. If necessary, a new race time will be determined making every effort to run the Championship on the same day. Should the Conference Championship be interrupted due to lightning during either race and the competitors have raced less than half of the total distance, there will be a period of five (5) hours prior to a restart of the affected race. If time constraints do not allow for the period of five (5) hours, or the competitors have completed more than half of the total distance, the race will be restarted the following day at a time upon which the Games Committee agrees.

23.9 Media Arrangements.

Requests for all media credentials should be directed to the host institution's sports information staff. All coaches are requested to make themselves available to media representatives ten (10) minutes after the conclusion of the Championship. Results of the meet will be reported to media outlets by the host institution's sports information staff. Copies of Championship results shall be available after the competition. Should local media covering individual institutions request more information than the wire service provides, coaches, or a representative of their team are asked to contact the local media to provide additional information.

23.10 Medical Personnel/Facilities.

Championship meets require:

- a) The presence of institutional staff certified athletic trainers to render emergency care.
- b) Planned access to a physician, preferably a team physician, by phone or nearby presence for prompt medical evaluation.
- c) Planned access to a medical facility, including a plan for communication and transportation between the athletic site and medical facility for prompt medical services.
- d) A thorough understanding by all parties, including the leadership of visiting teams, of the involved personnel and procedures.

23.11 Meet Management.

The Athletic Director of the host institution shall appoint a committee to supervise the conduct of the Championship. The committee shall include the cross-country coach(es) of the host institution, or its designated representative, who will serve as Chair. The Chair may appoint additional individuals to this committee as he or she deems necessary. It is recommended that an individual other than the head coach at the host institution serve as the Championship Director.

23.12 Merchandise at Championships.

The host institution is not required to sell merchandise, but the Conference office will have merchandise available on its online store for the championship. [Adopted: 2018-13]

23.13 Order of Events

In even-number years, the men will race first. In odd-number years, the women will race first.

23.14 Safety Policies.

23.14.1 Air Quality Index Policy.

The NCAA air quality index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the air quality index for unsafe conditions. The Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have authority to delay, postpone, or cancel the contest. [The air quality index and recommendations can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-18]

23.14.2 Heat Index Policy.

The NCAA heat index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the heat index for unsafe conditions. Once the heat index reaches one hundred and five (105), the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have the authority to delay, postpone, or cancel the contest. [The heat index can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-17]

23.15 Scoring and Distance.

NCAA rules shall apply to scoring. The championship distance for men is eight thousand (8,000) meters and the championship distance for women is five thousand (5,000) meters. Only five (5) team members will be used in team scoring. Teams with fewer than five (5) members will be counted as individuals and no team score will be kept.

23.16 Uniforms.

Each competitor is required to wear the official uniform of his or her institution during the meet.

RULE 24: GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

24.0 General Administration.

USGA rules, as supplemented or altered by local and Conference rules, shall govern play at all golf championships. The Championship is under the control, direction, and supervision of the Conference office, subject to the requirements, standards, and conditions prescribed by the Conference coaches and NCAA. Championship policies, dates, and sites are subject to approval by the Presidents' Council. The Conference Golf Championship shall not be played on a course with only nine (9) holes. The host institution or Conference office shall be responsible for arranging the championship on a course of the highest caliber available with eighteen (18) holes. The golf institutional sport administrator assigned by the Big Sky Conference will attend the golf championship when it is held at a neutral site. [Revised: 2019-20]

24.1 Awards.

The Conference maintains a standard award structure for all Conference sports. See [Appendix D](#) for details.

24.2 Championship Format.

24.2.1 Course Access.

The designated course of the Conference Championship shall be made available the day prior to the actual Championship for a practice round. The Championship Director shall inform all participating institutions when they will be allowed on the course. Teams are not allowed to play the course the day before the practice round, but will be allowed to use the putting green, driving range, and other amenities. Teams and individuals may practice on the championship course one time between January 1 and April 1 in the year of that championship.

24.2.2 Misconduct.

During the round, defined as from the time player hits the first shot until the scorecard is submitted in the box, a player will be assessed a penalty of two (2) strokes for misconduct (i.e., willful acts of defacing the golf course, club throwing or breaking, abusive language, violation of the tobacco policy, or any acts contrary to the spirit of the rules of golf). If a player is assessed two (2) unsportsmanlike conduct penalties occur in the same round, that player will be disqualified for that round. A player will be disqualified from the Championship for flagrant acts of misconduct or for receiving three (3) misconduct penalties for the entire Championship, including practice rounds. The coach will be notified prior to the announcement of a student-athlete's disqualification for any reason.

24.2.3 Play.

Play shall consist of fifty-four (54) holes. Two (2) rounds with eighteen (18) holes each may be played on the first day and one (1) round with eighteen (18) holes played on the second day, or one (1) round with eighteen (18) holes may be played on each of three (3) consecutive days. Fewer than fifty-four (54) holes may be played only under circumstances where courses are not available or inclement weather conditions prevail. If circumstances occur that do not allow for the conducting of the Championship, the Conference's NCAA automatic bid will be awarded to the highest ranked institution prior to the Championship according to Golfstat.

24.2.4 Scoring.

Each Member institution shall be represented by five (5) players with the four (4) lowest scores of each round counting as the team score. Players shall tee off in descending order from the #5 players to the #1 players. In case of a tie for the team championship, the sudden-death NCAA tie-breaking format will be used. (See the NCAA Men's and Women's Golf Championship Handbook.) Pairings and hole selection used for the playoff will be determined. If the course is not available or time does not allow this procedure to be followed, then the fifth score of the final round will be used to determine the team winner. If a tie still exists, the fifth score of the second 18-hole round will be used and so on. Individual ties will be determined by a sudden-death playoff.

24.2.5 Weather.

If play is suspended due to lightning, players are to mark their position according to the USGA playing rules and retreat to the nearest shelter. Once it has been determined play may resume, players shall restart using the same USGA rules of golf. While it is the policy of the NCAA that outdoor activities may resume thirty (30) minutes following the last noticeable thunderclap, the Conference will also utilize the SkyScan Lightning and Storm Detector to determine safety.

In case of extreme weather conditions or other extenuating circumstances which may cause delays or cancellation of play, the following guidelines shall be used:

- a) If one (1) or two (2) rounds on any day must be cancelled, then thirty-six (36) holes should be played on the following day, if possible.
- b) A minimum of eighteen (18) holes of play must be completed before team and individual championships can be determined.
- c) If early rounds are completed and subsequent rounds cancelled, the scores at the end of the last completed round will constitute the team and individual champions.

24.3 Championship Management.

The Conference office sport administrator shall act as the Championship Director. The Director may appoint additional persons to the championship committee as he or she deems necessary.

The primary responsibilities of the Director include contacting all coaches prior to the Championship for agenda items to be considered at the coaches' pre-Championship meeting; presiding at the coaches' meeting; reviewing Championship administration; distributing and discussing the rules sheets governing local rules that may supplement USGA rules for Championships; assigning marshals or spotters on trouble holes when and where necessary; assigning an individual to act as the official starter; providing the official scorer and assisting to collect, check, and certify score cards, and coordinating Championship times and details with the USGA Rules Official selected by the Conference office. This person will serve as the official Rules Supervisor, and his or her decision shall be final.

24.4 Coaches Pre-Championship Meeting.

A pre-Championship meeting will be held the day prior to the Championship. Officials will be introduced, the Championship Director will review local rules, and other issues pertinent to the Championship shall be discussed at the meeting.

24.5 Dates and Site.

The 2024 Women's Golf Championship shall be held April 15-17, 2024 in Arizona. The 2024 Big Sky Men's Golf Championship shall be held April 22-24, 2024 in Arizona.

24.5.1 Rotation.

If the championship remains at a neutral site, the following rotation will be used to determine the institution that is responsible for supplying athletic trainer(s) and communication personnel. [Revised: 2021-30]

CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTING RESPONSIBILITIES		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Men's Championship Host</i>	<i>Women's Championship Host</i>
2023	Northern Colorado	Montana State
2024	Weber State	Sacramento State
2025	Sacramento State	Northern Colorado
2026	Idaho	Weber State
2027	Weber State	Eastern Washington
2028	Northern Colorado	Portland State

24.6 Instructions to Competing Teams.

Select Hospitality shall arrange lodging accommodations for each participating institution. Institutions are required to stay in the hotel arranged for them by Select Hospitality. Athletic training facilities shall be available to participating teams, if possible. Transportation arrangements to and from the site of the contest shall be made by the participating teams.

24.7 Media Arrangements.

Requests for all media credentials should be directed to the host institution's sports information staff. All coaches are requested to make themselves available to media representatives ten (10) minutes after the conclusion of the round.

24.8 Medical/Personnel.

Championship contests require:

- a) the presence of institutional staff certified athletic trainers to render emergency care.
- b) planned access to a physician, preferably a team physician, by phone or nearby presence for prompt medical evaluation of the situation.
- c) planned access to a medical facility, including a plan for communication and transportation between the athletic site and medical facility for prompt medical services.
- d) a thorough understanding by all parties, including the leadership of visiting teams, of the involved personnel and procedures.

24.9 Merchandise at Championships.

The host institution is not required to sell merchandise, but the Conference office will have merchandise available on its online store for the championship. [Adopted: 2018-13]

24.10 Safety Policies.

24.10.1 Air Quality Index Policy.

The NCAA air quality index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the air quality index for unsafe conditions. The Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have authority to delay, postpone, or cancel the contest. [The air quality index and recommendations can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-18]

24.10.2 Heat Index Policy.

The NCAA heat index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the heat index for unsafe conditions. Once the heat index reaches one hundred and five (105), the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have the authority to delay, postpone, or cancel the contest. [The heat index can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-17]

24.11 Uniforms.

Each competitor is required to wear the official uniform of his or her institution during the contest. Participants are not permitted to wear cut-offs, blue jeans or similar types of attire, tee shirts, or other clothing not in keeping with standard golf attire.

RULE 25: SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

25.0 General Administration.

The Conference Women's Soccer Championship is under the immediate jurisdiction of the Conference office and the host Tournament Director/athletic administrator.

25.1 Athletic Training/Facilities.

Athletic training facilities will be available to the participating institutions. It is recommended that each institution have an athletic trainer accompany its team. If an institution is not able to send an athletic trainer, the institution must plan for athletic training services with the host institution in advance of the championship.

25.2 Awards.

The Conference maintains a standard award structure for all Conference sports. See [Appendix E](#) for details.

25.2.1 All-Tournament Team.

The All-Tournament Team Selection Committee shall determine an All-Tournament Team with twelve (12) members, including the Most Valuable Player. One (1) of the members must be a goalkeeper.

25.3 Championship Structure.

The Conference Championship shall consist of the top six (6) teams following the regular season at the site of the previous year's regular-season champion. The tournament champion will be the automatic qualifier for the purpose of representing the Conference in the NCAA Championship.

25.3.1 Host Institution Unable to Host.

In the event the host institution is unable to host the championship, the host institution must provide the conference office notice of at least one (1) year for championships that are determined based on rotation unless noted by sport championship section of Big Sky Code. [Adopted: 2018-14]

CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET		
Quarterfinal Round	Semifinal Round	Championship
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
M1: #3 vs. #6	M3: #2 vs. Winner of M1	M5: Winner of M3 vs. Winner of M4
M2: #4 vs. #5	M4: #1 vs. Winner of M2	

25.4 Crowd Control.

The responsibility of crowd control rests with the host institution. Competitors and fans are expected to always demonstrate sportsmanship behavior. The Conference's sportsmanship statement will be read by the public address announcer prior to each match in all championship sessions.

25.5 Dates and Sites.

The Conference Championship shall be held two weeks after the end of the regular season at the site of the previous year's regular-season champion. The 2024 Women's Soccer Championship shall be held November 6, 8 & 10, 2024, at Bell Bank Park in Mesa, Ariz.

25.6 Determining Conference Champion – Non-Completion.

In the case where the postseason tournament cannot be completed by NCAA Selection Day (e.g., inclement weather), the automatic representative to the NCAA Championship shall be the No.1 seeded team as determined by the tiebreaking procedure, or the highest remaining seed if the tournament is already in progress.

25.7 Game Times.

Starting times for all games will be determined by the host institution in consultation with the Conference office. Starting times will be set to ensure the completion of all games with at least thirty (30) minutes between the games. The NCAA procedure for overtimes will be used for the Conference championship.

25.8 Host Institution Obligations.

The championship facility must meet the following minimum standards.

- a) Hotels within a radius of fifty (50) miles of the championship site.
- b) A playing surface that is at least seventy (70) yards wide and one hundred and fifteen (115) yards long.
- c) An artificial or natural field surface that cannot be taller than two (2) inches.
- d) Two (2) locker rooms that are accessible at halftime. The locker rooms may be portable.
- e) Restrooms for student-athletes that are separate from the public.
- f) A minimum seating capacity of five hundred (500).
- g) A press area with internet access. Internet connectivity must be strong enough to allow for the live video streaming of the Championship.
- h) A scoreboard.
- i) A refreshment stand for patrons.
- j) An elevated filming area.

25.9 Instructions to Competing Teams.

25.9.1 Bands and Noisemakers.

The host band and all visiting bands will be admitted to the Championship for free. The host institution must be notified by the preceding Monday that a band will be present. Names of band members, up to twenty-five (25) individuals, must be on a pass list. Visiting bands shall have equivalent seating arrangements to the host institution's band. Bands shall be seated in rows designated by the Tournament Director. Musical instruments and artificial noisemakers may be used at any time during the game.

25.9.2 Banners.

No commercial banners may be posted at any session of the championship other than television and radio banners. All other signs and banners are subject to Conference standards of sporting and ethical behavior.

25.9.3 Cheerleaders and Mascots.

No more than twelve (12) uniformed cheerleaders and one (1) costumed mascot may be admitted via a pass list submitted to the Tournament Director by the competing institutions for sessions in which their team is competing. All other institutional representatives shall be admitted only upon presentation of a ticket. The twelve (12) cheerleaders and one (1) mascot shall be placed in an area as designated by the Tournament Director. Cheerleaders are allowed in this designated area only when their institution is participating. There shall be no interaction, verbal or otherwise, with an institution's mascot towards game officials.

