

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

HANDBOOK

2020-21

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2020-21 Master Calendar

(as of 7/16/20)

July

Date	Event	Location
23	New Head Coaches & Administrators Orientation	Virtual
24	Academic Coordinators Meeting	Virtual

August

Date	Event	Location
3	Cross Country/Track & Field Coaches Meeting	Virtual
3	Football Media Day	Virtual
4	Football Media Day	Virtual
18	Men's Golf Coaches Meeting	Virtual
18	Women's Golf Coaches Meeting	Virtual
24	Softball Coaches Meeting	Virtual
26	Baseball Coaches Meeting	Virtual

September

Date	Event	Location
2	Women's Tennis Coaches Meeting	Virtual
3	Men's Tennis Coaches Meeting	Virtual
9	Gymnastics Coaches Meeting	Virtual
16	Women's Lacrosse Coaches Meeting	Virtual
22	Swimming & Diving Coaches Meeting	Virtual
23	Wrestling Coaches Meeting	Virtual

October

Date	Event	Location
11-12	Women Leaders in College Sports National Convention	Virtual
13	Infractions Committee	Virtual
13-14	Fall Joint Committee Meeting	Virtual
19	Council of Presidents Meeting	Virtual
19	Institutional Governmental Representatives Meeting	Virtual
31	Cross Country Championship	Ypsilanti, MI
TBD	Taking MACtion Summit	Virtual

November

Date	Event	Location
12	AD Bowl Conference Call	Virtual
20-21	Volleyball Championship	Campus Site-highest seed
19	AD Bowl Conference Call	Virtual
26	AD Bowl Conference Call	Virtual

December

Date	Event	Location
TBD	Football Championship Game	Detroit, MI
9	Field Hockey Coaches Meeting	Virtual
15	Women's Soccer Coaches Meeting	Virtual
16	Men's Soccer Coaches Meeting	Virtual
TBD	New Mexico Bowl	Albuquerque, NM
TBD	Famous Idaho Potato Bowl	Boise, ID
TBD	Bahamas Bowl	Nassau, Bahamas
TBD	Frisco Bowl	Frisco, TX
TBD	Cheribundi Boca Raton Bowl	Boca Raton, FL
TBD	Camellia Bowl	Montgomery, AL
TBD	Quick Lane Bowl	Detroit, MI
TBD	Myrtle Beach Bowl	Conway, SC
TBD	Cure Bowl	Orlando, FL
31	Arizona Bowl	Tucson, AZ

January 2020

Date	Event	Location
11	CFP National Championship Game	Miami, FL
13	Volleyball Coaches Meeting	Virtual
13-16	NCAA Convention	Washington, D.C.

February

Date	Event	Location
10	Council of Presidents	Virtual
20	Football Coaches Meeting	Virtual
18-20	Women's Swimming & Diving Championship	Ypsilanti, MI
25-27	Men's Swimming & Diving Championship	Oxford, OH
26-27	M/W Indoor Track & Field Championship	Mt. Pleasant, MI

March

Date	Event	Location
6-7	Wrestling Championship	Trenton, NJ
8-9	Compliance Coordinators Meeting	Virtual
10-13	MAC Basketball Tournament	Cleveland, OH
20	Gymnastics Championship	Kalamazoo, MI

April

Date	Event	Location
1	Women's Head Basketball Coaches Meeting	San Antonio, TX
2	Men's Head Basketball Coaches Meeting	Indianapolis, IN
2-4	Women's Basketball Final Four	San Antonio, TX
3-5	Men's Basketball Final Four	Indianapolis, IN
24-25	Women's Golf Championship (Hosted by Akron)	Silver Lake, OH
30-May 1	Men's Golf Championship (Hosted by Miami)	Ft. Wayne, IN

May

Date	Event	Location
6-8	Fiesta Bowl Spring Summit	Scottsdale, AZ
14-15	M/W Outdoor Track & Field Championship	TBD
25	Infractions Committee	Cleveland, OH
25-26	Spring Joint Committee Meetings	Cleveland, OH
26	Honors / Hall of Fame Dinner	Cleveland, OH
27	Council of Presidents	Cleveland, OH
26-28	COSA Symposium	Cleveland, OH

June

Date	Event	Location
10-17	NACDA Convention	Orlando, FL

Mid-American Conference
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Conference Staff

Name, Title	Ext.	Cell Phone
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Julie Kachner, Executive Assistant to Commissioner	311	330.289.0691
Bob Gennarelli, Deputy Commissioner/Chief Operating Officer (COO)	308	216.392.1350
Betty Sislak, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	328	216.409.4550
Jeff Bacon, Sr. Associate Commissioner/Championships & Sport Development	316	330.283.2819
Ricky Stokes, Sr. Associate Commissioner/Men's & Women's Basketball	307	216.785.0400
Kristin Williams, Associate Commissioner/Institutional Services/SWA	318	408.529.4960
Kerri Camardo, Assistant Commissioner/ FB Operations & External Relations	324	440.567.0920
Jeremy Guy, Assistant Commissioner/Communications	303	440.487.6915
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Heather Klatt, Director of Visual and Creative Content	319	419.460.4745
Rachel Konieczki, Director of Men's and Women's Basketball Operations	304	815-520-2153
Eric Kwiatkowski, Director of Communications	301	216.469.8935

Mid-American Conference Marketing / JMI Sports

Pete Kahler / Director of Sponsorship Sales	305	313.949.1423

Office Hours/Holidays

Office hours for the MAC Office are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The office will observe the following holidays during the 2020-21 school year:

Labor Day – September 7
Thanksgiving – November 26-27
Holiday – December 23-January 4
Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 18
Presidents Day – February 15
Memorial Day – May 31
Juneteenth – June 18
Independence Day Holiday – July 2

2020-21 Mid-American Conference
Coordinators of Officials

Baseball
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Women's Lacrosse
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Mid-American Conference
Quick Reference Guide - MAC Joint Council

Council of Presidents

Name	Phone	E-Mail
Dr. Gary Miller, The University of Akron	330.972.7869	garymiller@uakron.edu
Dr. Geoffrey Mearns, Ball State University	765.285.5555	gsmearns@bsu.edu
Dr. Rodney Rogers, Bowling Green State University	419.372.2211	rrogers@bgsu.edu
Dr. Satish Tripathi, The University at Buffalo	716.645.6269	tripathi@buffalo.edu
Dr. Robert Davies, Central Michigan University	989.774.3131	davielro@cmich.edu
Dr. James M. Smith, Eastern Michigan University	734.487.2211	jmsmith@emich.edu
Dr. Todd Diacon, Kent State University	330.672.2210	tdiacon@kent.edu
Dr. Gregory Crawford, Miami University	513.529.2346	crawfogp@miamioh.edu
Dr. Lisa Freeman, Northern Illinois University	815.753.9500	lfreeman1@niu.edu
Dr. Duane Nellis, Ohio University	740.593.1804	nellis@ohio.edu
Dr. Gregory Postel, The University of Toledo	419.530.2211	gregory.postel@utoledo.edu
Dr. Edward Montgomery, Western Michigan University	269.387.2351	edward.montgomery@wmich.edu

Council of Directors of Athletics

Name	Phone	E-Mail
Larry Williams, The University of Akron	330.972.6688	lwilliams@uakron.edu
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Council of Senior Administrators

Name	Phone	E-Mail
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Council of Faculty Athletic Representatives

Name	Phone	E-Mail
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Mission Statement

Founded in 1946, the Mid-American Conference is an association of Universities dedicated to maximizing the academic, athletic and personal development of its student-athletes while competing at the NCAA's highest level. Consistent with the educational missions of its members, the Mid-American Conference is dedicated to the principles of sportsmanship, integrity, diversity, inclusion and equity, offering opportunities for leadership development through participation in successful, highly competitive, broad-based programs.

Core Values

Academic Achievement

Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

Fiscal Responsibility

Integrity

Sportsmanship

Student-Athlete Well-Being

Constitution of the Mid-American Conference

Preamble

Believing that intercollegiate competition in athletics is not an end in itself but one phase of the general educational program and, as such, should be subject to administrative and faculty direction and control, we do associate ourselves for the purpose of providing a regular and orderly means of competition between the teams of student-athletes at our respective institutions.

Article I – Name

This organization shall be known as the MID-AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE, INC. (MAC).

Article II – Purposes

The name of this incorporated association shall be Mid-American Athletic Conference, Inc. (hereinafter called the "Conference"). The members of the Mid-American Athletic Conference ascribe to:

A. Academic and athletic achievement, which will provide every student-athlete the opportunity to graduate.
B. Compliance with and vigilant enforcement of Conference and NCAA rules.
C. Adherence to the principles of amateurism in intercollegiate athletics.
D. Quality athletic opportunities for student-athletes.
E. Diverse representative of viewpoints in the governance of the Conference.
F. Presidential authority and faculty control over intercollegiate athletic programs.
G. Fair play and sportsmanship in the conduct of intercollegiate competition.
H. Broad-based equitable opportunities for men and women student-athletes, coaches and administrators.

Article III - Conference Law

The Conference shall be governed by its adopted Constitution, Bylaws, operating code, compliance and enforcement regulations, administrative rules, and sports policies and regulations.