25.9.4 Game Balls.

The Conference office shall provide practice and game balls at no expense to the championship. The ball that is used by the NCAA College Cup will be used during Big Sky Conference tournament play.

25.9.5 Game Video.

All game video of the championship will be recorded and distributed at no cost to the participants by the host institution. There shall be an exchange of USB devices as teams advance. This exchange is to be handled by the Conference office.

25.9.6 Instant Replay.

Instant replay shall be available for any game that is televised on linear television. Rules for instant replay shall be in line with NCAA policy.

25.9.7 Lodging.

Select Hospitality shall arrange lodging accommodations for each participating institution. Institutions are required to stay in the hotel arranged for them by Select Hospitality.

25.9.8 National Anthem.

The host institution will ensure that the National Anthem will be played prior to the first match of each day. [Revised: 2018-16]

25.9.9 Non-Participant Seating.

A section of 32 seats per team shall be reserved for non-playing participants. [ER: 2023]

25.9.10 Programs.

The official Championship program shall be the responsibility of the host institution. The Conference and host institution's sports information staff will request the appropriate information and materials from each institution to be included in the program.

25.9.11 Scorer's Table / Personnel.

The game staff shall be provided by the host institution and shall include an official scorer, timer, scoreboard operator, and public address announcer. At least two (2) people are required to perform the tasks at the scorer's table. In the event the game is televised, the television coordinator shall also be provided space at the scorer's table. The scorer's table shall be designated in a distinctive manner and the scorer shall wear an official's shirt or jacket. There shall be no ornamentation in front of the scorer's table other than that of the Conference. The official NCAA Soccer Scorebook will be used for scoring Championship games.

25.9.12 Scouting.

Each institution shall be provided two (2) scouting seats during the semifinal games.

25.9.13 Statistics and Reports.

The media coordinator from the host institution shall furnish official NCAA Soccer Box Score Statistical Forms. A copy of the official box score and statistics of each championship contest shall be filed with the Conference office. Each participating institution's sports information staff shall update his or her statistics after each contest. Upon request, the host institution will have wireless connections and copiers available at the Championship for the visiting institutions' sports information staff. Live statistics must be available at all Championship contests.

25.9.14 Team and Coaches Seating.

The host institution shall determine procedures for admission and seating of participants and official party members. Bench assignments shall be determined by seeding and assigned by the Championship Director. A maximum of thirty-two (32) individuals shall be allowed in the team bench area. This total covers all student-athletes (*including the 11 players on the field*), coaches, athletic trainers, and managers.

25.9.15 Team Introductions.

Introductions shall include starters only via the international model.

25.9.16 Tickets.

Ticket prices for the Championship shall be determined by the host institution with the approval of the Conference office. Fifty (50) tickets for each of the five (5) travelling teams shall be held until 8:00 a.m. local time two (2) days prior to the date of the quarterfinal games. These will include the complimentary tickets to be used for additional members of the travel party not seated on the team bench. Any tickets ordered by a visiting team shall be considered sold. The visiting team may release part of the fifty (50) tickets back to the host institution if it is known before the two-day 8:00 a.m. deadline that the tickets will not be sold. Officials and observers are entitled to two (2) complimentary admissions to all games they officiate and observe. Institutional personnel are responsible for the distribution of tickets to officials and observers.

25.9.17 Uniforms.

Each participating institution shall have both light and dark uniforms available for competition. The best-seeded team will wear white or light-colored uniforms (*with matching socks*). Each player is required to wear the official uniform of their institution during the Championship.

25.10 Media Arrangements.

25.10.1 Credentials.

25.10.1.1 Press Credentials.

Subject to limitation of space, press credentials shall be assigned to the working press in accordance with the following priorities: two (2) writers representing and designated by the AD and/or sports information director of each participating institution followed by press agencies, in the locale of the participating institutions, that have staffed the institution's games on a regular basis throughout the season.

25.10.1.2 Photo Credentials.

Subject to limitations of space, photo credentials shall be issued in accordance with the following priorities: one (1) photographer representing and designated by the AD and/or sports information director of each participating institution followed by press agencies, in the locale of participating institutions that have staffed the institution's games on a regular basis throughout the season. Photographers may not place tripods on the playing field.

25.10.2 Official Photographer.

The host institution is responsible for having an official photographer present at the Championship. The photographer will shoot at each game of the tournament and provide those photographs to the Conference communication staff member by the end of the day of the game or at his or her request.

25.10.3 News Video.

Television stations approved by the media coordinator at the site shall be limited to no more than two (2) minutes of footage on a regular news sports broadcast. A television station may not sell, loan, or give away championship footage to any individual agency or use footage on any non-sports news program produced or aired by the station.

25.10.4 Press Conferences.

Each coach shall participate in a press conference, if scheduled. Coaches shall select a minimum of two (2) student-athletes to accompany him or her to the interview area ten (10) minutes after the conclusion of the game, with the winning team going first. The sports information director, representing each institution in the Championship game, shall obtain quotes from the coaches during the presentations to distribute to the media facing early deadlines.

25.10.5 Radio.

The official designated station(s) of each institution will be accommodated for game broadcasts. Stations desiring to broadcast any game or session of the Championship should contact the host institution's media coordinator to reserve a space. There will be an originating fee of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) per station to broadcast the Championship. University radio stations shall be exempt from rights fees.

25.10.6 Sideline Cameras.

The media coordinator at the site may permit a television station to air no more than two (2) minutes of game footage on a sports new broadcast. If a sideline camera is utilized to document Championship action, a television station may not broadcast live reports from the site of the Championship. Videotape game coverage may only be presented on a sports news broadcast after the game being documented has been completed. A television station is also prohibited from airing live video reports of any part of a championship game in progress for any purpose.

25.10.7 Television.

All television rights, both live and taped, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Conference office and all television contracts are negotiated through the Conference office.

25.11 Medical Personnel.

Championship contests require the following:

- a) The presence of institutional staff certified athletic trainers to render emergency care.
- b) Planned access to a physician, preferably a team physician, by phone or nearby presence for prompt medical evaluation of the situation.
- c) Planned access to a medical facility, including a plan for communication and transportation between the athletic site and medical facility for prompt medical services.
- d) A thorough understanding by all parties, including the leadership of visiting teams, of the involved personnel and procedures.

25.12 Merchandise at Championships.

The host institution is required to sell Big Sky Conference merchandise at the championship. The host institution may utilize one of three merchandising options at the site: [Adopted: 2018-13]

- a) Using the official championship logo provided by the Conference, the host may utilize a local licensed merchandiser to produce Conference merchandise for the school, or to produce and sell goods itself.
- b) The host institution may order merchandise directly from the Conference's official merchandiser, Your Image Works, at a reduced cost and handle all sales itself. *(This option allows the host to retain any and all profits but limits the availability of producing additional goods if the need arises).*
- c) Your Image Works will send an allotment of merchandise which the institution will sell and then return to Your Image Works all money made and any leftover merchandise. The institution will be responsible for any amount unreconciled from an audit of revenue and merchandise.

25.13 Practice.

Practice times will be arranged by the host institution and will be equal in length. If, due to field or weather conditions, practices must be held at another location, all teams practicing must be allowed to use the same field. The decision to prohibit practice on the game field will be made by the host institution's AD in consultation with the Conference office.

25.14 Pre-Championship Meeting.

The head coaches, athletic administrators, and sports information staff will meet via conference call prior to the quarterfinal games to review Championship procedures. Attendance by head coaches is mandatory.

25.15 Safety Policies.

23.15.1 Air Quality Index Policy.

The NCAA air quality index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the air quality index for unsafe conditions. The Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have authority to delay, postpone, or cancel the contest. [The air quality index and recommendations can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-18]

23.15.2 Heat Index Policy.

The NCAA heat index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the heat index for unsafe conditions. Once the heat index reaches one hundred and five (105), the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have the authority to delay, postpone, or cancel the contest. [The heat index can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-17]

RULE 26: SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

26.0 General Administration.

The Conference Softball Championship is under the immediate jurisdiction of the Conference office and the host Tournament Director/Athletic Administrator.

26.1 Athletic Training Facilities.

Athletic training facilities will be available to the participating institutions. It is recommended that each institution have an athletic trainer accompany its team. If an institution is not able to send an athletic trainer, the institution must make arrangements for athletic training services with the host institution in advance of the championship.

26.2 Awards.

The Conference maintains a standard award structure for all Conference sports. See [Appendix E](#) for details.

26.2.1 All-Tournament Team.

The All-Tournament Team Selection Committee shall consist of at least the non-working Umpire-in-Chief, Championship Director, and the sports information directors of the tournament's participating teams. The Committee shall determine an All-Tournament Team with ten (10) members, including the Most Valuable Player.

26.3 Dates and Sites.

The Conference Softball Championship shall be held the week following the end of regular season competition at the site of the previous year's regular-season champion. Idaho State will host the 2024 Big Sky Conference softball championship on May 8-11, 2024.

26.4 Championship Schedule.

The Championship shall be held on four (4) consecutive days. If extenuating circumstances exist, the championship may be extended to a fifth day. The host team shall have the option of selecting its quarterfinal game slot. [Revised: 2018-6-F]

Day	Game	Match-Up
1	1	#5 vs. #4 Seed
	2	#6 vs. #3 Seed
	3	Winner Game 1 vs. #1 Seed
	4	Winner Game 2 vs. #2 Seed
2	5	Loser Game 2 vs. Loser Game 3 (Loser Eliminated)
	6	Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 4 (Loser Eliminated)
	7	Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4
3	8	Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6 (Loser Eliminated)
	9	Loser Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8 (Loser Eliminated)
4	10	Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 9
	11	If necessary, Rematch of Game 10. (Winner Game 9 must win Game 10)

26.5 Championship Structure.

The Championship will consist of the Conference's top six (6) eligible teams at the end of the Conference regular season. A team must complete sixty-five percent (65%) of its Conference games to be eligible for the postseason Championship. The regular-season champion shall be recognized with the understanding that the tournament Champion will represent the Conference in the NCAA championship. If two (2) teams end the regular season with identical records, they will be declared Regular-Season Conference Co-Champions. The tiebreaker system will be used for the purpose of determining the site of the subsequent year's Conference Championship and the current year's tournament seeding. The team with the best regular season win-loss regular season Conference record shall host the subsequent year's championship. If that team cannot host the championship, the opportunity to host will go to the teams in order of seeding.

26.5.1 Host Institution Unable to Host.

In the event the host institution is unable to host the championship, the host institution must notify the conference office within 30 (thirty) days of the announced championship site for the previous regular season champion. [Adopted: 2018-7]

26.6 Crowd Control.

The responsibility of crowd control rests with the host institution. Competitors and fans are expected to always demonstrate sportsmanship. The Conference's sportsmanship statement will be read by the public address announcer prior to each game.

26.7 Determining Conference Champion – Non-Completion.

In the case where the postseason tournament cannot be completed by NCAA Selection Day (e.g., inclement weather), the automatic representative to the NCAA Championship shall be the No. 1-seeded team as determined by the tiebreaking procedure or the highest remaining seed in the winners' bracket if the tournament is already in progress.

26.8 Game Times.

Starting times for all games will be determined by the host institution in consultation with the Conference office. Starting times will be set to ensure the completion of all games with not more than thirty (30) minutes between games.

26.9 Host Institution Obligations.

The previous season's regular-season champion shall host the Conference Championship. If this institution cannot host at its own facility, it may utilize an alternate facility, other than another college institution's field, within fifty (50) miles of its institution. If the previous season's regular-season champion cannot host the championship, the opportunity to host will go to teams in order of seeding.

The Championship facility must meet the following minimum standards, otherwise the previous season's regular-season champion shall forfeit its right to host the championship. I [Adopted: 2018-7]

- a) NCAA-compliant netting protection at the dugouts, padding behind home plate and foul poles.
- b) Standard fences of four (4) feet if the field dimensions are NCAA minimums. Fences to be six (6) feet if dimensions are shorter than NCAA minimums.
- c) Tarp to cover infield if the field is grass
 - i. If the National Weather Service predicts any chance of precipitation in the hours after the final game of a tournament day, and before the scheduled start time of the first game the following day, the host must place the protective, water-tight tarp on the entire dirt infield (*including any dirt areas in foul territory*). It will be the responsibility of the grounds crew and the host team, and or the teams competing in the game when play is suspended, to place the tarp. It will be the responsibility of the grounds crew and the host team, and or the teams competing in the game when play is resumed, to remove the tarp.
- d) Bullpens for both teams.
- e) Two (2) permanent batting cages.
- f) Rest rooms.
 - i. Minimum one portable for each team near the dugout.
 - ii. Adequate restrooms (can be portable) for fans.
- g) Requirements to video stream and the facility having the ability to accommodate video stream.

- h) Covered press box.
- i) Athletic training area.
- j) Separate locations for warm-ups.
- k) Potential to charge for tickets.

26.10 Instructions to Competing Teams.

26.10.1 Banners.

No commercial banners may be posted at any session of the Championship other than television and radio banners broadcasting the event. All other signs and banners are subject to Conference standards of sporting and ethical behavior.

26.10.2 Bat Testing.

The host institution shall provide the NCAA approved bat tester at no expense to the Championship. Each team shall test all bats prior to its first contest each day. The Championship Director shall communicate these policies and respective implementation at the pre-championship meeting with the coaches.

26.10.3 Determining Home Team.

The home team for the first round will be the higher-seeded team. In subsequent games, the home team shall be determined according to the following formula:

- a) The games committee shall designate as home team the institution that has been home team the fewest times.
- b) If two (2) teams have been the home team an equal number of times but the visiting team an unequal number of times, the team that has been the visitor most often shall be designated as the home team.
- c) If two (2) teams have been both the home team and visiting team an equal number of times, and if the two teams previously met, the visitor in the initial game shall be the home team in the second game.
- d) If games between the same teams are back-to-back, the home team shall be the visitor from the previous game regardless of the number of times either team has been home or visitor.
- e) If two teams have been both the home team and visiting team an equal number of times, the team that was the visitor in its preceding game shall be the home team, unless both teams were the visitor in their preceding games.
- f) If the preceding formula does not prevail, the higher-seeded team shall determine if it would like to be home or visitor.

When teams play back-to-back games, they must be prepared to change uniforms and dugouts, if necessary.

26.10.4 Game Balls.

The Conference office shall provide at no expense to the Championship sixteen (16) dozen Rawlings game balls that the host institution must use for the tournament. [Revised: 2022-9]

26.10.5 Game Video.

All game video of the Conference Softball Championship will be recorded and coordinated by the host institution at no cost to the participating teams.

26.10.6 Lodging.

Select Hospitality shall arrange lodging accommodations for each participating institution. Institutions are required to stay in the hotel arranged for them by Select Hospitality.

26.10.7 National Anthem.

The host institution will ensure that the National Anthem will be played prior to the first game of each day. [Revised: 2018-16]

26.10.8 Non-Participant Seating.

A section of fifty-six (56) seats shall be reserved for non-playing participants which would cover the twenty-eight (28) members of each institution's travel party. A section with up to fifty-six (56) seats shall be available, upon request by the non-winning teams if they wish to remain for the Championship game.

26.10.9 Programs.

The official Championship program shall be the responsibility of the host institution. Conference and host institution's sports information staff will request the appropriate information and materials from each institution to be included in the printed program.

26.10.10 Scouting.

Each institution shall be provided two (2) scouting seats during all games while still in contention.

26.10.11 Statistics and Reports.

The media coordinator from the host institution shall furnish official NCAA Box Score Statistical Forms. A copy of the official box score and statistics of each Championship game shall be filed with the Conference office. Each participating institution's sports information staff shall update his or her statistics after each game. Upon request, the host institution will have computers and copiers available at the Championship for the visiting institution's sports information staff. Live statistics shall be available at all Championship games.

26.10.12 Team and Coaches Seating Area.

The host institution shall determine procedures for admission and seating of participants and official party members. Bench assignments shall be determined by seeding and assigned by the Tournament Director.

26.10.13 Team Introductions.

For the first-round games, all student-athletes will be introduced and will line up on the team's respective baseline. The visiting team shall be introduced first (*non-starters, starters, coaching staff*) followed by the home team (*non-starters, starters, coaching staff*). For all subsequent games, the starters and coaches will be announced.

26.10.15 Tickets.

Ticket prices for the Championship shall be determined by the host institution with the approval of the Conference office. Fifty (50) tickets for each of the five (5) traveling teams shall be held until 8:00 a.m. local time two (2) days prior to the date of the semifinal games. Any tickets ordered by a visiting team shall be considered sold. The visiting teams may release part of the fifty (50) tickets back to the host institution if it is known before the two-day 8:00 a.m. deadline that the tickets will not be sold. Umpires and observers are entitled to two (2) complimentary admissions to all games they officiate or observe. Institutional personnel are responsible for the distribution of these tickets to umpires and observers.

26.10.16 Umpires.

All umpires for the Conference Championship will be assigned by the Big Sky Softball Coordinator of Officials. Umpires will be paid based on the wages set forth in 12.3.5.4.

26.10.17 Uniforms.

The home team shall occupy the facility's designated home dugout and wear white uniform tops. The visiting team must wear a dark uniform top. When teams play back-to-back games, teams must be prepared to change uniforms, if necessary. The Conference office will resolve any conflict in the selection of uniforms.

26.11 Limitations on Number of Games in One Day.

Teams will not play more than two (2) games in a day at the Big Sky Championship, unless weather causes delays and puts the tournament in jeopardy of not being completed. The Tournament Games Committee will have the authority to suspend the two-game limit rule to facilitate that as many games as possible be completed in the tournament prior to the NCAA's automatic-qualifier deadline. A suspended game from a previous day does not count toward this limitation. [Revised: 2018-9]

26.12 Media Arrangement.

26.12.1 Credentials.

26.12.1.1 Press Credentials.

Subject to limitation of space, press credentials shall be assigned to the working press in accordance with the following priorities: two (2) writers representing and designated by the AD and/or sports information director of each participating institution followed by press agencies, in the locale of the participating institutions, that have staffed the institution's games on a regular basis throughout the season.

26.12.1.2 Photo Credentials.

Subject to limitations of space, photo credentials shall be issued in accordance with the following priorities: one (1) photographer representing and designated by the AD and/or sports information director of each participating institution followed by press agencies, in the locale of participating institutions that have staffed the institution's games on a regular basis throughout the season. Photographers may not place tripods on the playing field.

26.12.2 News Video.

Television stations approved by the media coordinator at the site shall be limited to no more than two (2) minutes of footage on a regular news sports broadcast. A television station may not sell, loan, or give away championship footage to any individual agency or use footage on any non-sports news program produced or aired by the station.

26.12.3 Official Photographer.

The host institution is responsible for having an official photographer present at the Championship. The photographer will shoot at each game of the tournament and provide those photographs to the Conference communication staff member by the end of the day of the game or at his or her request.

26.12.4 Press Conferences.

Each coach shall participate in a press conference, if scheduled. If requested, coaches shall select a minimum of two (2) student-athletes to accompany him or her to the interview area ten (10) minutes after the conclusion of the game, with the winning team going first. The sports information director, representing each institution in the Championship game, shall obtain quotes from the coaches during the trophy presentations to distribute to the media facing early deadlines.

26.12.5 Radio.

The official designated station(s) of each institution will be accommodated for game broadcasts. Stations desiring to broadcast any game or session of the Championship should contact the host institution's media coordinator to reserve a space. There will be an originating fee of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) per station to broadcast the Championship. University radio stations shall be exempt from rights fees.

26.12.6 Sideline Cameras.

The media coordinator at the site may permit a television station to air no more than two (2) minutes of game footage on a sports new broadcast. If a sideline camera is utilized to document Championship action, a television station may not broadcast live reports from the site of the Championship. Videotape game coverage may only be presented on a sports news broadcast after the game being documented has been completed. A television station is also prohibited from airing live video reports of any part of a championship game in progress for any purpose.

26.12.7 Television.

All television rights, both live and taped, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Conference office. There is no black-out restriction if the session is sold out. If the session is not sold out forty-eight (48) hours in advance, there is a television broadcast restriction within two hundred and fifty (250) miles. Exceptions to the 250-mile restriction may be negotiable through the Conference office. All television contracts are negotiated through the Conference office.

26.13 Medical Personnel.

Championship games require:

- a) The presence of institutional staff certified athletic trainers to render emergency care.
- b) Planned access to a physician, preferably a team physician, by phone or on-site presence for prompt medical evaluation.
- c) Planned access to a medical facility, including a plan for communication and transportation between the athletic site and medical facility for prompt medical services.
- d) A thorough understanding by all parties, including the leadership of visiting teams, of the involved personnel and procedures.

26.14 Merchandise at Championships.

The host institution is required to sell Big Sky Conference merchandise at the championship. The host institution may utilize one of three merchandising options at the site: [Adopted: 2018-13]

- a) Using the official championship logo provided by the Conference, the host may utilize a local licensed merchandiser to produce Big Sky Conference merchandise for the school, or to produce and sell goods itself.
- b) The host institution may order merchandise directly from the Conference's official merchandiser, Your Image Works, at a reduced cost and handle all sales itself. *(This option allows the host to retain any and all profits but limits the availability of producing additional goods if the need arises).*
- c) Your Image Works will send an allotment of merchandise which the institution will sell and then return to Your Image Works all money made and any left-over merchandise. The institution will be responsible for any amount unreconciled from an audit of revenue and merchandise.

26.15 Pre-Championship Meeting.

The head softball coaches, and the Conference office shall meet via conference call with the athletic administrators, sports information staff, and other essential members of the host institution prior to the quarterfinals games to review Championship procedures. Attendance by head coaches is mandatory.

26.16 Safety Policies.

25.16.1 Air Quality Index Policy.

The NCAA air quality index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the air quality index for unsafe conditions. The Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have authority to delay, postpone, or cancel the contest. [The air quality index and recommendations can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-18]

25.16.2 Heat Index Policy.

The NCAA heat index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the heat index for unsafe conditions. Once the heat index reaches one hundred and five (105), the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have the authority to delay, postpone, or cancel the contest. [The heat index can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-17]

26.17 Warm-Up.

Each institution shall be allowed seven (7) minutes of infield warm-up prior to each game, with the designated home team going first. The Conference Championship tournament will follow the NCAA Softball Championship tournament protocol.

RULE 27: TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

27.0 General Administration.

The Championship is under the control, direction, and supervision of the host institution or Conference office subject to requirements, standards, and conditions prescribed by the coaches and the NCAA. The tennis institutional sport administrator assigned by the Conference will attend the tennis championship when it is held at a neutral site. [Revised: 2019-20-S]

27.1 Awards.

The Conference maintains a standard award structure for all Conference sports. See [Appendix E](#) for details.

27.1.1 Most Valuable Player.

The Most Valuable Player will be selected from the Championship team by a Committee consisting of at least the Championship Director, the Administrative Liaison, the winning head coach, the head referee and the host sports information director. The MVP will be announced prior to the announcement of the Championship-winning team. [Adopted: 2022-21]

27.2 Dates and Sites.

The Conference Tennis Championship shall be held two weeks prior to the NCAA Championships. The 2024 Big Sky Tennis Championships are April 25-27, 2024 at the Phoenix Tennis Cent in Phoenix, Ariz.

27.2.1 Site.

If the championship remains at a neutral site, the following “Host” rotation will be used to determine the institution that is responsible for supplying athletic trainer(s) and communication personnel. [Revised: 2021-30]

CHAMPIONSHIP SITE & HOST ROTATION		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Site</i>
2024	Idaho State	Phoenix Tennis Center
2025	Montana	Phoenix Tennis Center
2026	Sacramento State	TBD
2027	Portland State	TBD
2028	Montana State	TBD

There will be a championship site rotation for teams that accept hosting and meet the minimum requirements. If an institution passes in the rotation, it will go to the end of the rotation, unless otherwise approved by the Sport and Championship Management Committee for circumstances out of the control of the original hosting institution. All teams will play a regular season Conference schedule. The Conference will set the schedule, travel partners and start date. Conference teams are permitted to fulfill regular season Conference obligations at neutral sites.

27.3 Championship Structure.

The Conference Championship will feature six (6) teams from each gender – with men and women at the same site – with annual alternating sessions. In odd years, the men’s teams will compete during the morning session while the women’s teams compete in the evening section, and in even years, the women’s teams will compete during the morning session while the men’s teams will compete in the evening session. The Championship will consist of the eligible teams finishing one (1) through six (6) at the conclusion of the regular season. The Championship will feature a morning session and an afternoon session, and follow the schedule below:

CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET		
Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Championship
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
#3 vs. #6	#2 vs. Highest Remaining Seed	Semifinal Winners
#4 vs. #5	#1 vs. Lowest Remaining Seed	

27.4 Championship Management.

An independent referee shall be selected, with approval of the Conference office, whose responsibility shall be to conduct the championship according to (*in order of application*) the Conference, NCAA, and ITA rules, where applicable. A Championship Committee consisting of the Championship Director (*non-voting*), an administrator from the host institution, a representative from the Conference office, the head championship official, and two (2) neutral coaches shall be utilized when critical decisions relating to the Championship need to be made.

27.5 Crowd Control.

Crowd control rests with the Championship Director. Competitors and fans are expected to always demonstrate good sportsmanship. The Conference's sportsmanship statement will be read by the public address announcer prior to each match.

27.6 Determining Champion – Non-Completion.

In the case where the post-season tournament cannot be completed by NCAA Selection Day (*e.g., inclement weather*), the automatic representative to the NCAA Championship shall be the No. 1-seeded team as determined by the tiebreaking procedure, or the highest remaining seed in the winner's bracket if the tournament is already in progress.

27.7 Instructions to Competing Teams.

27.7.1 Athletic Trainer, Athletic Training Facilities and Equipment.

Each institution is required to provide at least one (1) athletic trainer. The host institution shall provide athletic training facilities to participating teams. The host institution will collaborate with the Conference office to determine the necessary equipment. [Revised: 2018-20; 2018-21]

27.7.2 Courts.

To host the Championship, an institution shall have twelve (12) outdoor courts available – which can be one site with twelve (12) courts or two (2) sites with six (6) courts each – plus six (6) indoor courts at one (1) site as a backup venue. The courts on which the Championships will be played shall be made available for practice the day prior to the Championship. The host institution will inform all participating teams of the times the courts will be available. All courts must be in playable condition.

27.7.3 Line-Ups.

Lineups for the championship are due to the conference office by 12 p.m. MT on the Monday preceding the championship. The Conference office will then send out every team's lineup to all of the head coaches participating in the championship by the end of the day on Monday. Coaches must notify of any planned protests by 12 p.m. on Tuesday.

All protests are reviewed at the in-person coaches meeting the night before the championship. A committee of two to three (2-3) coaches who are not involved with the outcome of the protest will serve as the protest committee that hears the argument made by both coaches and ultimately decides on the ruling. [Revised: 2019-10]

27.7.4 Lodging.

Select Hospitality shall arrange lodging accommodations for each participating institution. Institutions are required to stay in the hotel arranged for them by Select Hospitality.

27.7.5 Uniforms.

Each competitor is required to wear clothing with institutional identification during the Championship.

27.8 Mechanics of the Championship.

The Conference Championship shall follow (*in order of application*) Conference, NCAA, and ITA rules.

27.8.1 Indoor Courts.

If indoor courts are needed at the Championship, the host institution shall be responsible for the cost. During the Championships, the host institution will have the option of playing matches so that classes are not missed. The 4-0 rule will apply in the Championship.

27.8.2 Officials. There shall be thirteen (13) ITA officials and one (1) athletic trainer on site at each Championship match. The cost will be shared by all Member institutions.

27.9 Media Arrangements.

All coaches are requested to make themselves available to media representatives ten (10) minutes after the conclusion of the competition.

27.10 Medical Personnel/Athletic Facilities.

Championship matches require:

- a) The presence of institutional staff athletic trainers to render emergency care.
- b) Planned access to a physician, preferably a team physician, by phone or nearby presence for prompt medical evaluation.
- c) Planned access to a medical facility, including a plan for communication and transportation between the athletic site and medical facility for prompt medical services.
- d) A thorough understanding by all parties, including the leadership of visiting teams, of the involved personnel and procedures.