In accordance with the accepted policies of affirmative action and equal opportunity, there shall be no discrimination with respect to race, religion, sex, gender or national origin in the conduct of the Conference office or of the intercollegiate athletic programs of its member institutions.

Only institutions that are recognized with full membership privileges may vote on Constitutional and Bylaw issues. Sport-affiliated member institutions may vote on all issues relating to their respective sport participation.

Article IV – Membership

Membership in the Conference shall consist of institutions of collegiate grade adhering to common standards of intercollegiate athletic competition and voluntarily associated in the operation of this Conference. This includes the recognition that all members of the Mid-American Conference are Division I-A as defined by the membership standards of the NCAA.

A. Present Membership	**Founded**	**Joined**
Ohio University (charter member)	(1804)	(1946)
Miami University	(1809)	(1947)
Western Michigan University	(1903)	(1947)
Kent State University	(1910)	(1951)
Toledo, The University of	(1870)	(1951)
Bowling Green State University	(1910)	(1952)
Central Michigan University	(1892)	(1972)
Eastern Michigan University	(1849)	(1972)
Ball State University	(1918)	(1973)
Akron, The University of	(1870)	(1992)
Northern Illinois University	(1899)	(1997)
State University of New York at Buffalo	(1846)	(1998)

B. New Members

1. New members may be admitted upon written application filed with the chairperson of the Council of Presidents, and upon approval of such application by the affirmative vote of all or not more than one negative vote of the member institutions.

2. New members shall be assessed an admissions fee as determined by the Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents.

3. New members shall be added to the foregoing roster of members, not by alphabetical order, but in the chronological sequence of admission.

C. Affiliate Membership

1. The concept of Mid-American Conference affiliate membership has been developed to achieve the following objectives: gain or protect automatic qualifier status for all Conference championships, enhance scheduling opportunities, create exposure, and strengthen the long-term viability of all sports within the Mid-American Conference.

2. The Executive Council shall review all affiliate membership applications and make recommendations to the Joint Committee. The recommendations of the Joint Committee shall be forwarded to the Council of Presidents. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the COP will initiate a formal invitation from the Conference in the form of a Mid-American Conference Affiliate Membership Agreement.

3. The initial period of affiliate membership shall be determined by the COP and may be renewed on an annual or multi-year basis thereafter by the Council of Presidents. The fee for affiliate membership shall be determined on an annual or multi-year basis by the COP.

4. An affiliate member may attend sport-specific meetings pertinent to the sport(s) it participates in but shall not be entitled to attend any meetings of the Mid-American Conference Joint Committee or Council of Presidents. Additionally, an affiliate member shall not be entitled to receive a share of any income received by the Mid-American Conference or its member institutions. The above provisions may be modified by the express authorization of the Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents.

Present Affiliate Membership (Sport)	Founded	Joined
Appalachian State University (Field Hockey)	1899	2017
Binghamton (Men's Tennis)	1867	2014
Bloomsburg University (Wrestling)	1839	2019
Clarion University (Wrestling)	1867	2019
Cleveland State University (Wrestling)	1964	2019
University of Detroit Mercy (Women's Lacrosse)	1877	2020
Edinboro University (Wrestling)	1857	2019
University of Evansville (Men's Swimming & Diving)	1854	2009
George Mason University (Wrestling)	1949	2019
Lock Haven University (Wrestling)	1870	2019
Longwood University (Field Hockey)	1839	2014
Missouri (Wrestling)	1839	2012
Missouri State (Men's Swimming & Diving)	1905	2009
Rider University (Wrestling)	1865	2019
Robert Morris University (Women's Lacrosse)	1921	2020
Southern Illinois University (Men's Swimming & Diving)	1869	2009
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (Men's Soccer)	1957	2017
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (Wrestling)	1957	2018
West Virginia University (Men's Soccer)	1867	2012
Youngstown State University (Women's Lacrosse)	1908	2020

D. Dues and Assessments

1. Funds to meet budgeted expenses shall be met in part by an assessment of dues upon the members of the conference in equal amounts. Annual dues, as approved by the Council of Presidents shall be invoiced and payable in one installment; due in July of each year.

2. Funds for the Mid-American Conference's bowl commitments shall be met in part by an assessment upon the football members of the conference. Bowl assessments shall be invoiced by and payable to the conference office in two equal installments; due in August and October of each year.

3. Other assessments may be invoiced to members for specific funding purposes, in accordance with pre-approved funding policies.

Summary for Financial Policies: See Financial Policies in Appendix

E. Withdrawal

1. For the true and faithful performance of all the covenants, conditions and promises in this Agreement, the parties to this Agreement, including all member institutions, expressly bind themselves in the sum of no less than two million five hundred thousand dollars ($2,500,000), current lawful money of the United States of America, as fixed, settled and liquidated damages, to be paid by any withdrawing member of the Mid-American Conference on or before the last official day of membership to the Mid-American Conference office.

2. Any Mid-American Conference Member Institution may make application for formal withdrawal by notifying the Mid-American Conference Commissioner in writing on or before August 1 of any year. Such withdrawal shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

   a. Minimum Notice.
      i. The withdrawing member institution must provide not less than two academic-years prior written notice of its intent to withdraw and the effective date ("Effective Date") thereof ("Minimum Notice").
      ii. Such member institution shall pay a withdrawal fee of two million five hundred thousand dollars ($2,500.000) ("Withdrawal Fee").
      iii. The Withdrawal Fee shall be paid in two installments of one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($1,250,000) each, payable as follows:

1. The first installment shall be paid no later than one year after the notice of withdrawal is provided.
2. The second installment shall be paid on or before the Effective Date of such member institution's withdrawal.

iv. The withdrawing member institution shall forfeit its share of Conference revenue distributions in the member institution's final year of membership.

b. Less Than Minimum Notice.

In the event a withdrawing member institution provided less than the Minimum Notice of withdrawal, such member institution shall be subject to the following additional terms and conditions:

i. The Withdrawal Fee shall be paid in two installments of one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($1,250,000) each, payable as follows:
   1. The first installment shall be paid no later than one year after the notice of withdrawal is provided.
   2. The second installment shall be paid on or before the Effective Date of such member institution's withdrawal.
   3. In addition to payment of the withdrawal fee, the withdrawing member institution shall pay the Conference an additional amount of fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) for each month or part thereof that the effective date of withdrawal is less than the 24-month minimum notice requirement. Such additional withdrawal fee shall be paid at the time of receipt of the notice of withdrawal.

3. Liquidated Damages.
All member institutions agree that the withdrawal fee is a liquidated damage and reflects an assessment and acknowledgement by the member institutions of the range of actual costs and damages to the Conference and represents a good-faith attempt to reach a fair and equitable withdrawal fee.

4. Withdrawal by Affiliate and Football Only Members shall be governed by separate contract.

F. Expulsion, Removal, Suspension and Probation

1. By the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all full active members of the conference present and voting except the alleged offending member, the conference, acting for the Council of Presidents, may expel or suspend an offending member, or place the latter on probation for violation of provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws of the Conference or any other rules adopted by the appropriate governing body of the conference. Further, if it should become necessary in the best interest of the Conference as a whole, the Council of Presidents may, by a two-thirds vote of all Conference members present and voting, remove an institution from membership. To expel or remove means a complete severance from the Conference in all sports; to suspend means a temporary severance from the Conference. In the event of expulsion, suspension or removal, continued competition becomes an institutional determination and the involved institution would be responsible for the payment of all fees associated with the withdrawal from membership (see E-2 of the Constitution).

2. In accordance with Division I, Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) requirements adopted by the Council of Presidents, each institution of the Mid-American Conference has an obligation to achieve and maintain NCAA Division I FBS standards. Failure to satisfy these requirements will have direct consequences. The Commissioner, in consultation with the Executive Council of the Conference (excluding any Executive Council officer whose institution will be directly affected by the resolution), may recommend one or more of the following to the Council of Presidents:

a. That the involved institution be placed on probation;

b. That the involved institution be charged a financial assessment that reflects the impact its failure to maintain this divisional component will have on the Conference;
c. Remove or expel the involved institution from Conference membership.

G. Reinstatement of Members

By the affirmative vote of all or not more than one negative vote of member institutions, any member who has withdrawn or who has been expelled, suspended or placed on probation, may be restored to full membership.

H. Participation

Each full Conference member shall participate in a minimum of four Conference-sponsored sports, of which two must be football and basketball for men and two must be volleyball and basketball for women. The Conference shall sponsor 11 sports for men and 12 sports for women. A majority of member institutions must compete in a sport for it to be considered a Mid-American Conference-sponsored sport and approved as a Conference sport by a majority vote of the Council of Presidents. Note: Field Hockey, Men's Swimming & Diving, Wrestling, and Men's Tennis are exceptions to this last requirement.

Article V - Organization

A. Governing Bodies

The Conference shall be governed and administered by the two following primary bodies: Council of Presidents and the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee consists of the Athletics Director, the Senior Administrator and the Faculty Athletics Representative from each institution, with the Athletics Director holding the institutional vote. Both the Council of Presidents and the Joint Committee shall have a minimum of two (2) business sessions annually. Additionally, an Executive Council (consisting of the chairs of each of the Athletics Director, Faculty Athletics Representative and Senior Administrator administrative groups) has been established to conduct any necessary business between sessions.