27.11 Merchandise at Championships.

The host institution is not required to sell merchandise, but the Conference office will have merchandise available on its online store for the championship. [Adopted: 2018-13]

27.12 Pre-Championship Meeting.

A Conference office representative shall chair a coaches' meeting the evening prior to the start of the Championship. The purpose of the meeting is to be informed on Championship conduct, referees, facilities, and pertinent information by Championship officials, review all Championship regulations, hear discussions on all timely matters, and review, approve or disapprove, and correct the placement of all players in the lineups. The coaches may change any provision of the mechanics of the Championship by a vote with a three-fourths majority on any subject. Such changes shall apply to the current Championship.

27.13 Safety Policies.

27.13.1 Air Quality Index Policy.

The NCAA air quality index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the air quality index for unsafe conditions. The Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have authority to delay, postpone, or cancel the contest. [The air quality index and recommendations can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-18-F]

27.13.2 Heat Index Policy.

The NCAA heat index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the heat index for unsafe conditions. Once the heat index reaches one hundred and five (105), the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have the authority to delay, postpone, or cancel the contest.

[The heat index can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-17]

RULE 28: TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

28.0 General Administration.

The Championship is under the control, direction, and supervision of the host institution subject to requirements, standards, and conditions prescribed by the coaches and NCAA. Championship policies, dates and sites of these Championships are subject to approval by the Joint Athletic Administrators' Council and Presidents' Council. NCAA rules, supplemented or altered by Conference rules, shall govern indoor and outdoor track meets conducted by all Conference institutions.

28.1 Awards.

The Conference maintains a standard award structure for all Conference sports. See [Appendix E](#) for details.

28.2 Crowd Control.

The responsibility for crowd control rests with the host institution. Competitors and fans alike are expected to always demonstrate sportsmanship. The Conference's sportsmanship statement will be read by the public address announcer prior to each event.

28.3 Dates and Sites.

The Indoor Track Championship shall be held two (2) weeks prior to the NCAA Championships. The Outdoor Track Championship shall be held two (2) weeks prior to the NCAA Regional Championship, with the understanding that the institutions and the Conference be allowed the scheduling flexibility necessary to avoid a conflict with commencement exercises and final examinations. The dates and site of the Championship shall be reviewed and set annually by the Presidents' Council.

The 2024 Indoor Track and Field Championships shall be hosted by Eastern Washington University at The Podium in Spokane, Wash., February 22-24, 2024.

The 2024 Outdoor Track and Field Championships shall be hosted by Montana State University in Bozeman, Mont., May 8-11, 2024.

28.3.1 Host Institution Unable to Host.

In the event the host institution is unable to host the championship, the host institution must provide the conference office notice of at least one (1) year for championships that are determined based on rotation unless noted by sport championship section of the Conference Code. [Adopted: 2018-14-F]

28.3.2 Rotation

The following rotation shall be employed for determining the host of the Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field championships. [Revised: 2020-129; Revised: 2021-30]

Year	Indoor Championship Host	Outdoor Championship Host
2024	The Podium (<i>Spokane, Wash.</i>) <i>Eastern Washington - Host</i>	Montana State
2025	Northern Arizona	Portland State
2026	Idaho State	Sacramento State
2027	Montana State	Montana
2028	Idaho	Northern Arizona
2029	The Podium	Weber State
2030	Northern Arizona	Idaho
2031	Idaho State	Eastern Washington
2032	Montana State	Idaho State
2033	Idaho	Northern Colorado

28.4 Entries.

Entries must be submitted to Direct Athletes by 6:00 p.m. MST on Sunday prior to the Championships. Once entries are submitted or the championship, the conference sends out performance sheets for the coaches to review by 12:00 p.m. MST on Monday prior to the Championships. The conference office will send out a draft of the heat sheets to the institutions by 5:00 p.m. MST. Scratches will be made during the coaches meeting on Thursday night and the heats sheets will be updated and sent back out after the coaches meeting.

28.4.1 Change / Late Entries.

Changes or late entries received after 12 p.m. MST on the Sunday before the Championships begin will result in a fine of fifty dollars (\$50) assessed by the Conference. In addition, a letter will be written to the AD of the penalized institution.

28.5 Instructions to Competing Teams.

28.5.1 Athletic Training Facilities.

Facilities will be made available to participating teams by the host institution.

28.5.2 Lodging.

Select Hospitality shall arrange lodging accommodations for each participating institution. Institutions are required to stay in the hotel arranged for them by Select Hospitality.

28.5.3 Track Access.

The track on which the meet will be run shall be available to participating teams the day prior to the beginning of the competition. The host institution shall inform all participating teams of track availability prior to the competition.

28.5.4 Transportation.

Travel arrangements to and from the site of the Championship are the responsibility of the participating teams.

28.5.5 Uniforms.

Each competitor is required to wear the official uniform of his or her institution during the competition.

28.5.6 Weight Throw.

The host institution is required to provide one soft-shell throwing implement (*per gender*) for the weight throw.

28.6 Media Arrangements.

Requests for all media credentials should be directed to the host institution's sports information staff. All coaches are requested to make themselves available to media representatives ten (10) minutes after the conclusion of the Championship. Copies of meet results shall be made available after the competition on the Conference's website. Five (5) printed copies of the meet program and results shall be sent to the Conference office. One (1) printed copy of the program and final results should be forwarded to each participating institution's sports information staff.

28.7 Medical Personnel/Facilities.

Championship requirements:

- a) The presence of institutional staff certified athletic trainers to render emergency care. Each institution should have an athletic trainer accompany its teams. In the event an institution is not able to send an athletic trainer, arrangements must be made for such services with the host institution prior to the Championship.
- b) Planned access to a physician, preferably a team physician, by phone or nearby presence for prompt medical evaluation.
- c) Planned access to a medical facility, including a plan for communication and transportation between the athletic site and medical facility for prompt medical services.
- d) A thorough understanding by all parties, including the leadership of visiting teams, of the involved personnel and procedures.

28.8 Championship Management.

The host institution's athletic administrators shall appoint a committee to supervise the conduct of the meet. The committee shall include the host institution's outdoor track and field coaches, or their designated representatives, one of whom will serve as Chair. It is recommended that an individual (other than the host institution's head coach) serve as the Championship Director for the Conference Championship. The Championship Director shall serve as the administrator and supervisor for the meet, coordinate, and supervise the activities of the officials and groups involved in administration of the meet, provide, and disseminate information to the coaches of participating teams relative to the meet, and oversee the needs of contestants, officials, and spectators and ensure that all technical details of the meet have been taken care of within the rules of the Conference and as prescribed by this Code.

28.9 Meet Procedures.

Indoor and outdoor track meets shall be conducted on two (2) consecutive days. NCAA rules shall govern the events to be held at the Championships. NCAA conversion standards for track size shall be used in events up through eight hundred (800) meters.

28.10 Merchandise at Championships.

The host institution is required to sell Big Sky Conference merchandise at the championship. The host institution may utilize one of three merchandising options at the site: [Adopted: 2018-13]

- a) Using the official championship logo provided by the Conference, the host may utilize a local licensed merchandiser to produce Big Sky Conference merchandise for the school, or to produce and sell goods itself.
- b) The host institution may order merchandise directly from the Conference's official merchandiser, Your Image Works, at a reduced cost and handle all sales itself. *(This option allows the host to retain all profits but limits the availability of producing additional goods if the need arises).*
- c) Your Image Works will send an allotment of merchandise which the institution will sell and then return to Your Image Works all money made and any left-over merchandise. The institution will be responsible for any amount unreconciled from an audit of revenue and merchandise.

28.11 Multi-Events.

Decathlon and heptathlon competitions shall be held on the two (2) days preceding the scheduled Outdoor Conference Championship. First and second day decathlon and heptathlon events will be as specified in the NCAA rules. There will be thirty (30) minutes between each event. Decathlon and heptathlon competition shall not begin before 10:00 a.m. local time. Coaches may make adjustments by majority vote at a coaches' meeting prior to the outdoor championship. Coaches are not permitted on the field to coach. The heptathlon and pentathlon competitions shall be held the Thursday and Friday of the Indoor Championship.

28.12 Officials.

28.12.1 Referee.

The referee shall be reminded of his or her role and responsibility in the Championship. The referee shall be knowledgeable and qualified to interpret the NCAA track and field rules, above all other officials, to ensure fair competition for all contestants and to disqualify those individuals whose acts violate the rules of fair competition.

The powers and duties of the referee shall be to take such actions and make such decisions to provide each contestant a fair and equal opportunity; to decide all questions for which the rules make no provisions; to decide place winners in track events when the judges of the finish cannot reach a decision; in the event of record performance, the referee shall verify the results of the finish and shall check all measurements and related conditions in field events; make final decisions on all protests; have sole power to disqualify contestants as provided by these rules. For example, the referee may disqualify a contestant for unsportsmanlike conduct or for willfully disobeying the referee's orders. The referee shall notify, or cause to be notified, disqualified athletes or teams. The referee's decisions in all these matters shall be final and without appeal except in those Championships for which a jury of appeals has been established for that special purpose. The jury of appeals will have the final authority.

28.12.2 Other Officials.

A starter, recall starter and jury of three (3) people will be used by the referee. During competition, the referee and jury members will not be responsible for heating and seeding. These responsibilities will be delegated to other qualified officials. The host institution will select and train all other officials in accordance with the NCAA Track and Field Rules. All officials and their duties will be as outlined in the NCAA Track and Field Guide unless the Conference Championship manual stipulates otherwise. These officials are as follows:

General Officials		
Games Committee	Meet Director	Field Event Referee
Scorers	Press Steward	Running Event Referee
Custodian of Awards	Announcers	Marshals
Athletic Trainers	Surveyor	
Track Events Officials		
Clerks of the Course	Inspectors	Records Clerk
Chief Finish Evaluator (FAT)	Judges of Finish	Starters
Hurdle Setters	Block Setters	Timers
Timing Device Operators (FAT)		
Field Events Officials		
Chief Field Judge	Markers	Field Judges
Measurers		

28.13 Order of Events.

The recommended order of events for the Championship is as follows, with schedule exceptions permitted due to facility constraints:

Indoor Track and Field Championship Schedule			
Even Numbered Year Schedule		Odd Numbered Year Schedule	
Day One	Day Two	Day One	Day Two
Men's Weight Throw	Women's Weight Throw	Women's Weight Throw	Men's Weight Throw
Men's Pole Vault	Women's Pole Vault	Women's Pole Vault	Men's Pole Vault
Women's High Jump	Men's High Jump	Men's High Jump	Women's High Jump
Men's Long Jump	Men's Triple Jump	Women's Long Jump	Women's Triple Jump
Women's 55-Hurdle Trial	Women's Mile	Men's 55-Hurdle Trial	Men's Mile
Men's 55-Hurdle Trial	Men's Mile	Women's 55-Hurdle Trial	Women's Mile
Women's 400 Trial	Women's 55-Hurdle Final	Men's 400 Trial	Men's 55-Hurdle Final
Men's 400 Trial	Men's 55-Hurdle Final	Women's 400 Trial	Women's 55-Hurdle Final
Women's 55 Trial	Women's 400 Final	Men's 55 Trial	Men's 400 Final
Men's 55 Trial	Men's 400 Final	Women's 55 Trial	Women's 400 Final
Women's Long Jump	Men's Shot Put	Men's Long Jump	Women's Shot Put
Women's Shot Put	Women's Triple Jump	Men's Shot Put	Men's Triple Jump
Women's 800 Trial	Women's 55 Final	Men's 800 Trial	Men's 55 Final
Men's 800 Trial	Men's 55 Final	Women's 800 Trial	Women's 55 Final
Women's 200 Trial	Women's 800 Final	Men's 200 Trial	Men's 800 Final
Men's 200 Trial	Men's 800 Final	Women's 200 Trial	Women's 800 Final
Women's 5K	Women's 200 Final	Men's 5K	Men's 200 Final
Men's 5K	Men's 200 Final	Women's 5K	Women's 200 Final
Women's Distance Medley Relay	Women's 3K	Men's Distance Medley Relay	Men's 3K
Men's Distance Medley Relay	Men's 3K	Women's Distance Medley Relay	Women's 3K
	Women's 1,600 Relay		Men's 1,600 Relay
	Men's 1,600 Relay		Women's 1,600 Relay

Outdoor Track and Field Championship Schedule

Even Numbered Year Schedule		Odd Numbered Year Schedule	
Day One	Day Two	Day One	Day Two
Women's Hammer	Men's Hammer	Men's Hammer	Women's Hammer
Men's Pole Vault	Women's Pole Vault	Women's Pole Vault	Men's Pole Vault
Women's High Jump	Men's High Jump	Men's High Jump	Women's High Jump
Women's Long Jump	Women's Triple Jump	Men's Long Jump	Men's Triple Jump
Men's Javelin	Women's Javelin	Women's Javelin	Men's Javelin
Men's 3K Steeplechase	Men's 400 Relay	Women's 3K Steeplechase	Women's 400 Relay
Women's 3K Steeplechase	Women's 400 Relay	Men's 3K Steeplechase	Men's 400 Relay
Men's 110-Hurdle Trial	Women's Shot Put	Women's 100-Hurdle Trial	Men's Shot Put
Women's 100-Hurdle Trial	Men's 1,500	Men's 110-Hurdle Trial	Women's 1,500
Men's 400 Trial	Women's 1,500	Women's 400 Trial	Men's 1,500
Women's 400 Trial	Men's 110-Hurdle Final	Men's 400 Trial	Women's 100-Hurdle Final
Men's 100 Trial	Women's 100-Hurdle Final	Women's 100 Trial	Men's 110-Hurdle Final
Women's 100 Trial	Men's Triple Jump	Men's 100 Trial	Women's Triple Jump
Men's Long Jump	Men's Discus	Women's Long Jump	Women's Discus
Women's Discus	Men's 400 Final	Women's Shot Put	Women's 400 Final
Men's 800 Trial	Women's 400 Final	Men's Discus	Men's 400 Final
Women's 800 Trial	Men's 100 Final	Women's 800 Trial	Women's 100 Final
Men's 400-Hurdle Trial	Women's 100 Final	Men's 800 Trial	Men's 100 Final
Women's 400-Hurdle Trial	Men's 800 Final	Women's 400-Hurdle Trial	Women's 800 Final
Men's 200 Trial	Women's 800 Final	Men's 400-Hurdle Trial	Men's 800 Final
Women's 200 Trial	Men's 400-Hurdles Final	Women's 200 Trial	Women's 400-Hurdle Final
Men's 10K	Women's 400-Hurdles Final	Men's 200 Trial	Men's 400-Hurdle Final
Women's 10K	Men's 200 Final	Women's 10K	Women's 200 Final
	Women's 200 Final	Men's 10K	Men's 200 Final
	Men's 5K		Women's 5K
	Women's 5K		Men's 5K
	Men's 1,600 Relay		Women's 1,600 Relay
	Women's 1,600 Relay		Men's 1,600 Relay

28.14 Pre-Championship Meeting.

A meeting shall be conducted by the host institution on the evening preceding the first day of (*non-multi event*) formal competition. Placement in heats and lane assignments for preliminaries shall be available. Height progression for pole vault and high jump will be via conference call. Championship officials will be available to explain procedures of the competition and entertain questions by the coaches. A dinner should be planned by the host institution for coaches of all participating teams.