Policy and legislative authority vests with the Council of Presidents. The Council of Presidents shall act on recommendations forwarded by the Joint Committee, developed through regular meetings of the respective administrative groups (Athletics Directors, Faculty Athletics Representatives and Senior Administrators) as well as annual meetings of the various sport committees. A flow chart of this table of organization and the specific operating principles may be obtained through the Office of the Commissioner.

B. Council of Presidents

1. The Council of Presidents shall be comprised of the respective Presidents of the member institutions.
2. Each President, or a representative (with “senior staff” status), shall be present at all meetings of the Council of Presidents.
   a. A President who cannot attend a Council of Presidents meeting must designate in writing the representative who will attend the meeting as a replacement. This representative will be so designated no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting. Only those Presidents in attendance may vote on issues that require a vote of the Council of Presidents.
3. The powers and responsibilities of the Council of Presidents shall be as follows:
   a. To review and approve the annual budget;
   b. To act on recommendations of the Joint Committee;
   c. To initiate, determine or repeal any legislation, policy or activity of or pertaining to the conference;
   d. To appoint committees for any designated purposes;
   e. To employ a conference Commissioner and any other officers, to prescribe individual duties and to fix the terms and conditions of their employment.

C. Directors of Athletics

1. The Athletics Director shall be a person of faculty or staff status remunerated for services rendered wholly or partly by the intercollegiate athletics department.

2. In the event the Athletics Director cannot attend a meeting, a designee of similar qualifications may be appointed by the Athletics Director to represent the institution with the same power, authorities and responsibilities as listed below. This representative will be so designated in writing no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to a meeting.

3. The powers, authorities and responsibilities of the Athletics Directors shall be as follows:

   a. To formulate and recommend for the approval of the Council of Presidents (following consultation with the Faculty Athletics Representatives and Senior Administrators) any proposals pertaining to general legislation, policies, functions, activities or welfare of the conference; (Note: Any recommendations of the Athletics Directors that are not supported by the Joint Committee will be forwarded to the Council of Presidents with a detailed explanation of the dissenting viewpoint.)
   b. To appoint standing subcommittees to conduct work on behalf of the Athletics Directors;
   c. To continually review the conference's intercollegiate athletic programs to ensure total compliance with all conference and NCAA rules and regulations;
   d. To assist the Faculty Athletics Representatives in resolving all questions relative to eligibility rules;
   e. To resolve administrative (not policy) questions relative to the immediate administration and operation of the conference's intercollegiate athletic programs, after consultation with the Faculty Athletics Representatives and Senior Administrators.

4. Depending upon subject matter, legislative proposals from coaches' groups and/or administrative bodies regarding the following shall be directed to the Athletics Directors: Football, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, and Volleyball.

D. Faculty Athletics Representatives

1. The Faculty Athletics Representative shall be a person having tenure or established faculty status not receiving remuneration for services rendered on behalf of the intercollegiate athletic department. This person will be appointed by the institution's President.

2. In the event the appointed faculty representative cannot attend a meeting, a designee of similar qualifications may be appointed by the President of the institution to represent the institution with the same power, authorities and responsibilities as listed below. This representative will be designated in writing no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to a meeting.

3. The powers, authorities and responsibilities of the Faculty Athletics Representatives shall be as follows:
   a. To appoint standing subcommittees to conduct work on behalf of the Faculty Athletics Representatives;
   b. To resolve all questions relative to eligibility rules, after consultation with the Athletics Directors and the Senior Administrators, Registrars, Admissions Directors, or any other necessary institutional personnel. The Faculty Athletics Representative will be the final signature authority on all eligibility documents;
   c. To recommend to the Joint Committee any proposals or amendments to the Bylaws of the Mid-American Conference which would improve either the efficiency or effectiveness of the Conference's intercollegiate athletic programs;
   d. To resolve administrative (not policy) questions relative to the immediate administration and operation of the Conference's intercollegiate athletic programs, after consultation with the Athletics Directors and Senior Administrators;

e. To continually review the Conference's intercollegiate athletic programs to ensure total compliance with all Conference and NCAA rules and regulations. This will include a regular (yearly) review of each institution's compliance effectiveness and the administration of the annual coaches recruiting certification test.

4. Depending upon subject matter, legislative proposals from coaches' groups and/or administrative bodies regarding the following shall be directed to the Faculty Athletics Representatives: Academics, Constitution & Bylaws, Infractions, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

E. Senior Administrators

1. The Senior Administrator shall be a person of faculty or staff status remunerated for services rendered wholly or partly by the intercollegiate athletic department.

2. The Senior Administrator shall be the highest ranking female administrator involved with the conduct of a member institution's intercollegiate athletics program. When the Athletics Director is a female, that institution shall designate a ranking athletic administrator (male or female) as the Senior Administrator.

3. In the event the appointed Senior Administrator cannot attend a meeting, a designee of similar qualifications may be appointed by the Athletics Director to represent the institution with the same power, authorities and responsibilities as listed below. This person will be designated in writing at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to a meeting.

4. The powers, authorities and responsibilities of the Senior Administrators are:
   a. To appoint standing committees to conduct work on behalf of the Senior Administrators;
   b. To resolve administrative (not policy) questions relative to the immediate administration and operation of the Conference's intercollegiate athletic programs, after consultation with the Athletics Directors and Faculty Athletics Representatives;
   c. To assist the Faculty Athletics Representatives in resolving all questions relative to eligibility rules;
   d. To continually review the Conference's intercollegiate athletic programs to ensure total compliance with all Conference and NCAA rules and regulations;
   e. To recommend to the Joint Committee any proposals or amendments to the Bylaws of the Mid-American Conference which would improve either the efficiency or effectiveness of the conference's intercollegiate athletic programs.

5. Depending upon subject matter, legislative proposals from coaches' groups and/or administrative bodies regarding the following shall be directed to the Senior Administrators: All Olympic Sports as well as softball and baseball.

F. Student-Athletes

1. The Council of Student-Athletes (COSA) shall consist of 25 current student-athlete members.

2. Each institution shall appoint two-member student-athletes to represent the institution on the Committee.

3. One member shall be the national SAAC representative; as such one institution will have three student-athletes on the Committee.
   a. In addition, the Chair, who will be the national SAAC representative, will be the primary liaison to all other Conference committees.
   b. The Chair is permitted to represent the Conference for one additional year following graduation and/or exhausting eligibility.
   c. The Chair will be supported by at least two at most 3 additional members, voted on by the full Committee, as the Executive Committee.

4. In the event the appointed student-athlete cannot attend a meeting, a designee of may be appointed by the Senior Administrator of the institution to represent the institution with the responsibilities listed below. This representative will be designated in writing no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to a meeting.

5. COSA will be responsible for discerning initiatives for the benefit of student-athlete welfare and experience.

G. Commissioner

The administrative head of the Conference shall be a Commissioner, whose original employment shall be by a contract approved by the affirmative vote of not less than three quarters of the member institutions voting by their respective Presidents and whose reemployment shall be by contract approved by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the member institutions voting the same way.

Summary for Additional Standing Committees: See Conference Councils and Committees Appendix

Article VI - Observance and Enforcement of Constitution, Bylaws, Etc.

The members, by the ratification of this Constitution and all future members by joining this Conference, pledge themselves faithfully to observe all the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws and all policies adopted by the governing bodies of this Conference. The officers of each institution, as set forth in the Bylaws, agree to report to each other and to the Commissioner any violations of these agreements or principles.

Each year, prior to September 1, each institution's President will sign a Conference statement of certification attesting to their adherence to these principles and the Conference Constitution.

Article VII - Amendments and Adoption

This Constitution may be amended by the Council of Presidents at any regular or special meeting. Proposed amendments shall be supported by at least two member institutions and shall be presented in writing to all members of the Council of Presidents at least 30 days preceding the date of the meeting at which proposals are to be considered. Amendments shall become effective immediately upon ratification by three-fourths of the member institutions present and voting unless otherwise stated.

Except as otherwise provided in the motion adopted by the Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents, 60 days must elapse before any substantive legislation can become operative. If, within 60 days, three or more member institutions reject any measure and report the rejection to the Commissioner, that measure must be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Council of Presidents. During this period of reconsideration, the measure will be suspended pending a new vote. If there is no rejection by three or more member institutions within the 60-day period, the measure becomes operative. If, after a rejection by three or more member institutions the proposed legislation is again passed by a majority vote, the measure shall become operative from the time of the second passage.

Certification of Adoption

The foregoing Constitution of the Mid-American Conference was unanimously adopted by the Council of Presidents on the 19th day of February 1970, and amended on 23 May 1987, 20 June 1992, 18 June 1993, 12 January 1997 and 1 November 2001.

Conference Bylaws

Chapter I – Preface

1.01 These Bylaws govern all sponsored intercollegiate athletic activities of all member institutions and their respective student-athletes and teams.

1.02 The term "conference" used in these Bylaws refers to the Mid-American Athletic Conference, Inc. (MAC); the terms "Council of Presidents," "Faculty Athletics Representatives," "Athletics Directors," "Senior Administrators," "Council of Student-Athletes" (COSA) and "Commissioner" refer to those agencies and that office as established in the Constitution.