28.15 Protests.

Protests relating to matters which develop during the meet shall be made no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the results have been officially announced in a preliminary event or fifteen (15) minutes after the results have been officially announced in a final. Any such protest must be made in writing by the head coach and submitted to the protest table. The protest shall be submitted to the referee, who shall render a decision. An appeal may be made to the referee. Upon receiving the appeal, the referee is required to consult with the jury (if one is formed) before making a final decision. The jury of appeals shall consist of three (3) certified USATF officials, to be assigned by meet management. The referee shall not be one of the three (3) members. The decision of the committee is final and without appeal. In matters relating to official photos, the coach may ask to view the film with the referee. If a photo is under protest, the referee will consult only with the jury before rendering a decision. The finish judge and film evaluators shall not be consulted.

28.16 Qualification Seeding.

Times/marks must be received in the Conference office by noon MT on Sunday prior to the official declaration of entries.

28.17 Results.

All results and new semifinal heats shall be posted during the competition after each event in locations where all coaches and athletes have equal access to them.

28.18 Safety Policies.

28.18.1 Air Quality Index Policy.

The NCAA air quality index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the air quality index for unsafe conditions. The Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have authority to delay, postpone or cancel the contest. [The air quality index and recommendations can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-18]

28.18.2 Heat Index Policy.

The NCAA heat index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the heat index for unsafe conditions. Once the heat index reaches 105, the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have the authority to delay, postpone or cancel the contest. [The heat index can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-17]

28.19 Scoring.

International scoring through eight (8) places (*with first through eighth place awarded points on a 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 scale*) shall be used in the Conference Championships.

28.20 Specific Meet Format.

28.20.1 Timing.

Total electronic timing and photos shall be official. Time shall be officially recorded to one-one hundredth (1/100) of a second. Two (2) officials will be appointed by the host institution to determine the results of each race from the photos. The head judge (fully automatic timing) must sign and okay each photo before it becomes official. If there is an equipment failure, the manual timing and judging will then be official. All times on digital watches shall be rounded up to the next highest 10th. If qualifiers are picked by time in an event, manual timing must cover each place in case of an equipment failure with the electronic devices. Official pictures under protest will be viewed only by the referee. The jury and the coach involved in the protest may view the pictures with the referee's consent.

28.20.2 Disqualification.

Runners legally entered and declared in all events must run and give an honest effort or be disqualified from all remaining competition. Points scored prior to disqualification stands.

28.20.3 Lane Assignments.

Preferred lanes shall be included in the coaches' packet distributed by the host institution prior to the Championship.

28.20.4 Heights.

The suggested opening height for high jump is two (2) increments less than the Conference standards. The suggested opening height for pole vault is two (2) increments less than the Conference standards.

28.20.5 Wind.

All outdoor track and field hosts must have the ability to run sprints, hurdles, and jumps with the wind as determined thirty (30) minutes before the event.

RULE 29: VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

29.0 General Administration.

The Conference Volleyball Championship is under the immediate jurisdiction of the host institution, Conference office, and the host Tournament Director/Athletic Administrator.

29.1 Awards.

The Conference maintains a standardized awards program for all Conference sports. See [Appendix E](#) for details. A representative from the Conference office and a representative from the host institution will present the awards immediately following the championship match.

29.1.1 All-Tournament Team.

The All-Tournament Team Selection Committee shall determine an All-Tournament Team with seven (7) members, including the Most Valuable Player.

29.2 Championship Schedule.

Starting times shall be determined by the host institution in consultation with the Conference office, which has final approval. There will be thirty (30) minutes between matches. The host institution may pick its quarterfinal match time in consultation with the Conference office. The format of the Championship shall be as follows:

Championship Bracket		
Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Championship
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Match 1: #2 vs #7	Match 5: Winner of M1 vs. Winner of M2	Match 7: Winner of M5 vs. Winner of M6
Match 2: #3 vs. #6		
Match 3: #4 vs. #5	Match 6: Winner of M3 vs. Winner of M4	
Match 4: #1 vs #8		

Bracket may be flipped based on the finish of the host institution to allow it to schedule its best time for fans to attend.

29.3 Championship Structure.

The Championship will consist of the top eight (8) eligible teams according to Conference won-loss record at the conclusion of the regular season. Teams will be seeded based on their Conference won-loss record with the tie-breaking procedure used to break any ties.

29.4 Crowd Control.

The responsibility of crowd control rests with the host institution. Competitors and fans are expected to always demonstrate sportsmanship. The Conference's sportsmanship statement will be read by the public address announcer prior to each game in all championship sessions.

29.5 Dates and Sites.

The previous season's regular-season champion will automatically earn the right to host the Championship. If the institution elects not to host, the option will be offered to the next team in descending order of finish.

In order to host the championship, an institution must meet the minimum hosting requirements. Institutions may host the championship at an off-campus location. The institution that earns the right to host must accept the responsibility no later than December 1 of the season in which they earned this right.

The University of Northern Colorado will host the 2023 championship in Greeley, Colo. November 22-24, 2023.

29.5.1 Host Institution Unable to Host.

In the event the host institution is unable to host the championship, the host institution must provide the conference office notice of at least one (1) year for championships that are determined based on rotation unless noted by sport championship section of Big Sky Code. [Adopted: 2018-14]

29.6 Determining Conference Champion – Non-Completion.

In the case where the post-season tournament cannot be completed by NCAA Selection Day (e.g., *inclement weather*), the automatic representative to the NCAA Championship shall be the No. 1-seeded team as determined by the tiebreaking procedure, or the highest remaining seed in the winners bracket if the tournament is already in progress.

29.7 Instructions to Competing Teams.

29.7.1 Bands and Noisemakers.

The Tournament Director is encouraged to have a band available to play the National Anthem, entertain at timeouts and between games and matches. The host band and all visiting bands will be admitted to the Championship for free. Names of band members for as many as twenty-five (25) individuals must be on a pass list. The host institution must be notified by the preceding Monday that a band will be present. Visiting bands shall have equivalent seating arrangements to the host institution's band.

Bands or any component thereof are not allowed to play during serving or while the ball is in play. Bands shall be seated in rows designated by the Tournament Director. If a band does not comply with Championship policies, the athletics administrator or representative of the involved institution will rectify the situation. Artificial noisemakers, air horns, and electronic amplifiers are not permissible. Non-amplified megaphones are permissible but may not be used as noisemakers. The Tournament Director is responsible for removing non-permissible instruments from the arena.

29.7.2 Banners and Signage.

No commercial banners or signs except radio or television banners may be posted at any session of the Championship. All other signs and banners are subject to Conference standards of sporting and ethical behavior.

29.7.3 Cheerleaders and Mascots.

No more than twelve (12) uniformed cheerleaders and one (1) costumed mascot may be admitted via a pass list submitted to the Tournament Director by the competing institutions for sessions in which their team is competing. All other institutional representatives shall be admitted only upon presentation of a ticket. A maximum of twelve (12) cheerleaders and one (1) mascot shall be allowed on the floor when the clock is stopped when their team is participating at times designated by the Tournament Director. Additional cheerleaders will be allowed to perform only before the match and during intermission. The twelve (12) cheerleaders and one (1) mascot shall be placed in an area at the end of the playing court as designated by the Tournament Director. Cheerleaders are allowed in this designated area only when their institution is participating. Additional cheerleaders must sit in the stands while the game is being played. There shall be no interaction, verbal or otherwise, by an institution's mascot toward game officials.

29.7.4 Lodging.

Select Hospitality shall arrange lodging accommodations for each participating institution. Institutions are required to stay in the hotel arranged for them by Select Hospitality.

29.7.5 Match Balls.

The host institution shall provide practice balls and match balls at no expense to the Championship. The official Championship ball shall be the Molten NCAA Championship volleyball.

29.7.6 Match Video.

All match videos of the Conference Championship will be filmed and coordinated by the host institution at no cost to the participants. Each team shall receive a copy of its game. USB devices shall also be exchanged, with the exchange to be conducted by the Conference office. All teams advancing shall receive a copy of the opponent's game.

29.7.7 National Anthem.

The host institution will ensure that the National Anthem shall be played prior to the first match of each day. [Revised: 2018-16]

29.7.8 Non-Participant Seating.

In first-round games, a special section with one hundred and thirty-two (132) seats shall be reserved for non-playing participants, which would cover the twenty-two (22) members of each institution's official travel party. In the semifinal session, a special section with forty-four (44) seats shall be reserved for non-playing participants which would cover the twenty-two (22) members of each institution's official travel party. In the Championship session, a special section with forty-four (44) seats shall be available, upon request by the non-winning teams of the semifinals if they wish to remain for the Championship game.

29.7.9 Practice.

Practice times will be arranged by the host institution in consultation with the Conference office and will be equal in length.

29.7.10 Programs.

The official Championship program shall be the responsibility of the host institution. Conference and host institution's sports information staff will request appropriate information and materials from each institution to be included in the printed program.

29.7.11 Scorer's Table/Personnel.

The match staff shall be assigned by the host institution and shall include an official scorer, timer, scoreboard operator, public address announcer, and television coordinator, if needed. The scorer's table shall be designated in a distinctive manner and the scorer shall wear a distinctive shirt or jacket to facilitate identification. It is recommended that an official's shirt be used for this purpose. There shall be no ornamentation in front of the scorer's table other than that of the Conference. The official NCAA Volleyball Scorebook will be used for scoring Championship matches.

29.7.12 Scouting.

Each institution still in contention shall be provided two (2) scouting seats during the semifinal matches.

29.7.13 Statistics and Reports.

The media coordinator from the host institution shall furnish official NCAA Volleyball Box Score Statistical Forms. A copy of the official box score and statistics of each Championship game shall be filed with the Conference office. Each participating institution's sports information staff shall update her or his team's statistics after each match. Upon request, the host institution will have wireless connections and copiers available at the Championship for the visiting institutions' sports information staff. Live statistics must be available at all Championship contests.

29.7.14 Team and Coaches Seating.

The team bench shall seat a minimum of seventeen (17) individuals. The Tournament Director may provide an additional chair for a championship physician and a security representative. The host institution shall determine procedures for admission and seating of participants and official party members. Bench assignments shall be determined by seeding and assigned by the Tournament Director.

29.7.16 Team Introductions.

Unless specified otherwise by NCAA rules, the introduction format shall be National Anthem first followed by introduction of starters, the libero, and head coaches only. Starters and libero should be on the end line while being introduced.

29.7.17 Tickets.

Ticket prices for the Championship shall be determined by the host institution with the approval of the Conference office. One hundred (100) tickets for each of the seven (7) traveling teams shall be held until 8:00 a.m. local time two (2) days prior to the date of the first-round matches. These will include five (5) complimentary tickets to be used for additional members of the travel party not seated on the team bench. Any tickets ordered by a visiting team shall be considered sold. The visiting team may release part of the 100 tickets back to the host institution if it is known before the 2-day 8:00 a.m.

deadline that tickets will not be sold. Officials and observers are entitled to two (2) complimentary admissions to all games they officiate or observe. Institutional personnel are responsible for the distribution of these tickets to officials and observers.

29.7.18 Uniforms.

Opposing team uniforms should contrast as specified in the NCAA volleyball playing manual. In the event both teams have picked similar colored uniforms, the higher seed shall choose what they would like to wear, and the lower seeded team will pick a contrasting color.

29.8 Media Arrangements.

29.8.1 Credentials.

29.8.1.1 Press Credentials.

Subject to limitation of space, press credentials shall be assigned to the working press in accordance with the following priorities: two (2) writers representing and designated by the AD and/or sports information director of each participating institution followed by press agencies, in the locale of the participating institutions, that have staffed the institution's games on a regular basis throughout the season.

29.8.1.2 Photo Credentials.

Subject to limitations of space, photo credentials shall be issued in accordance with the following priorities: one (1) photographer representing and designated by the AD and/or sports information director of each participating institution followed by press agencies, in the locale of participating institutions, that have staffed the institution's games on a regular basis throughout the season. Photographers may not place tripods on or beside the playing court.

29.8.2 News Video.

Television stations approved by the media coordinator at the site shall be limited to two (2) minutes of footage on a regular news sports broadcast. A television station may not sell, loan, or give away championship footage to any individual agency or use footage on any non-sports news program produced or aired by the station.

29.8.3 Official Photographer.

The host institution is responsible for having an official photographer present at the Championship. The photographer will shoot pictures at each game of the tournament and provide those pictures to the Conference communication staff member by the end of the day of the game or at his or her request.

29.8.4 Press Conferences.

It is recommended that pre-Championship and post-match interviews be scheduled. Each coach shall participate in a press conference, if scheduled. Each coach shall select a minimum of two (2) student-athletes to accompany her or him to the interview area ten (10) minutes after the conclusion of the match. The winning team shall go first during quarterfinals and semifinals. The losing team shall go first after the championship match. Sports information staff, representing each institution in the Championship match, shall obtain quotes from the coaches during the awards ceremony to distribute to the media facing early deadlines.

29.8.5 Radio.

The official designated station (2) of each institution will be accommodated for match broadcasts. Stations desiring to broadcast any match or session of the Championship should contact the host institution's media coordinator to reserve space. There will be an originating fee of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) per station to broadcast the Championship. A check, payable to the host institution, must be submitted to the Tournament Director prior to the start of the first match. University radio stations shall be exempt from rights fees.