1.03 The term "student-athlete" as used in these Bylaws, refers to a student whose matriculation was solicited by a member of the athletics department with a view toward the student's ultimate participation in the varsity intercollegiate athletic programs. Any other student becomes a "student-athlete" only when reporting for a varsity squad, which is under the jurisdiction of the department of intercollegiate athletics. A student is not deemed a "student-athlete" solely because of prior participation in high school athletics.

1.04 The Mid-American Conference is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and is bound by its standards and rules unless Mid-American Conference rules are more demanding or strict.

1.05 Mid-American Conference Bylaws may be amended by a majority of the institutions recognized as full members present at any meeting of the Athletics Directors, Senior Administrators and Faculty Athletics Representatives at which a quorum is present. Each institution is accorded one vote. Seven affirmative votes are required to adopt or remove a bylaw.

1.06 "Official interpretations," when made by the Commissioner's office, may become a matter of record and be appended to the appropriate chapter of these Bylaws.

1.07 The athletics department shall have the same status as academic departments of the institutions.

1.08 The budget pertaining to intercollegiate athletics shall be part of the budget of the institution.

1.09 New legislation shall not be applied retroactively except in those cases where such new rules and regulations work to the advantage of currently enrolled student-athletes.

1.10 The Mid-American Conference name shall be applied only to officially sponsored conference sports.

1.11 **Executive Council -** The role of the Executive Council shall be to ensure that the Mid-American Conference governance structure operates in an effective and efficient manner, serving as an integrating and coordinating committee to assure that all other committees are fulfilling their functions. It shall serve as the general liaison between the Joint Committee and the Council of Presidents. The Executive Council shall be comprised of one Athletics Director, one Senior Administrator, and one Faculty Athletics Representative. The Commissioner shall serve as an ex-officio member of this committee.

The Executive Council shall serve as the Conference Appeals Committee in which members of the Committee will hear all appeals and/or waiver requests of Mid-American Conference rules and regulations or final conference rulings.

1.12 **Committee Charges -** The charge of each standing committee shall be identified, along with each committee's current membership, in the Appendix section of the Mid-American Conference Handbook.

Chapter II – Office of the Commissioner

2.01 The Commissioner shall be appointed, and the terms of employment shall be fixed by the Council of Presidents.

2.02 The compensation of the Commissioner and the necessary expenses of the office shall be determined on an annual basis. The fiscal year of the conference shall be July 1 to the following June 30. A budget of proposed expenditures shall be submitted by the Commissioner to the Finance Committee prior to June 1 of each year for their review. The budget shall be recommended to the Council of Presidents for approval.

2.03 The Commissioner will:

1. Serve as the chief administrative officer of the Conference.
2. Serve as treasurer of the Conference and handle receipts and disbursements of Conference funds, keep accounts and present an audited account to the chairperson of the Council of Presidents of all financial transactions at the end of the fiscal year.
3. Serve as an ex-officio, nonvoting member and secretary of the Council of Presidents, the Faculty Athletics Representative, the Athletics Directors, and the Senior Administrators.
4. Maintain appropriate relations with the media to achieve a continuing education program on behalf of scholarship, sportsmanship, and understanding of the value of competitive athletics in accordance with the ethics and ideals which motivate the Mid-American Conference in its conduct of intercollegiate athletics.
5. Attend national meetings as deemed necessary to keep the Conference informed of major athletic developments.
6. Contract officials for all varsity Mid-American Conference football, men's and women's basketball, volleyball, softball and baseball contests played entirely by member institutions. Assist in and review the assignment of officials for designated Conference games.
7. Conduct periodic review of operations within each member institution. Such inspections and investigations of the activities of member institutions as deemed necessary may be made at the Commissioner's discretion. The Commissioner shall have the authority to review any disputes involving member institutions and/or officials.
8. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Council of Presidents, Athletics Directors, Senior Administrators or the Faculty Athletics Representatives.
9. Employ a staff to assist in the administration of the above-described activities; and to identify these employees by titles to be selected by the Commissioner; and to fix their compensation within the limits of budgets approved thereof.

Chapter III - Mid-American Conference Code of Conduct

3.01 The Mid-American Conference and member institutions provide our student-athletes, coaches, administrators, alumni and the university community with an environment conducive to personal growth, individual expression, healthy competition, and respect for our peers. In fulfilling our goals, we will not compromise our reputation or deviate from our educational missions. In holding each other accountable to personal conduct of the highest ethical standards and integrity, the Mid-American Conference and member institutions embody the spirit of intercollegiate athletics.

The Mid-American Conference and member institutions are committed to the following edict. We expect every member of our Conference to embrace the underlying values of ethical conduct and represent themselves, their sport, their institution and the conference in a manner that is consistent with the following Mid-American Conference Code of Conduct.

3.02 **Code of Conduct: Standards and Responsibilities**

Academic Achievement and Integrity – The student-athlete's collegiate academic experience is the highest priority. Each conference member institution must provide its enrolled student-athletes with a viable and attainable opportunity for academic success.

Each member institution must ensure the pursuit of academic achievement and the graduation of student-athletes is not compromised by participation in athletics. Member institutions and the Conference will adopt and adhere to policies which respect the academic priority of its student-athletes by minimizing missed class time and conflicts with final examination schedules.

The quality and integrity of the student-athletes' education is imperative to the mission of the Mid-American Conference and member institutions. Each member institution must educate student-athletes and faculty on the academic principles and priorities of the Conference as well as monitor and report to the Conference office violations of the member institution's honor codes.

3.03 **Recruitment of Prospective Student-Athletes**

Coaches, administrators and staff shall observe and promote Conference, NCAA and institutional regulations and will be held to the highest standards of honesty and integrity in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes.

It is the obligation of any individual recruiting on behalf of a Conference institution that all statements provided to a prospective student-athlete, a prospective student-athlete's family or coach regarding another conference institution's athletic program, facilities, or educational opportunities are not misleading or derogatory in any way. Coaches, administrators and staff shall be governed by NCAA, Mid-American Conference, and institutional guidelines when providing a prospective student-athlete with a written offer of financial aid and shall not promise either directly or implied any benefit that the institution will knowingly be unable to provide.

Each institution shall respect both written and oral commitments a prospective student-athlete has made to another Conference institution and shall not encourage or discuss transfer from a Conference institution prior to a release being granted. All university employees are also required to inform all prospective student-athletes of the Mid-American Conference transfer policy and procedures.

A request by a prospective student-athlete or the parents of a prospective student-athlete to be subjected to no further recruiting contact shall be respected.

3.04 **Coaches Responsibility to Student-Athletes**

Coaches should understand that student-athlete welfare and well-being are our priorities at all times. As role models, coaches should provide guidance to student-athletes that will help ensure success both on and off the fields and courts of play. Perhaps more importantly, coaches should treat student-athletes with the utmost respect, even when disciplinary measures are necessary to correct inappropriate behavior.

3.05 **Member Institutions**

All representatives, constituents and stakeholders of member institutions including university administrators, faculty members, staff, coaches, student-athletes and representatives of athletic interests should operate in the spirit of integrity,

sportsmanship, collegiality and professionalism while maintaining a standard of excellence when representing their respective institutions.

Chapter IV - Sportsmanlike Conduct

4.01 **Sportsmanlike Conduct**

It shall be the responsibility of each member institution to ensure that all individuals employed by or directly associated with the athletics program of that institution conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner when representing their institution, especially at intercollegiate athletic contests. The fundamental elements of sportsmanship include good citizenship, integrity of the competition, civility toward all, and respect, particularly toward opponents and officials.

Although this policy will apply most commonly to actions that occur within or around the competitive arena, the scope of its application is intentionally left unrestricted to accommodate any behavior, in any setting, deemed by the Commissioner to offend the underlying objective this policy seeks to achieve.

Acts or behaviors deemed to be in violation of this policy shall subject the offending individual to disciplinary action. The member institution with which the offending individual is associated may also be subject to disciplinary action if it is found that the institution's policies, actions or failure to act substantially contributed to the individual's misconduct.

4.02 **Responsibilities Defined**

Institutional Responsibility: Mid-American Conference member institutions are responsible for ensuring that all university employees, students, and others in attendance at athletics events conduct themselves in a dignified manner and exhibit respect and civility towards game officials, other institutions and employees, students-athletes (including opponents) and fans.

Athletics Department Responsibility: The Athletics Director must effectively communicate to all athletics department staff members, coaches and student-athletes the fundamental elements of sportsmanship and standards for conduct. The Athletics Director must take reasonable steps to create an environment that is fair and safe for all participants, including visiting team members and officials. All concerns must be addressed within the Conference governance structure and not in a public forum.

Game Management Responsibility: There shall be a designated game manager, known by all participants and officials, who will be able to respond to concerns during the contest. Each institution must arrange its seating at spectator events to emphasize sportsmanship and minimize harassment of the visiting teams. Member institutions must have a protocol in place that ensures the protection of all participants and game personnel, including safely escorting teams, coaches, officials and administrative staffs off the playing surface.