29.8.6 Sideline Cameras.

The media coordinator at the site may permit a television station to air not more than two (2) minutes of game footage on a sports new broadcast. If a sideline camera is utilized to document Championship action, a television station may not broadcast live reports from the site of the Championship. Videotape game coverage may only be presented on a sports news broadcast after the match being documented has been completed. A television station is also prohibited from airing live video reports of any part of a championship game in progress for any purpose.

29.8.7 Television.

All television rights, both live and taped, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Conference office. There is no black-out restriction if the session is sold out. If the session is not sold out forty-eight (48) hours in advance, there is a television broadcast restriction within two hundred and fifty (250) miles. Exceptions to the 250-mile restriction may be negotiable through the Conference office. All television contracts are negotiated through the Conference office.

29.9 Medical Personnel.

Championship games require:

- a) The presence of institutional staff certified athletic trainers to render emergency care. Each institution should have an athletics trainer accompany its team. In the event that an institution is not able to send an athletic trainer, the institution must make arrangements for athletics training services with the host institution in advance of the championship.
- b) Planned access to a physician, preferably a team physician, by phone or nearby presence for prompt medical evaluation.
- c) Planned access to a medical facility, including a plan for communication and transportation between the athletic site and medical facility for prompt medical services.
- d) A thorough understanding by all parties, including the leadership of visiting teams, of the involved personnel and procedures.

29.10 Merchandise at Championships.

The host institution is required to sell Big Sky Conference merchandise at the championship. The host institution may utilize one of three merchandising options at the site: [Adopted: 2018-13]

- a) Using the official championship logo provided by the Conference, the host may utilize a local licensed merchandiser to produce Big Sky Conference merchandise for the school, or to produce and sell goods itself.
- b) The host institution may order merchandise directly from the Conference's official merchandiser, Your Image Works, at a reduced cost and handle all sales itself. *(This option allows the host to retain any and all profits but limits the availability of producing additional goods if the need arises).*
- c) Your Image Works will send an allotment of merchandise which the institution will sell and then return to Your Image Works all money made and any left-over merchandise. The institution will be responsible for any amount unreconciled from an audit of revenue and merchandise.

29.11 Safety Policies.

29.11.1 Air Quality Index Policy.

The NCAA air quality index shall be used to determine the safe playing conditions for contests of the championship. Members of the Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will monitor the air quality index for unsafe conditions. The Games Committee and the host athletic trainer will have authority to delay, postpone, or cancel the contest.

[The air quality index and recommendations can be found here.](#) [Adopted: 2018-18]

APPENDIX A: 2023-24 FACT SHEET

Eligibility Requirements.

A student-athlete becomes eligible to compete in the Conference only upon the completion of required NCAA documents and certification of eligibility by the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR). Falsification of any data on this or any other report may render the student-athlete ineligible for intercollegiate competition.

Enrollment.

All student-athletes must be registered in a minimum full-time program of studies unless they meet an NCAA-legislated exception. A student-athlete with eligibility remaining may participate in practice and competition while enrolled in less than twelve (12) hours if she or he is enrolled in the final semester or quarter of the baccalaureate program and the institution certifies that the student is enrolled in the courses necessary to complete degree requirements.

If competition takes place between terms, a continuing student-athlete must have been registered for the minimum full-time load in the term immediately preceding the date of competition.

A student-athlete may receive credit toward satisfactory progress for remedial courses only during the first academic year of collegiate enrollment.

A student-athlete must be attending a course of study by the tenth (10th) institutional instructional day of the term in which competition occurs.

All student-athletes must be regularly enrolled in their institutions and certified as eligible for competition. The Eligibility Center also must certify the amateurism and secondary school academic performance of all student-athletes entering the institution.

The Eligibility Center will certify all prospects entering Division I institutions, and a final certification must be provided from the Eligibility Center before a student-athlete may compete. If a student-athlete reports for athletics participation before his or her qualification status has been certified, the student may practice, but not compete, during a period of forty-five (45) days, provided the student meets all other requirements to be eligible to practice. An institution shall not provide athletically related financial aid to the student during this period. After the 45-day period, the student shall have established minimum requirements (as certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center) to continue practicing or to compete and receive athletically related financial aid.

Grade-Point Average Requirements.

Starting with the second year of full-time enrollment, a student-athlete shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum 4.000) that equals at least a specified percentage of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. The specified GPA benchmarks are as follows:

Entering second year of collegiate enrollment:	90%
Entering third year of collegiate enrollment:	95%
Entering fourth or later year of collegiate enrollment:	100%

Amateurism.

You will lose your amateur status and will not be eligible for intercollegiate competition in a sport if you:

- a) use your athletic skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport;
- b) accept a promise of pay even if such pay is to be received following completion of intercollegiate athletics participation;
- c) sign a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any consideration received;
- d) receive, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization based upon athletics skill or participation, except as permitted by NCAA rules and regulations;

- e) compete on any professional athletics team, even if pay or remuneration for expenses were not received;
- f) after initial full-time collegiate enrollment, enter a professional draft (see your compliance officer for exceptions); or
- g) enter into an agreement with an agent unless the agent is representing you only for name, image and likeness activities

Sanctions.

If a student-athlete competes while ineligible during any intercollegiate contest, the institution must notify the Conference office to determine the proper penalty.

Sportsmanship.

Conference Member institutions subscribe to NCAA principles of sportsmanship and ethical conduct required for membership in the NCAA and the Conference.

In your role as a student-athlete, you are expected to adhere to fundamental values such as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. If you fail to comport yourself in a manner consistent with these values during competition or otherwise representing your institution, you could face disciplinary action by your institution or by the Conference office. Penalties include reprimand, suspension and the permanent loss of eligibility. Actions requiring such penalties vary but include such issues as flagrant disqualifying fouls at the competition site or other unsporting acts. The Conference Commissioner will also review films of all fights in contests and make an appropriate determination.

Each institution is required to have a sportsmanship and ethical conduct policy. Institutional penalties may be imposed separately from Conference penalties. Ask an athletics administrator for details about your institution's policy. Additional information about the Conference policy may be found in the Conference Code.

Unethical Conduct.

The NCAA and Big Sky Conference take very seriously ethical conduct violations by institutional staff members and student-athletes. Disciplinary action that could result from ethical conduct violations includes ineligibility for further intercollegiate competition. Student-athletes should be knowledgeable of these rules and should not put themselves in a position of losing their eligibility.

Unethical conduct by a prospective or enrolled student-athlete or a current or former institutional staff members, which includes any individual who performs work for the institution or the athletics department even if he or she does not receive compensation for such work, may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) refusal to furnish information relevant to an investigation of a possible violation of an NCAA regulation when requested to do so by the NCAA or the individual's institution;
- b) involvement in or knowledge of offering or providing a prospective or an enrolled student-athlete an improper inducement or extra benefit or improper financial aid;
- c) knowingly furnishing or knowingly influencing another to furnish the NCAA or the individual's institution false or misleading information concerning an individual's involvement in or knowledge of matters relevant to a possible violation of an NCAA regulation;
- d) a receipt of benefits by an institutional staff member for facilitating or arranging a meeting between a student-athlete and an agent, financial advisor or a representative of an agent or advisor (e.g., runner);
- e) involvement in or knowing of providing a banned substance or impermissible supplement to student-athletes, or knowingly providing medications to student-athletes contrary to medical licensure, commonly accepted standards of care in sports medicine practice, or state and federal law. This does not apply to banned substances for which the student-athlete has received a medical exception per NCAA rules; however, the substance must be provided in accordance with medical licensure, commonly accepted standards of care and state or federal law;
- f) engaging in any athletics competition under an assumed name or with intent to otherwise deceive; or
- g) failure to provide complete and accurate information to the NCAA, the NCAA Eligibility Center or the institution's athletics department regarding an individual's amateur status.

Sport Wagering.

Student-athletes, athletics department and Conference office staff shall not knowingly:

- a) Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition;
- b) Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team;
- c) Accept a bet on any team representing the institution;
- d) Solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) that has any tangible value; or
- e) Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling.

Sanctions.

Prospective or enrolled student-athletes found in violation of the provisions of this regulation shall be ineligible for further intercollegiate competition, subject to appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of eligibility.

APPENDIX B: 2023-24 ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETINGS

Dates and Sites.

The Conference Fall Meetings are held in Farmington, Utah, unless otherwise noted. The 2023 Fall Meetings shall be held October 23-24, 2023. The 2023 Presidents' Meeting shall be held in November at a date to be determined.

The Spring Meetings are held via a rotating schedule, unless otherwise noted. The 2024 Spring Meetings will be hosted by Portland State in Portland, Ore., May 28-29, 2024. The 2024 Presidents' Meeting shall be held at the same location May 29-30, 2024.

Annual Council Chair Rotation and Spring Meeting Host

Year	Council of ADs	Council of SWAs	Council of FARs	Spring Meeting Host
2023-24	Idaho	Eastern Washington	Northern Colorado	Portland State
2024-25	Montana	Weber State	Idaho	Idaho State
2025-26	Northern Colorado	Northern Arizona	Eastern Washington	Montana
2026-27	Sacramento State	Idaho	Montana State	Weber State
2027-28	Weber State	Portland State	Montana	Eastern Washington
2028-29	Portland State	Montana	Sacramento State	Northern Arizona
2029-30	Northern Arizona	Northern Colorado	Portland State	Sacramento State
2030-31	Idaho	Sacramento State	Northern Arizona	Montana State
2031-32	Eastern Washington	Montana State	Idaho State	Northern Colorado
2032-33	Montana State	Idaho State	Weber State	Idaho

APPENDIX C: NOISEMAKER POLICY

Football.

"Spectators shall not be allowed to have musical instruments or amplified artificial noisemakers (e.g., *Vuvuzelas, duck calls*) in the game facility." (See Rule 17.3)

Due to the outdoor nature of football (except the University of Idaho, Idaho State University and Northern Arizona University football, although given the same leeway), Thunder Sticks, cow bells, clappers and such items are allowed as they are not "amplified". Small novelty megaphones are also permissible. Only cheer squads may use large megaphones.

Basketball, Softball, and Volleyball.

Noisemakers are not allowed in basketball, softball, and volleyball.

"Artificial noisemakers, air horns (*including Vuvuzelas and duck calls*), whistles, balloons and electronic amplifiers (*except as a component of a band*) are not permissible." (See Rules 16.1, 19.1, and 21.1)

APPENDIX D: AWARDS AND HONORS SYSTEM

Conference Awards and Honors System.

All the Conference-sponsored awards and honors available for each sport are described below.

Statement of Philosophy for Awards.

The purpose of the Conference awards system is to recognize and honor academic and competitive excellence at the Conference level. To accomplish this goal, the following awards are provided:

- a) Regular-Season Champions, Team: A trophy for the team that wins the Conference regular-season in all Conference-sponsored sports.
- b) Tournament Champions, Team: A trophy for the team that wins the Conference tournament in all sports where a tournament is held just to determine the NCAA automatic qualifier.
- c) Individual Awards:
 - Olympic-style medals: Olympic-style medals will be awarded to each individual of the team that wins the Big Sky championship and the top three (3) finishers in each indoor and outdoor track and field event.
 - i. Plaque: A small individual award will be provided to those listed in [Appendix E](#).

Academic All-Conference Award. [Adopted: 2018-10]

Following the sports' seasons in fall, winter, and spring, each institution will be asked to provide to the Conference office a list of that season's student-athletes who qualify for the award.

To be eligible for this award, a student-athlete must have:

- a) competed in at least half of the team's contests; and
- b) earned at least a 3.2 cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 scale) at the conclusion of the most recently completed term. Freshman student-athletes are eligible to earn this award after they have completed one academic term at the current Member institution.
 - i. Transfer student-athletes are eligible to earn the award after they have completed one academic term at the current Member institution; the GPA considered will be that earned at the Conference institution.
 - ii. Softball pitchers can be considered for the award if they competed in at least 30 percent of their institution's games.
 - iii. Track and Field student-athletes may be considered for the award if they compete at or qualify for the Conference Championship.
 - iv. Cross Country student-athletes may qualify by being one of the eight (8) individuals on the team's Championship roster.
 - v. If a student-athlete cannot participate in any sport due to injury or illness but meets all other criteria and participates in most contests once deemed medically able to participate, the student-athlete will be named an Academic All-Conference member but will not be counted toward the Presidents' Cup points for that institution for that year.

Academic Team Champion Award.

The Conference will award a Team Academic Champion to the program in each conference sport with the best Team GPA of the current academic calendar. This award is based on annual team GPAs rather than cumulative and the Conference will request that data at the end of the academic year. [Adopted: 2022]

All-Conference Award.

ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS			
<i>Sport</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
Basketball	7	6	5
Cross Country	10		
Football	37	37	37
Women's Golf	7	7	5
Men's Golf	5		5
Soccer	12	12	
Softball	12	12	3 Vote Minimum
Tennis	7S/4D	7S/4D	3 Vote Minimum. <i>Cap at 3S/3D</i>
Volleyball	10	10	
Track & Field	Top 3		

All-Conference teams will be selected in each Conference-sponsored sport. A student-athlete under current suspension is not eligible for nomination or selection. A student-athlete must receive a minimum of three (3) coaches' votes in order to earn Honorable Mention on any team. Wildcards are not permitted in any sport.

In cross country, the All-Conference team shall consist of the top ten (10) finishers. In indoor and outdoor track and field, the All-Conference team shall consist of the top three (3) finishers in each event, including relays.

In golf, the All-Conference team will be selected following the conclusion of the regular season using a point system based on the Golfstat National Ranking, the Golf Week National Ranking, and the adjusted score to par provided by Golfstat. Student-athletes will receive points based on ranking in the three (3) categories. For the men and the women, the five (5) lowest point totals will be selected as First Team. In women, the next five (5) will be selected as Second Team. Honorable Mention will be the next five (5) lowest totals for both men and women. In the event of a tie, the first tie-breaker criterion is head-to-head results among the tied golfers, followed by the National GolfStat Ranking. To qualify for this award, a student-athlete must have been in the starting line-up in at least half of his or her team's events.