See Conference Sport Operating Codes Section R for Crowd Control Policy

Coach Responsibility: Coaches are primarily responsible for student-athlete welfare and well-being at all times. As role models, coaches have the greatest influence over student-athletes and thus must continually emphasize the importance of sportsmanship. Coaches are responsible for their student-athletes' and staffs' behavior, ensuring that civility and respect are demonstrated towards their opponents, officials, and spectators. Coaches must remain in their designated areas during a contest and refrain from behavior that would incite negative reactions from opponents, officials or spectators.

Student-Athlete Responsibility: Student-athletes are responsible for conducting themselves in a competitive manner while maintaining civility and respect towards opponents, officials and spectators.

Conference Responsibility: The Commissioner is responsible for promoting and enforcing these sportsmanship principles and standards of conduct in connection with all athletics events involving a member institution, including non-conference

competitions. The Commissioner has broad authority to interpret the standards, review disciplinary actions taken by member institutions and further penalize those deemed to have violated the standards.

4.03 **Violations**

Acts in violation of sportsmanlike conduct shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Striking or physically abusing an official, opposing coach or participant;
2. Inciting participants or spectators to violent or abusive action;
3. Use of obscene gestures, profane/unduly provocative language, or actions toward officials, opponents or spectators;
4. Public criticism of any game official, Conference personnel, another member institution or its personnel;
5. Engagement in negative recruiting by making statements to a prospective student-athlete, parent, high school coach or other person interested in the prospective student-athlete that are unduly derogatory of another institution or its personnel shall be subject to a public reprimand for the first offense and to a suspension of the privilege of recruiting for one season for any additional offenses;
6. Repeated ejections or red cards during competition; and/or
7. Acts of unsportsmanlike conduct not specifically proscribed, as interpreted by the Commissioner and Sportsmanship Advisory Committee.

Tiered Penalties

Interim Action: Prior to final decisions, the Commissioner may impose as interim action any lesser disciplinary action (i.e. private reprimand), which shall be in effect until the final decision is determined.

Standard Disciplinary Action: Standard disciplinary actions shall include admonishment, reprimand, fines, and suspension.

Major Disciplinary Action: Major disciplinary actions will be implemented when repeated offenses occur, or such a violation occurs that the Commissioner deems it a major disciplinary action; these actions will be heightened fines and suspensions.

4.04 **Processing of Possible Violations**

The following depiction is the process that will be followed for any and all violations:

1. The institution is responsible for providing a written report of the sportsmanship violation to the Commissioner and copying the president/chancellor and FAR, or the Conference is made aware of the sportsmanship violation through another entity (e.g., another institution, official, media, public).
2. Following the violation report the Commissioner and the Sportsmanship Advisory Committee (Senior Associate Commissioner for Championships & Sport Development, Associate Commissioner for Institutional Services and appropriate conference personnel) will be notified.
3. The Senior Associate Commissioner for Championships & Sport Development will gather all information available for review of the matter (e.g., official's report, statement from the informer/witnesses, film).
4. The Sportsmanship Advisory Committee will review the information and determine if a violation has occurred.
    a. The Sportsmanship Advisory Committee will consider the following in determining its advisory position for the Commissioner's final determination:
        i. The general nature or severity of the offensive action;
        ii. Any injury or damage that results directly from the offensive action;
        iii. The manner in which the offensive action fits within the context of the rules of the game for the sport at issue;
        iv. Any action taken or imposed in accordance with the applicable rules of the game;
        v. The response of and/or any action taken by the involved member institution(s);
        vi. The response of and/or any action taken by any other entity that may have jurisdiction over the offensive action (e.g., law enforcement); and
        vii. Any prior offensive action(s) as contemplated within this policy (e.g., multiple red cards, ejections).

b. The Sportsmanship Advisory Committee will provide the Commissioner with an advisory opinion of the incident and potential corrective actions if necessary.

5. The determination of a violation and appropriate corrective actions is the Commissioner's determination.
6. The Commissioner will send an email and report to the Athletics Director(s) of the institution(s) involved and copy the president/chancellor, FAR, and necessary Conference staff members.
7. After the receipt of the Commissioner's report, the Athletics Director(s) of the involved institution(s) must submit a response within 24 hours indicating the institution's position on the matter in writing to the Commissioner.
8. Within 24 hours of the receipt of the institution's response, the Commissioner will issue a final decision on the penalty, if any is deemed necessary; appropriate institutional and Conference staff members will be notified of the Commissioner's decision.

4.05 **Appeals Process**

1. The president/chancellor of the involved institution has 24 hours after receipt of the Commissioner's final decision to indicate in writing to the Commissioner if it will appeal the penalty.
2. The Commissioner or designee will notify the Mid-American Conference Executive Committee that an appeal has been filed and will request an appeal hearing by teleconference to be held within 3 business days.
   a. If any individual from the Mid-American Conference Executive Committee is a member of the involved institution, then an alternate individual of the same position will be selected.
3. The president/chancellor filing the appeal must submit a written statement outlining the reasons for the appeal at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
4. The Conference Office must include its full report, along with any other relevant material (e.g., video, media reports, statements by witnesses).
5. The Executive Committee will deliberate and determine whether to uphold, modify or reject the Commissioner's decision.
6. The Executive Committee will inform the Commissioner of the appeal decision within 24 hours of the conference call.
7. The Commissioner will inform the institution of the Executive Committee's determination within 24 hours.
8. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

4.06 **Penalties**

The penalties that may be imposed by the Commissioner for violation(s) of these standards may include, but are not limited to, private and public reprimand, institutional fines, and suspension from practice and/or competition. The violation action will determine the level of penalty.

4.07 **Annual Review**

Any case that the Commissioner and/or Sportsmanship Advisory Committee has pursued an investigation as described in 4.04 above shall be reviewed by the Joint Council/Infractions Committee on an annual basis during the spring meetings, regardless of whether any disciplinary action has been imposed. The purpose of the annual review is to ensure the Commissioner is administering the policy in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner

4.05 **Carrying Penalty Over to Next Season**

Whenever a penalty or suspension is imposed at or near the end of a season of competition, such penalty may be carried over into the next season of competition.

4.06 **Definition of Terms**

As used in this regulation, "suspension" in the case of a student-athlete means that the player cannot participate in the designated number of contests but may practice. In the case of a coach, it means that the coach cannot be present in the playing arena for the designated number of contests but may conduct practice sessions.

4.07 **Mid-American Conference Sportsmanship Affidavit**
Every coach and student-athlete shall annually sign the Mid-American Conference Sportsmanship Affidavit prior to the first competition of the year.

See Appendix: Academic and Institutional Policies: Sportsmanship Affidavits

Chapter V - Mid-American Conference Eligibility

5.01 Eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics competition, practice and receive athletically related financial aid shall be determined by the requirements set forth in the NCAA Manual (Bylaws 12 and 14) unless otherwise specified in this chapter.

5.02 A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 95 percent of the institution's overall cumulative minimum grade-point average required for graduation.

A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth or subsequent year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based upon a maximum of 4.000) that equals 100 percent of the institution's overall cumulative minimum grade-point average required for graduation.

If the institution does not have an overall grade-point average required for graduation, it is permissible to use the lowest grade-point average required for any of the institution's degree programs in determining the cumulative minimum grade-point average. The minimum grade-point average must be computed pursuant to institutional policies applicable to all students.

5.03 **Transgender Student-Athlete Policy**
Athletic participation by transgender student-athletes is permissible in any sex-separated sports activity so long as the student-athlete's use of hormone therapy, if any, is consistent with the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) policies on banned medications, as verified by the certifying institution.

- A trans male (FTM) student-athlete who has received a medical exception for treatment with testosterone for diagnosed Gender Identity Disorder or gender dysphoria and/or Transsexualism, for purposes of NCAA competition may compete on a men's team, but is no longer eligible to compete on a women's team without changing that status to mixed;
- A trans female (MTF) student-athlete being treated with testosterone suppression medication for Gender Identity Disorder or gender dysphoria and/or Transsexualism, for the purposes of NCAA competition may continue compete on a men's team but may not compete on a women's team without changing it to a mixed team status until completing one (1) calendar year of testosterone suppression treatment.

Two areas of NCAA regulations can be impacted by transgender student-athlete's participation in intercollegiate athletics: the use of banned substances and mixed team status. [1/28/15]

The NCAA Inclusion of Transgender Student-Athletes Handbook provides details and guidance in the transitioning of the student-athlete and NCAA regulations. [1/28/15]

5.04 **Administrative Reports**
Squad List - Each member institution shall complete a copy of the NCAA Squad List for each sport, no later than the first date of outside competition. This report should include the signature of official(s) who completed the report. The Conference Office

retains the right, without prior notice, to request a copy of sport-specific squad lists to ensure accuracy in reporting of eligibility.
Enforcement - It shall be the duty of the Commissioner to scrutinize such lists, when requested, to determine whether the institution is in compliance with the above sections. It shall further be the duty of the Commissioner to report any violations to the Presidents of the member institutions and to take appropriate disciplinary action, including forfeiture of any or all Conference games to be played in the ensuing year, or such other measures as deemed appropriate.

5.05 **Compliance with Other NCAA and Conference Legislation**
To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete shall be in compliance with all applicable provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and all rules and regulations of the institution and the Conference, if any, of which the institution is a member. A violation of this bylaw that relates only to a violation of a Conference rule shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1; however, such a violation shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility.

5.06 **Eligibility for Conference Championships**
An institution prohibited from competing in post-season competition by the NCAA or by the Conference shall not be eligible to compete in Conference Championships, or to be recognized as Regular Season Mid-American Conference Championships, or Divisional Championships, within the cited sport(s).

Such an institution also may not compete in a Conference event that determines the Conference's automatic qualifier for the NCAA Championship in that sport.

Such an institution's contests against Conference opponents shall continue to count within the Conference standings, all team and individual records shall be recognized, and individual members of the institution's team shall remain eligible to receive all Conference sponsored awards. [Adopted 2/15/2012]

Chapter VI - Intercollegiate Contests

6.01 In all Conference sports, member institutions shall schedule annual contests with other institutions as outlined in the code for that sport. Unless noted otherwise, each member institution shall compete annually with a minimum of 50% of other Mid-American Conference member institutions or at least five (5) in those sports in which 10 or more institutions compete. This Bylaw applies to the traditional season of each sport. To qualify for a Conference championship in any sport, a member institution must meet the minimum requirements in that sport's code as defined.

6.02 All intercollegiate contests shall be played under the supervision of officials properly authorized by the participating institutions. They shall be played on grounds either owned by or under the immediate control of one or both participating institutions. Exceptions must be approved by the Commissioner.

6.03 Cancelled Contests - If a contracted contest is not played on the scheduled date and is cancelled without mutual agreement by the Athletics Directors of the competing institutions, the contest shall be recorded as a forfeit by the cancelling institution.

Chapter VII - Letter of Intent

7.01 The Mid-American Conference is a member of the National Letter of Intent program and all member institutions shall adhere to the regulations and procedures of the program.

7.02 The Mid-American Conference Letter of Intent will be honored in non-conference sponsored sports. A copy of this letter can be obtained through the office of the Commissioner.

7.03 The Mid-American Conference Letter of Intent may only be signed by current student-athletes prior to the first day of classes of the fall semester or quarter, or the first day of practice, whichever is earlier.

7.04 The Mid-American Conference Letter of Intent must carry with it a commitment to the student-athlete for some form of athletics related financial aid for the letter to be valid.

Chapter VIII – Intra-Conference Transfer [*Revised 10/11/2018*]

8.01 To prescribe the following eligibility rules on student-athletes transferring between Mid-American Conference institutions as prescribed in the MAC Constitution, Article IV Membership.

8.02 **Intra-Conference Transfers**
The following student-athletes at Mid-American Conference institutions and affiliate member institutions shall be considered intra-conference transfers and thus subject to the following eligibility provisions.

1. Current student-athletes, who receive athletics related financial aid, at a MAC institution and transfer ***immediately*** to a second MAC institution.
2. Prospective student-athletes who attend summer session on athletics related financial aid prior to initial enrollment and transfer immediately to a second MAC institution.

8.03 **MAC Certification of Intra-Conference Transfers**
Eligibility for Competition- Intra-conference transfers shall be required by the certifying institution to fulfill a residence requirement of one full academic year from the date of transfer and shall be charged with one year of eligibility. [*Revised: 1/28/2016*]

8.04 **Waiver Process: MAC Intra-Conference Transfer Rule**
Standard - A waiver of the MAC Intra-Conference Transfer Rule will be granted or partially granted under **compelling, extenuating circumstances** shown to impact the student-athlete subsequent to enrolling at his/her current MAC institution. The compelling, extenuating circumstances must be beyond the control of the student-athlete (e.g., significant change in the student-athlete's immediate family situation, a serious medical condition on the part of the student-athlete or an immediate family member, significant financial hardship imposed by the MAC Intra-Conference Policy beyond the loss of athletics scholarship support, Title IX harassment or discrimination). The transfer should alleviate the hardship from the compelling, extenuating circumstances. [*Revised 5/30/2018*]

Waiver Review Committee - The MAC Intra-Conference Transfer Appeal Committee will be comprised of three members, 2 FARs and 1 AD/SWA, each member representing a different MAC institution. Committee members will be appointed by the Commissioner to serve a two-year renewable term. The Committee will elect a Chair. Committee members will be replaced in cases of conflict. The Mid-American Conference Commissioner or designee shall serve as an ex officio member.

8.05 **Exception: Discontinued/Nonsponsored Sports**
When a student transfers to a second Conference institution in order to continue participation in a sport because the student's original institution dropped the sport from its intercollegiate program (even though it may subsequently establish that

sport on a club basis) the student-athlete will not be subject to the Intra-Conference Transfer Rule. [*Revised 6/31/2017*]

8.06 **Waiver Application Submission**

Initial MAC Institution Responsibilities - Upon written request by the student-athlete, the initial certifying MAC institution must provide a copy of the MAC Intra-Conference Transfer Policy and the waiver process form.

The initial MAC institution must submit a position in response to the waiver request to the Conference Office and/or provide a written explanation of the institution's position. The initial MAC institution may be required to participate in the Committee hearing via teleconference if requested by the student-athlete.

Transfer Student-Athlete Responsibilities – The requesting student-athlete must file a written request for an Intra-Conference Transfer Waiver to his/her initial institution and the Conference Office, addressed to the Commissioner, in electronic (i.e., Word document) format.

The request shall include a written statement, not more than 5-pages, from the student-athlete which outlines the compelling, extenuating circumstances beyond his /her control which provides the basis of the waiver request.

The burden of proof is on the student-athlete to provide the clear and convincing evidence to support his/her written request (e.g., medical records, bankruptcy filing, tax records, etc.). All documentation should be included in the waiver application.

Lastly, the Committee will be provided only the documentation submitted unless the student-athlete officially indicates a request for a conference call hearing.

Transfer Institution (desired MAC institution student-athlete is transferring to) Responsibilities - The transfer institution must respond provide a position in response to the waiver request, providing the Committee with verification of recruitment.

8.07 **Waiver Review Process**

Mutual Release Cases - Waiver requests that are mutually agreed upon releases of the transfer student-athlete from one MAC institution to another, will be automatically granted.

Mutual release cases will be handled by the Conference Office, not the Waiver Review Committee. The Conference Office will inform the Waiver Review Committee of the mutual release cases that are automatically granted, but no official review/hearing is necessary in such requests.

Document Review Cases - Upon receipt of the complete student-athlete's request the Commissioner or Conference designee will convene the Waiver Review Committee within fourteen (14) calendar days by document review, which can be conducted via email or conference call by the Waiver Review Committee. The Commissioner or designee will sit on the conference call, as non-participating member.

Within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the document review or conference call, the Committee's decision will be forwarded by the Commissioner or designee to the student-athlete in written, electronic form.

Conference Call Hearing Cases - Upon written receipt of the student-athlete's request for a full conference call hearing, the Commissioner or designee will convene the Waiver Review Committee, the student-athlete and the initial institution, if requested by the student-athlete, within thirty (30) days.

Both the student-athlete and initial institution will be afforded the opportunity to speak for a maximum ten (10) minutes. Before the Committee deliberations, the Committee may ask the student-athlete for additional information and/or clarification of his/her written statement.

Within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the conference call, the Committee's decision will be forwarded by the Commissioner or designee to the student-athlete and involved institutions in written, electronic form.

8.08 **Relief**

The Committee has authority to fully grant or partially grant the waiver request. A partial approval may remove the one-year residency requirement and/or restore the lost year of eligibility from the second Conference institution.

8.09 **Decision and Appeal**

The decision of the Waiver Review Committee will be based upon a vote of the majority of its members. The Committee's will review appeal requests when new and additional documentation is provided. The decision of the Committee following an appeal is final.

Chapter IX – Time Obligations Program

9.01 **Two-Weeks Off Following the Completion of the Season**

Establish a two-week time off period from required athletics activity following the end of a championship season segment.

- This is 14 calendar days following the completion of the championship season.
- True voluntary activity will be permitted.
- It is not time off of study table hours, rehab, non-coach meetings (i.e. academics, compliance, etc.). Coach mentor sessions are still permitted, if not CARA related. Post-season evaluation meetings are still permitted during this off period.
- Track & Field/Cross Country time off will be less than two-weeks, the most time off possible between the seasons possible will be an off-period.
- For individual sports, the time off will be based on each individual on the team.

9.02 **Flex Seven-Days**

Coaching staffs, administration and student-athletes will determine seven days at any time in the academic year, when classes are in session, to be off-days.

- This is in addition to the legislated one-day off in-season and two-days off out-of-season.

9.03 **Eight-Hours Off Between 9:00pm and 6:00am**

Prohibit athletics obligations for at least eight-hours between 9:00pm and 6:00am every day.

9.04 **Weekly Schedules Posted to Student-Athletes**

Require practice schedules be shared with student-athletes weekly and followed by coaching staffs, and, if changes are required, they should be known by student-athletes 24 hours prior to the scheduled practice time.

- Emergency/Weather changes will be necessary and permitted.