In all other sports, only head coaches may vote for All-Conference players. Specific instructions for All-Conference selection will be sent to head coaches prior to the voting. The Conference office's communications staff will issue a call for nominations prior to the conclusion of the regular season. In tennis, the Conference office's communication staff shall issue a call for nominations at the conclusion of the Conference tournament.

Coaches will nominate their players and return the nominations to the Conference office. Ballots will be sent to each head coach with specific voting instructions. In football, a virtual will be scheduled. Votes will be tabulated by the Conference office and results will be released prior to post-season play. Coaches may not vote for their own student-athletes.

All-Sports Award.

The All-Sports Award shall be presented to the institution accumulating the most points during the year in men's sports and women's sports. There shall be two (2) All-Sports Awards: one (1) for men's sports and one (1) for women's sports. Points shall be awarded only in Conference-sponsored sports. In basketball, soccer, football, tennis, softball, and volleyball, the all-sports points shall be awarded based on the regular-season standings. In all other sports, all-sports points shall be awarded based on Conference tournament/championship results. Member institutions or teams not eligible to compete for the Conference championship in a particular sport will not be awarded any all-sports points in that sport. Affiliate Members will not be awarded points, but Members shall not move into those vacant slots and be awarded points.

Institutional scores are calculated by dividing total points by the number of Conference-sponsored sports the institution sponsors. Indoor and outdoor track and field all-sports points are averaged to create one (1) point for track and field. In the event of a tie between teams in games won and lost in the final Conference standings, the points will be shared among the tied teams.

Points shall be awarded as follows:

Sport	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Football	13	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Women's Basketball	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Men's Basketball	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Volleyball	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Men's Outdoor	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Women's Outdoor	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Men's Indoor	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Women's Indoor	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Men's Cross Country	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Women's Cross Country	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Men's Tennis	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-	-
Women's Tennis	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-	-
Men's Golf	5	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Women's Golf	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Soccer	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-	-
Softball	7	5	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Athlete of the Week Award.

The Athlete of the Week Award is selected by the Conference office to recognize outstanding performances each week in each Conference-sponsored sport. A student-athlete under current suspension is not eligible for nomination or selection of this award. In cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field, an Athlete of the Week will be selected each week during the season that at least four institutions have competed. In all other sports, an Athlete of the Week will be reflected each week during the season that at least one institution has competed.

Coach of the Year Award.

Coach of the Year shall be selected by means of a poll of the coaches conducted by the Conference office after the Conference Championship (*for cross country, golf, tennis, and track and field*) or at the conclusion of regular-season competition (*for all other sports*). Selections must be made prior to regional and national Coach of the Year selections. A coach under current suspension is not eligible for nomination or selection of this award.

Individual Awards.

Individual awards (*e.g., Freshman of the Year, Player of the Year*) will be presented on a sport-by-sport basis.

In golf, the Player of the Year will be awarded to the player with the lowest point total following the regular season. To qualify for this award, a student-athlete must have been in the starting line-up in at least half of his or her team's events. The Freshman of the Year will be awarded to the freshman with the lowest point total following the regular season. To qualify for this award, a student-athlete must have been in the starting line-up in at least half of his or her team's events.

In softball, the Defensive Player of the Year shall not be awarded to a pitcher. [Adopted: 2019-3]

In track and field, the Most Valuable Athlete is awarded to the athlete with the highest combined individual score through all events at the Conference championship meet. The point total does not include points scored as part of a relay team. The Most Outstanding Performer is awarded to the athlete whose individual single event mark produced the highest rating on the Collegiate T&F Scoring Table (*provided by the NCAA*) in the finals at the Conference championship meet. These marks are adjusted for elevation and track size. The Freshman of the Year is awarded to the freshman with the highest combined individual score through all events at the Conference championship meet. The point total does not include points scored as part of a relay team. [Adopted: 2021-2]

Presidents' Cup Award.

The Presidents' Cup Award shall be presented to the institution that excels both academically and athletically. The Presidents' Cup is a combination of academic criteria and All-Sports Points. The Conference office sends out a data request with specific instructions on the submission process, which must be verified by each campus FAR. The following process shall be used:

Academic Tier.

- a) Annual APR scores for each institution shall be ranked 1-11 in order of score with a score of 1 indicating the top APR. All student-athletes in an institution's APR cohort shall be included. Only one APR score for track and field may be used.
- b) Annual GPAs for each team will be calculated to determine the institutional GPA (*no transfer GPAs should be included*), which is then ranked 1-11 with a score of 1 indicating the highest institutional GPA.
- c) GPAs submitted shall only be institutional GPAs and determined via Quality Points (QP) and Quality Credit Hours (QCH). GPAs must be calculated on a 4.0 scale. Any GPAs submitted above a 4.0 will be reviewed as appropriate by the Presidents' Cup Committee.
- d) Any student-athletes on the squad list on the day of the team's first competition in the championship segment must be included in the GPA calculations.
- e) Indoor and outdoor track student-athletes' GPAs shall be counted one time.

Athletic Tier.

Points shall be based off of All-Sports Trophy points and ranked 1-11, with 1 indicating the highest total All-Sports points among all institutions.

Total.

Total Athletic Tier standings shall be added to Total Academic Tier standings and ranked 1-11, with 1 indicating the lowest total. The institution with the lowest total score shall be awarded the Presidents' Cup Trophy.

Tie Breaker.

In the case of a tie for first place, the following process shall be used:

- a) Combine the Athletic Tier Standing and the Total Academic Points earned for each institution.
- b) The institution with the lowest total number wins the Presidents' Cup.
- c) If a tie remains after the initial tiebreak, both teams will share the Presidents' Cup title for that year.
- d) Institutions that tie beneath first place will be allowed to remain tied and receive the credit for that placement.

Scholar-Athlete Award.

Each year, the most outstanding female and male scholar-athlete from each institution shall be awarded the Big Sky Conference Scholar-Athlete Award. To be eligible for this award, the student-athlete must have:

- a) Exhausted his or her intercollegiate athletic eligibility and/or be a member of the graduating class;
- b) Earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 (on a 4.0) scale;
- c) Been a participant in a Conference-sponsored sport;
- d) Completed at least two (2) years of intercollegiate competition at the institution; and
- e) Been a letter winner.

The GPA of a Scholar-Athlete shall not be released. Each institution shall select the award winners and submit the following information to the Conference office:

- a) Name;
- b) Major;
- c) Cumulative GPA;
- d) Sport in which the student-athlete participated; and
- e) Class in school.

The Conference shall sponsor a Conference Honor Roll scroll that shall recognize all Scholar Athletes. Each Member institution shall receive a placard with the name of the Scholar Athletes engraved on it.

APPENDIX E: AWARDS CHART

Sport	Team Awards	Individual Small Awards	Individual Large Awards	Individual Medals	Certificates
Basketball	1 st Place (Regular Season) 1 st Place (Championship)	All-Tournament Team (6) All-Conference (1st Team)	Regular-Season MVP Coach of the Year Newcomer of the Year Freshman of the Year Defensive Player of the Year Top Reserve Championship MVP All-Tournament Team	1st Place Team (22)	All- Academic All-Conference Player of the Week All-Defensive Team
Cross Country	1 st Place	2 nd - 10 th Place (9)	Coach of the Year Individual Champion Freshman of the Year	1 st Place Team (10)	All-Conference Academic All-Conference Athlete of the Week
Football	1 st Place	1 st Team – All-Conference	Defensive MVP Offensive MVP Newcomer of the Year Freshman of the Year Coach of the Year	N/A	All- Academic 2 nd , HM All-Conf. Community Service Team Player of the Week (Off/Def/ST)
Golf	1 st Place	2 nd - 5 th Place All-Conference	Medalist Plaque Coach of the Year (M) Jeff Smith Coach of the Year (W) Player of the Year Freshman of the Year	1 st Place Team (10)	All- Academic All-Conference Player of the Week
Soccer	1 st Place (Regular Season) 1 st Place (Championship)	All-Tournament Team (12) 1 st Team All-Conference	Newcomer of the Year Golden Boot Freshman of the Year Regular-Season Offensive MVP Regular-Season Defensive MVP Goalkeeper of the Year Coach of Year Championship MVP All-Tournament Team	1 st Place Team (32)	All- Academic All-Conference Player of the Week (Off/Def)
Tennis	1 st Place (Regular Season) 1 st Place (Championship)	1 st Team All-Conference (Singles and Doubles)	Regular Season MVP Championship MVP Coach of the Year Freshman of the Year	1 st Place Team (10)	All- Academic All-Conference Player of the Week
Indoor Track	1 st Place	N/A	Coach of the Year Freshman of the Year <u>Championship</u> Most Outstanding Performer Most Valuable Athlete	1 st Place Team (30) Top 3 in each event	All- Academic All-Conference Player of the Week
Outdoor Track	1 st Place	N/A	Coach of the Year Freshman of the Year <u>Championship</u> Most Outstanding Performer Most Valuable Athlete	1 st Place Team (32) Top 3 in each event	All- Academic All-Conference Player of the Week
Volleyball	1 st Place (Regular Season) 1 st Place (Championship)	All-Tournament Team (7) 1 st Team All-Conference	Regular-Season MVP Newcomer of the Year Libero of the Year Setter of the Year Freshman of the Year Coach of the Year Championship MVP All-Tournament Team	1 st Place Team (22)	All- Academic All-Conference Player of the Week (Off/Def)
Softball	1 st Place (Regular Season) 1 st Place (Championship)	All-Tournament Team (11) 1 st Team All-Conference	Regular-Season MVP Coach of the Year Freshman of the Year Newcomer of the Year Pitcher of the Year Championship MVP All-Tournament Team Defensive Player of the Year	1 st Place Team (25)	All- Academic All-Conference Player of the Week Pitcher of the Week

APPENDIX F: BIG SKY CHAMPIONSHIP HOTEL GUIDELINES

Select Hospitality shall arrange lodging accommodations for all institutions. Institutions are required to stay in the hotel arranged for it by Select Hospitality. In order to provide an enhanced championship experience for our student-athletes, coaches, administrators and fans, the following guidelines are considered when choosing a hotel for Big Sky Championships.

BASIC AMENITIES (MINIMUM EXPECTATION)	
Wireless Internet in Rooms	
Interior Room Doors	
Double Bedrooms	
Located in a Safe Area	
Free or Reasonably Priced Hot Breakfast	
TV's With HDMI Cable Plug-in Capabilities	
Located within 10 Miles of Playing Site (<i>unforeseen circumstances exempted</i>)	
Meeting Rooms	
Access to Fitness Room	
Flexibility on Early Check-Ins and Late Check-Outs	
PREFERRED AMENITIES	
Complimentary Hot/Full Breakfast	
Free Wireless Internet	
Suites	
Free On-Site Parking	
Complimentary Suite for Head Coach	
Refrigerator/Microwave in Room	
Restaurants Within Walking Distance	

APPENDIX G: MANDATORY CPR CERTIFICATION

For the safety of student-athletes and bystanders, and to comply with NCAA recommendations, all personnel at Big Sky Conference institutions responsible for supervising practices, competitions, skill-instruction, and strength conditioning shall be certified and current in CPR training.

APPENDIX H: TENNIS PROTEST PROCEDURES

Tennis Line-Up Protest.

For the Big Sky Conference Tennis Protest Committee to consider a lineup protest from a Big Sky Conference match, the following procedure must be followed.

- a) Written protests must be made within 48 hours of the start of the match.
- b) If a coach feels that the opponent's lineup as presented is unfair, he/she must notify the designated Referee and opposing coach of the protest.
- c) A coach who submits a protest after the completion of the match must first inform the opposing coach in writing (*via e-mail*), with a copy sent at the same time to the Big Sky Conference office. This is necessary even when the opposing coach and designated Referee were informed of the protest at the time of the match.
- d) Coaches will be allowed to protest a violation of the ITA *one position move* rule (*ITA Regulation I.F.4*), even if the coach is not directly involved with the match. This means that if a coach is not competing against a team whose lineup is in violation, the coach can report the infraction to the Conference.
- e) The "Match Protest Form" must be emailed to Jaynee Nadolski (jnadolski@bigskyconf.com).
- f) When the Big Sky Conference office receives a Match Protest Form the office will ask the institution being challenged to submit an appropriate response in writing. When appropriate, the official will also be asked to provide further explanation in writing.
- g) Once all the necessary information has been collected, the Big Sky Conference Tennis Protest Committee will convene via conference call to review and issue a ruling.
- h) The Tennis Protest Committee may choose to process the violation as a Level I or Level II Violation.

Level I Violation.

A blatant and intentional violation of ITA and/or Big Sky Conference rules resulting in a reversal of the match results (*if applicable*) or re-ordering of championship line-ups by the committee incurs a letter of notification/reprimand to the institution and coach.

Multiple Level I Violations may result in suspensions or fines as deemed appropriate by the Commissioner and Ethical Conduct & Violations Committee. Furthermore, The Commissioner has the discretion to determine whether sanctions are public or private.

Level II Violation.

A violation of Big Sky Conference Code of Conduct, ethical conduct, integrity and/or sportsmanship will result in a letter of notification/reprimand to the institution and coach. Multiple Level II violations by the same individual and of a similar nature could result in the violation being processed as a Level I violation.

Tennis Protest Committee.

The following individuals serve on the Tennis Protest Committee: Big Sky Conference Sport Administrator, Sport Administrative Liaison, the Tennis Coaches Chair (*If the Chair or liaison's institution is involved in the protest, they will recuse him/herself and the Conference will randomly select replacements*), the ITA/UTSA official involved, the chair of the Ethical Conduct & Violations Committee, and at least one ex-officio coach.