[*Revised 6/31/2017*]

Chapter X – Sexual Violence Prevention

It shall be the responsibility of each member institution to ensure that all student-athletes, coaches, staff and administrators are educated in sexual violence prevention and the institution's proper adjudication and resolution of alleged acts of sexual violence. That institutional policies and process regarding sexual violence

prevention and adjudication, and the name and contact information for the campus Title IX coordinator, must be readily available within the department of athletics and provided to student-athletes. All student-athletes, coaches, staff and administration must be educated each year on sexual violence prevention, intervention and response, to the extent allowable by state law and collective bargaining agreements.

The athletics department will cooperate with institutional investigations of allegations and matters related to sexual violence involving student-athletes and athletics department staff in a manner compliant with institutional policies.

When there is a report of sexual violence involving a student-athlete as a complainant or respondent, the athletics department shall implement supportive measures as directed by the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If, after an individualized safety and risk analysis, the Title IX Coordinator determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of others justifies removal of a respondent student-athlete from some or all team activities (including without limitation practices, competitions, team meals, strength and conditioning, travel, and recruiting activities), the athletics department shall abide by and enforce such determination. Upon resolution of a formal complaint of sexual violence, whether by dismissal, informal resolution, or the conclusion of a hearing, the athletics department shall follow applicable institutional protocols and enforce all continued supportive measures, remedies, and sanctions. The athletics department shall not remove financial aid on the basis of an allegation of sexual violence but may remove financial aid in accordance with a finding of responsibility.

The Mid-American Conference (MAC) encourages all student-athletes involved with reports of sexual violence, whether as a complainant, respondent, or witness, to seek care for their well-being. The MAC further supports extensions of eligibility opportunities, when appropriate and in accordance with NCAA bylaws, for any student-athlete precluded from participating in athletics as a result of supportive measures or removal [*6/4/2020*]

Conference Sport Operating Codes

Chapter I - Conference Sports

The following chapters cover the principles and agreements among the members of the Joint Committee affecting the conduct of the sports of the Mid-American Conference.

A. Air Quality Policy

Mid-American Conference adheres to the air quality guidance provided by the NCAA, detailed below.

NCAA Air Quality Guidance

There are three reasons why otherwise healthy athletes are at special risk for inhaling pollutants. First, as physical activity increases minute ventilation, the number of pollutants that are inhaled relative to when the athlete is at rest are increased. Second, during activity, a larger proportion of air is inhaled through the mouth, which bypasses the body's built-in nasal filtration system. Third, pollutants are inhaled more deeply and may diffuse into the bloodstream more quickly during physical activity. These risks are heightened in athletes with pre-existing pulmonary or cardiac conditions.

An important and standardized national air quality resource is the National Weather Service's (NWS) Air Quality Forecast System. This system "provides the US with ozone, particulate matter and other pollutant forecasts with enough accuracy and advance notice to take action to prevent or reduce adverse effects."

A key component of this forecast system is the NWS Air Quality Index (AQI).2The AQI provides real-time monitoring and alerts in response to changing air quality levels. The AQI accounts for five different pollutants, including: 1) ground-level ozone; 2) particle pollution (also known as particulate matter); 3) carbon monoxide; 4) sulfur dioxide; and 5) nitrogen dioxide. Of these, ground-level ozone and particulate matter are the most common and most concerning pollutants for outdoor physical activity. The AQI is a single number, presented on a scale of 0 – 500, where 0 indicated no air quality problems and 500 indicates the most hazardous levels of air pollution. A specialized version of the AQI for particle pollution is also available and should be consulted in those situations when threats to air quality come from wildfires, road dust, and agricultural operations.

When threatening or dangerous air quality levels are present the AQI increases, and the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a corresponding air quality alert. Those alerts and their corresponding behavioral modification recommendations for particle pollution can be found at https://www.airnow.gov.

Consistent with this information, the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports offers the following general guidance to member institutions trying to make decisions about the appropriateness of practice or competition in degrading air quality situations:

- Attentive monitoring of local AQI and associated air quality alerts, especially during times of extreme environmental conditions, is recommended. This monitoring is best performed by the primary athletics healthcare providers trained to monitor environmental impacts on student-athlete health and safety. However, schools may choose to delegate this responsibility to another staff member with knowledge and training about environmental monitoring.
- Member schools should consider shortening or canceling outdoor athletic events (practices and competitions) in accordance with AQI guidance. Exposure should be managed more conservatively for student-athletes with pre-existing pulmonary or cardiac conditions, which may exacerbate the complications of

these conditions and lead to an acute medical emergency. Specifically, at an AQI of 100 or higher, schools should consider removing sensitive athletes from outdoor practice or competition venues and should closely monitor all athletes for respiratory difficulty. Reduce heavy or prolonged exertion in sensitive individuals.

- At AQIs of over 150, outdoor activities should be shortened, and exertion should be minimized by decreasing the intensity of activity. Sensitive athletes should be moved indoors.
- At AQIs of 200 or above, serious consideration should be given to rescheduling the activity or moving it indoors. Prolonged exposure and heavy exertion should be avoided. Avoid all outdoor physical activity for sensitive individuals.
- At AQIs of 300 or above, outdoor activities should be moved indoors or canceled if indoor activity is not an option.
- School emergency action plans should guide the emergency care response in these circumstances, and staff should rehearse the plan at a minimum of once a year.

B. Awards

Conference awards for all sports shall be as outlined in Chapter X of the Mid-American Conference Bylaws and further summarized in the operating codes and championship guidelines.

C. Comments on Officiating

All university personnel are prohibited from making postgame comments on officiating. Any comments, criticism or complaints of game officials' performances should be directed to the Commissioner's office by a written memorandum from the head coach through the athletics director of the university. Such complaints shall not be released through any news media.

Films or videotapes shall not be used by coaches or other university personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating; specifically, this prohibits the use of game films or videotapes for the purpose of producing loops for television purposes or newspaper still shots depicting officiating calls. No reference shall be made in coaches' radio or television shows to officiating matters.

D. Contest Disruption (General)

Once a contest is scheduled, the Athletics Directors of the institutions involved shall determine the starting time of the contest and whether the contest is postponed or cancelled.

After a contest has started, the referee has the authority and the discretion, under the playing rules, to temporarily suspend the contest when external forces and conditions (e.g., spectator disruption, electrical rainstorm, and electrical power failure) warrant such action. The host athletics director (or his/her designated representative), in conference with the visiting athletics director (or his/her representative) and the referee, shall determine if and when the contest will be resumed or indefinitely suspended.

Every effort will be exerted to continue a disrupted contest at the site of the contest after a reasonable period of time has elapsed to clear the playing surface, insure crowd control and to correct any problem or contingency not elsewhere covered by the rules.

E. Contest Limitations

The Mid-American Conference adheres to NCAA limitations on the maximum number of contests and maximum number of dates of competition in NCAA Bylaw 17.

F. Contracts

For all sports, the host university can submit a game contract to the visiting university, which will indicate pertinent data (e.g., date, time, location, etc.)

G. Core Sports

The Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents has identified the following sports as core sports for full members: Football, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball and Volleyball.

Accordingly, the recommendations relative to each sport can be found in their respective sport operating codes.

H. Divisional Alignment

Divisional play is required for men's basketball, football and volleyball. If scheduled as divisional play, schedules/divisions must adhere to the following alignment:

West Division	**East Division**
Ball State	Akron
Central Michigan	Bowling Green
Eastern Michigan	Buffalo
Northern Illinois	Kent State
Toledo	Miami
Western Michigan	Ohio

[*Revised 5/29/19*]

I. Event Management Guidelines (Regular Season)

1. Game Management

The Athletics Director has the ultimate responsibility to ensure successful game management and crowd control and it is his/her responsibility to assign personnel to perform the various duties.

2. Game Officials

The Athletics Director or representative should meet with the game officials and the visiting coach prior to each game to inform them of any changes and let them know that he/she is available if needed. Whenever possible, officials should receive their check in the locker **room prior to the game**. If this is not possible, checks should be mailed as soon as possible.

3. Officials Services

a. Football. All Football Officials are to be provided one snack, one meal and beverages.

b. Men's & Women's Basketball/Volleyball. All Basketball and Volleyball Officials are to be provided one meal and beverages (including Line Judges for Volleyball). [*5/19/11*]

4. Officials Fees – Non-Conference Home Games

Unless otherwise specified in a sport operating code, non-conference fees for home games shall be the same fee as paid for a Conference home game. [*1/28/16*]

5. Officials Fees – Game Cancellation

In the event that a Mid-American Conference contest is canceled, officials shall be paid as follows:

a. Game is canceled prior to official leaving home: No Fee is paid

b. Game is canceled after official leaves home but prior to the start of play: Half Fee is paid

c. Game is cancelled after play begins: Full Fee is paid
[*1/28/16*]

6. Visiting Team Services
Visiting Teams are to be provided post game/match beverages. (Football, Basketball and Volleyball only)

7. Security
Trained security personnel should be available to control spectators who behave improperly. Spectators must be kept off the playing surface prior to and during the game. Particular attention should be given to the area behind the visiting team's "bench" area (security personnel should be assigned to this area). Escorts must be provided for officials to and from their dressing rooms (it is also advisable to provide an escort to their cars if a problem is anticipated). Officials and Team dressing rooms are to be secured by posted security personnel when occupied and dressing rooms are to be locked or otherwise secured when unoccupied. [*Revised 5/19/11*]

8. Media Personnel
Locker room and interview areas must provide equal access to all members of the media.

9. Band Placement within Venue
Home Team Bands may not be seated directly behind or adjacent to the visiting team bench. A buffer zone must exist between bands and team benches (e.g., court, basket, etc.).