APPENDIX I: 2023-24 BIG SKY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL 2023		
Administrators' Meeting	October 22-23, 2023	Farmington, Utah
Presidents' Council Meeting	November 20, 2023	Farmington, Utah
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024		
Athletic Directors' Meeting	March 10, 2024	Boise, Idaho
Presidents' Council Meeting	March 11, 2024	Boise, Idaho
SPRING 2024		
Administrators' Meeting	May 28-29, 2024	Portland, Ore.
Presidents' Council Meeting	May 29-30, 2024	Portland, Ore.
SUMMER 2024		
Football Kickoff Media Day	July TBA	Spokane, Washington
SAAC Meeting	July TBA	Farmington, Utah

APPENDIX J: 2023-24 COACHES MEETING CALENDAR

Coaches Meeting	Date	Location	Liaisons
Volleyball	February 6, 2024	Farmington, Utah	Jayne Nadolski – Big Sky Kayla Morgan – Weber State SWA Allison Lawrence, UM - ©
Soccer	February 8, 2024	Virtual	Alana Baron – Big Sky Jamie Rizzuto – Montana State SWA Craig Sanders, WSU - ©
Football	February 13, 2024	Farmington, Utah	Dan Satter – Big Sky Mark Orr – Sacramento State AD Aaron Best, EWU - ©
Women's Basketball	April 16, 2024	Farmington, Utah	Jayne Nadolski – Big Sky Jean Gee – Montana SWA Joddie Gleason, EWU - ©
Men's Basketball	April 17, 2024	Farmington, Utah	Dan Satter – Big Sky Tim Crompton – Weber State AD Ryan Looney, ISU - ©
Men's Golf	June 10, 2024	Farmington, Utah	Jon Kasper – Big Sky Catherine Walker – Eastern Washington, SWA Clayton Sikorski, UNC - ©
Women's Golf	June 11, 2024	Farmington, Utah	Jon Kasper – Big Sky Pamm Zierfuss-Hubbard – Sacramento State, SWA Bill Winter, PSU - ©
Tennis	June 17, 2024	Virtual	Jayne Nadolski – Big Sky Terry Gawlik – Idaho AD Gretchen Maloney, ISU - ©
Track/Cross Country	June 18, 2024	Virtual	Tyler Jaros – Big Sky Robyn Sharp – Idaho State SWA Lyle Weese, MSU - ©
Softball	June 19, 2024	Farmington, Utah	Tyler Jaros – Big Sky Darren Dunn – Northern Colorado AD Mary Kay Minor, WSU - ©

APPENDIX K: CONFERENCE MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS FOR DUE DILIGENCE INQUIRIES

Serious Misconduct Questionnaire.

1. Have you been convicted of, pled guilty or no contest to any crime involving:
 - a) Sexual Violence
 - b) Dating Violence
 - c) Stalking
 - d) Sexual Exploitation
 - e) Assault with a Deadly Weapon
 - f) Assault That Causes Bodily Injury
 - g) No, I have not
2. Do you have criminal charges, juvenile proceedings, or civil proceedings pending against you, any of which involves an act of sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or sexual exploitation, and assault with a deadly weapon and/or assault that caused serious body injury?
3. Have you been adjudicated responsible, at fault (*or any similar determination regardless of how labelled*) in any juvenile proceeding for an act involving:
 - a) Sexual Violence
 - b) Dating Violence
 - c) Stalking
 - d) Sexual Exploitation
 - e) Assault with a Deadly Weapon
 - f) Assault That Causes Bodily Injury
 - g) No, I have not
4. Have you been disciplined, suspended or placed on probation at any previous collegiate or high school institution for sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, assault with a deadly weapon or assault that caused serious bodily injury?
5. At the time you left any of your previous institution(s), were you the subject of a pending proceeding that could have resulted in a disciplinary measure, suspension, expulsion or probation as it relates to sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, assault with a deadly weapon or assault that caused serious bodily injury?
6. Are you currently the subject of a proceeding that could result in a disciplinary measure, suspension, expulsion or probation as it relates to sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, assault with a deadly weapon or assault that caused serious bodily injury at your current institution?

APPENDIX L: CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP ATC REQUIREMENTS

Concussion Management Policy.

The NCAA requires all active Member institutions to have a concussion management plan for their student-athletes. Traveling institutions shall follow their concussion management plan while participating in Big Sky Championships.

Championship Hosted by the Big Sky at a Neutral Site.

If a participating team lacks appropriate medical staff to activate its concussion management plan, the championship physician/trainer will examine the student-athlete and will determine medical clearance.

Championship Hosted by an Institution.

If a participating team lacks appropriate medical staff to activate its concussion management plan, the host institution's concussion management plan will be activated.

Emergency Plan.

The host should provide:

- a) an emergency plan that outlines planned access to a medical facility, including communication and transportation directions between the athletic site and a health care facility for prompt medical services.
- b) a thorough review by the host of the plan so that all parties, including the leadership of visiting teams, know the personnel and procedures involved.

Championship Requirements.

For the following championships, teams are required to travel with an ATC:

- a) Cross Country
- b) Tennis

For the following championships, teams are strongly encouraged to travel with an ATC:

- a) Golf
- b) Soccer
- c) Softball
- d) Track and Field
- e) Volleyball

Championship Host Requirements.

The following shall be provided at each Big Sky Championship:

- a) adequate medical and athletic training facilities and supplies.
- b) a certified athletic trainer at all championship competitions and practices.
- c) planned access to a physician and a medical facility, including communication and transportation between the championship site and the medical facility, so that prompt medical service is available.
- d) the training room shall be open at least two hours before competition and one hour before practice times.

Modalities.

The following will be available to all visiting athletic trainers:

- a) Ice
- b) Whirlpools or ability to submerge
- c) Hydrocollator and packs
- d) Ultrasound
- e) Muscle stimulation
- f) AED

Medical Coverage / Athletic Training Responsibilities.

Pre-Championship:

- a) Host ATC is responsible for disseminating athletic training information to all participating teams.
- b) Each competing institution shall be informed of the availability of athletic training equipment and is responsible for its own athletic training supplies.
- c) Teams must provide a written request for treatment of a student-athlete if a team is traveling without a certified athletic trainer.

Practices and Competition:

- a) Host shall ensure there is planned access to a physician and a medical facility, including communication and transportation between the championship site and the medical facility, so that prompt medical service is available.

Day of Competition:

Host ATC shall be responsible to provide:

- a) Water and cups in any locker rooms and at the competition site
- b) Ice bags
- c) Ice cups
- d) Wraps

Championship Specific Requirements.

In the following sports, the host is required to have an EMT/Ambulance on site.

- a) Basketball
- b) Soccer
- c) Softball
- d) Track & Field

In the following sports, it is recommended that an EMT/Ambulance are on site. If not on site, the response time to the site be no more than 5-10 minutes.

- a) Cross Country
- b) Golf
- c) Tennis
- d) Volleyball

*Hosts are encouraged to evaluate each championship to determine whether an ambulance is needed on site.

Golf Requirements.

In addition to standard emergency equipment, the host is required to:

- a) ensure that the ATC has mobility to access athletes on the course (*e.g., golf cart*) as necessary
- b) ensure the ATC has access to a radio to provide constant communication on the course

Tennis Guidelines.

In addition to standard emergency equipment, the host should provide a treatment table.

APPENDIX M: COMMON ACRONYMS

BIG SKY ACRONYMS	
<i>Acronym</i>	<i>Full Name</i>
AD	Athletic Director
BRC	Budget Review Committee
BSC	Big Sky Conference
CC	Conference Council
EAC	Emergency Action Committee
ECVC	Ethical Conduct and Violations Committee
FAR	Faculty Athletics Representative
FBS	Football Bowl Subdivision
FCS	Football Championship Subdivision
LRC	Legislative Review Committee
MTC	Media and Technology Committee
NCAA	National Collegiate Athletic Association
OSC	Olympic Sport Committee
PC	President's Council
PCC	Presidents' Cup Committee
SAAC	Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
SCMC	Sports and Championship Management Committee
SMR	Serious Misconduct Rule
SWA	Senior Woman Administrator

APPENDIX N: 2023-24 CHAMPIONSHIPS

SCHEDULE

2023-24 BIG SKY CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE			
<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Host</i>
Men's & Women's Cross Country	Oct. 27, 2023	Missoula, Mont.	Montana
Soccer	Nov. 1, 3, 5, 2023	Flagstaff, Ariz.	Northern Arizona
Volleyball	Nov. 22-24, 2023	Greeley, Colo.	Northern Colorado
Men's & Women's Indoor Track & Field	Feb. 22-24, 2024	Spokane, Wash. <i>The Podium</i>	Eastern Washington
Men's & Women's Basketball	March 9-13, 2024	Boise, Idaho	Big Sky Conference
Women's Golf	April 15-17, 2024	TBD	Sacramento State
Men's Golf	April 22-24, 2024	TBD	Weber State
Men's & Women's Tennis	April 25-27, 2024	Phoenix, Ariz.	Idaho State
Softball	May 8-11, 2024	Pocatello, Idaho	Idaho State
Men's & Women's Outdoor Track & Field	May 8-11, 2024	Bozeman, Mont.	Montana State

APPENDIX O: FOOTBALL AFFILIATE BASKETBALL GAME ROTATION

		CAL POLY				UC DAVIS			
		MEN		WOMEN		MEN		WOMEN	
		HOME (CP at home)	AWAY (CP is away)	HOME (CP at home)	AWAY (CP is away)	HOME (UCD at home)	AWAY (UCD is away)	HOME (UCD at home)	AWAY (UCD is away)
1	2021 - 22	WSU	PSU	MSU	NAU	SAC	EWU	WSU	SAC
2	2022 - 23	PSU	WSU	NAU	MSU	EWU	SAC	SAC	WSU
3	2023 - 24	UNC	NAU	UM	UI	SAC	UI	PSU	SAC
4	2024 - 25	NAU	UNC	UI	UM	UI	SAC	SAC	PSU
5	2025 - 26	MSU	UM	ISU	EWU	SAC	ISU	UNC	SAC
6	2026 - 27	UM	MSU	EWU	ISU	ISU	SAC	SAC	UNC
7	2027 - 28	ISU	UI	UNC	WSU	SAC	UM	NAU	SAC
8	2028 - 29	UI	ISU	WSU	UNC	UM	SAC	SAC	NAU
9	2029 - 30	EWU	SAC	SAC	PSU	SAC	MSU	MSU	SAC
10	2030 - 31	SAC	EWU	PSU	SAC	MSU	SAC	SAC	MSU
11	2031 - 32	PSU	WSU	NAU	MSU	SAC	NAU	UM	SAC
12	2032 - 33	WSU	PSU	MSU	NAU	NAU	SAC	SAC	UM
13	2033 - 34	NAU	MSU	UI	UM	SAC	UNC	ISU	SAC
14	2034 - 35	MSU	NAU	UM	UI	UNC	SAC	SAC	ISU
15	2035 - 36	UM	UNC	EWU	ISU	SAC	PSU	UI	SAC
16	2036 - 37	UNC	UM	ISU	EWU	PSU	SAC	SAC	UI
17	2037 - 38	UI	ISU	WSU	UNC	SAC	WSU	EWU	SAC
18	2038 - 39	ISU	UI	UNC	WSU	WSU	SAC	SAC	EWU
19	2039 - 40	EWU	SAC	SAC	PSU	SAC	UI	WSU	SAC
20	2040 - 41	SAC	EWU	PSU	SAC	UI	SAC	SAC	WSU

APPENDIX P: TENNIS SCHEDULE ROTATION

SCHOOL	ODD YEARS		EVEN YEARS	
EWU	<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>
	ISU	UI	UI	ISU
	NAU	UM	UM	NAU
	PSU	MSU	MSU	PSU
	WSU	SAC	SAC	WSU
UI	EWU	UM	UM	EWU
	WSU	MSU	MSU	WSU
	NAU	SAC	SAC	NAU
	PSU	ISU	ISU	PSU
ISU	UI	EWU	EWU	UM
	UM	MSU	MSU	UI
	NAU	PSU	PSU	NAU
	SAC	WSU	WSU	SAC
UM	EWU	ISU	ISU	EWU
	UI	NAU	NAU	UI
	MSU	SAC	SAC	MSU
	PSU	WSU	WSU	PSU
MSU	EWU	WSU	WSU	EWU
	UI	UM	UM	UI
	PSU	NAU	NAU	PSU
	ISU	SAC	SAC	ISU
NAU	UM	EWU	EWU	UM
	MSU	UI	UI	MSU
	SAC	ISU	ISU	SAC
	WSU	PSU	PSU	WSU
PSU	ISU	EWU	EWU	ISU
	NAU	UI	UI	NAU
	WSU	UM	UM	WSU
	SAC	MSU	MSU	SAC
SAC	EWU	ISU	ISU	EWU
	UI	NAU	NAU	UI
	UM	WSU	WSU	UM
	MSU	PSU	PSU	MSU
WSU	ISU	EWU	EWU	ISU
	UM	UI	UI	UM
	MSU	PSU	PSU	MSU
	SAC	NAU	NAU	SAC

*“Odd” and “Even” listed above refer to the year in which the team championship is played.
(e.g., Eastern Washington will host Idaho State in the 2024-25 academic year during the spring of 2025.)*

APPENDIX Q: STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE

The following outlines the timeline for institution's to complete specified requirements within the 2022-27 Big Sky Strategic Plan:

Immediate & Ongoing

- Create institutional plan to educate student-athletes who continue into professional sports.
- Celebrate student-athletes who are leaders on campus, within the conference and in their community.
- Ensure names of student-athletes and coaches are announced correctly and pronunciation guides are provided to PAs and broadcasters.

By Spring 2023

- Seek feedback from stakeholders on role and purpose of SAAC and promote the benefits of involvement in SAAC.

By Fall 2023

- Provide at least one FTE mental health therapist with designated responsibilities to student-athletes.
- Provide a fueling station for student-athletes.

By 2024-25 Season

- Allot a minimum of ten (10) percent of the member's total maximum declared cost of attendance calculated across its Big Sky-sponsored sports to be distributed at its discretion to Big Sky student-athletes.
- At a minimum, employ the specified number of coaches per sport listed below. Any uncompensated or student assistant coaches are permitted in addition to that number but must adhere to NCAA legislation.
 - Football – 11
 - Men's Basketball – 4
 - Women's Basketball – 4
 - Volleyball – 3
 - Soccer - 3
- Host annually a minimum of three (3) Division I non-conference, regular season home contests – some or all of which might be conference-contracted contests – in men's and women's basketball.
- Provide an annual minimum financial investment of \$50,000 for fueling stations for student-athletes.
- Provide student-athletes access to a nutritionist.
- Increased home competitions in soccer and softball.