10. Video Replay Policy Violations
Any video replay policy violations should be reported to the Mid-American Conference Office by the on-site Sport Administrator. (See Sport Operating Codes for specific video replay policies) [*5/19/11*]

J. Experimental Rules
To utilize experimental rules during regular-season contests, a sport must first obtain approval from the coaches' group (by majority vote) prior to the start of the season. The request must then be approved through the appropriate governance process. If no consensus opinion is obtained from the coaches' group, then the sport would revert back to the normal rule as written.

K. Guarantees
In all sports, each team shall pay its own expenses and the other event expenses will be paid by the host university.

L. Interviews
All head coaches and players must be available to speak with the media after all contests, following a 10-minute cooling-off period. The visiting coach will be interviewed first; however, if time becomes excessive, it is the host SIDs decision as to what format will be used for postgame interviews.

M. Length of Season
The Mid-American Conference follows NCAA limitations on length of seasons for all sports.

N. "No Tobacco" Policy
The use of all tobacco products by players, athletics department personnel, and officials on the field, court, track, mat or course and adjacent areas (i.e., dugout, sideline, bench) shall be prohibited during pregame activities and competition. Any

individuals discovered by officials to be in violation of this rule shall be immediately ejected from the contest.

O. Official Standby Policy

When, due to an emergency, a lesser number of game officials than required are present for any game, the official(s) present will proceed to work the game unless a substitute official(s), agreeable to both coaches, is (are) available. If no officials are present, the host athletics director will make the decision. See "reduced crew policy" in Officiating Manual for further information.

P. Protest of Officials

Decisions of the game officials are final and protests arising from the decisions of the officials or any inadvertent misinterpretation of the rules will not be considered by the Conference.

Q. Rules and Regulations

The playing rules and regulations designated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) shall govern all athletic contests.

R. Schedule Requirements

All team sports, except football, must schedule a minimum of a single round of competition. See individual sport operating codes for specific scheduling information pertinent to the sport. All date changes require the consent of the participating institutions and approval of the Conference Office. See men's and women's basketball sport operating codes for further information relative to changes in dates of competition.

S. Spectator Control

Crowd control is a cooperative effort among the Conference, the university's administration, coaches, players, student body and fans. Each university should appeal to students, cheerleaders, bands and others to stress sportsmanship and respect for the visiting team.

The responsibility of spectator control is vested with the Athletics Director of the home university where the game is being played. The Athletics Director shall be responsible for adequate policing, adequate announcements over the public-address system and other measures necessary to prevent any exhibition of unsportsmanlike conduct.

Crowd Control Statement. "The Mid-American Conference and [institution] promotes good sportsmanship by its student-athletes, coaches, and fans. 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, players, coaches, or team representatives will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from this facility. Also, the throwing of any objects onto the playing floor and entry onto the playing surface at any time by spectators is prohibited."

When Necessary. "Fans, please remember to stay in your seats at the conclusion of today's/tonight's game as entry onto the playing surface by spectators is prohibited." [*Revised 5/19/11*]

Crowd Control Policy (Football & Basketball). The Host Institution is responsible for implementing a policy/plan of action to minimize the effect of crowd behavior. The protocol should ensure protection of the teams, coaches, officials, game management, and administrative staffs in the event of a postgame celebration.

Each institution shall publicize this policy/plan of action through appropriate means, such as ticket back statements, public address announcements, video boards and facility signage, and other means available.

For the safety of the participants and spectators alike, at no time before, during, or immediately after a contest should spectators enter the competition area.

Institutional penalties against individuals who improperly enter the competition area may/can include, but not limited to, expulsion from the facility, arrest for trespassing, and the loss of future ticket privileges. In addition to these penalties, violators who are students can be subject to institutional disciplinary measures.

In the event of a postgame celebration, Host Institution game management should implement a plan to move both participating institution's players and coaching staffs, along with game officials and game management staffs, to their respective locker rooms or designated areas.

Following the conclusion of normal sportsmanship activities (i.e. handshakes), at no time should the visiting school conduct any postgame presentations and/or celebrations in the competition area. Those should be limited to and take place in close proximity to or in its respective locker room.

Any violation of the above policy can/will result in the following:

- Public or Private Reprimand from the Commissioner; or
- Other sanctions at the discretion of the Commissioner.

T. Travel Squad Limitations

The following limitations apply to any Mid-American Conference team competition between two or more member or affiliate member institutions. This limitation applies to all institutional student-athletes who are included on the squad list, regardless if they dress for competition.

Further, member institutions are bound to the travel squad limitations whenever Mid-American Conference competition occurs within a road trip (e.g., if a Mid-American Conference institution participates in a multiple-team contest or is coupled with non-conference competition on a single road trip) if the competition will count in the Mid-American Conference standings.

"Travel Party" encompasses the Travel Squad, plus additional travelling team personnel (Institutional Staff). A team's Travel Party is locked in at 5:00pm local time the day prior to championship related activities (e.g., practice). [*Revised 6/1/16*]

"Travel Squad" consists of the student-athletes certified by the institution. A team's Travel Squad locks in at the start of championship competition (regardless of whether that team is involved in that competition). [*Revised 6/1/16*]
Non-participating student-athletes are permitted to travel per institutional discretion and must be included in all travel lists to no limit. [*Revised 10/11/18*]

Sport	Reg-Season Squad	Champ Travel Squad	Champ Travel Party
Baseball	No Limit	27	No Limit
Basketball	15	15	25
Cross Country (men)	No Limit	9	No Limit
Cross Country (women)	No Limit	9	No Limit
Field Hockey	No Limit	24	No Limit
Football	70##	No Limit##	No Limit##
Golf	No Limit	6	No Limit
Gymnastics	No Limit	18	No Limit
Soccer (men)	No Limit	27+++	No Limit
Soccer (women)	No Limit	26	No Limit
Softball	No Limit	22	No Limit
Swimming (men)	No Limit	18**	No Limit
Swimming (women)	No Limit	18**	No Limit
Tennis (men)	No Limit	9	No Limit
Tennis (women)	No Limit	9	No Limit
Track (indoor - men)	No Limit	30	No Limit
Track (indoor - women)	No Limit	30	No Limit
Track (outdoor - men)	No Limit	30	No Limit
Track (outdoor - women)	No Limit	30	No Limit
Volleyball	No Limit	16	No Limit
Wrestling	No Limit	20	No Limit
Cheerleaders (football)	6#	12#	
Cheerleaders (basketball)	total of (no specific gender) #		12#

+++ Twenty-one (21) student-athletes are to be designated eligible for play

** Each swimmer counts as one entry, while each diver counts as 1/3 of an entry.

Excluding one mascot. In the case of a basketball doubleheader, two mascots are permitted to travel.

Refer to the Football Sport Operating Code for football-specific limitations.

Exceptions to the travel squad or travel party limitations are subject to approval by the Commissioner or designee.

Chapter II - Baseball

A. Regular Season

1. Rules

a. All conference competition shall be governed by NCAA rules.

b. The visiting team shall notify the host team's head coach of the team's accommodations for notification of any schedule changes.

2. Scheduling/Procedures

a. Conference competition shall consist of an 11-week, 30-game schedule of ten three-game series with play scheduled on Friday and Saturday. [*Revised 5/27/20; 5/30/19*]

b. Conference weekend series' shall be scheduled to provide a single game on Friday and a double-header on Saturday. All games shall be nine-inning games. [*Revised 5/27/20*]

c. It is strongly recommended that non-conference games be scheduled with NCAA Division I institutions.

d. All games will be played at Mid-American Conference home sites, unless the switch of home sites is approved by the visiting team and the commissioner.

Exception: Upon mutual agreement of the host and visiting institutions, a home site for a conference weekend may be switched due to unplayable field conditions or weather concerns. [*Revised 5/27/20*]

e. Conference games shall be played on the scheduled dates and may not be altered except as provided by the conference inclement weather / makeup policy, or with the approval of both participating teams and the commissioner.

f. The official Mid-American Conference hitting and infield schedule is as follows: (with agreement by the head coaches in each series, the schedule can be adjusted due to circumstances involving travel, class schedule and/or weather conditions).

Friday 3pm Games		**Saturday 12pm Games**	
12:30-1:20	Visiting Team Hits	9:30-10:20	Home Team Hits
1:20-2:10	Home Team Hits	10:20-11:10	Visiting Team Hits
2:15-2:25	Visiting Team Infield	11:15-11:25	Home Team Infield
2:25-2:35	Home Team Infield	11:25-11:35	Visiting Team Infield
2:35	Field Maintenance/ Ground Rules	11:35	Field Maintenance/ Ground Rules
3:00	Game Time	12:00	Game Time

[Revised 5/27/20; 10/14/19; 1/25/11]

3. Real Feel Temperature Policy

If the 'Real Feel' temperature at the facility (field) per accuweather.com is below 28 degrees, a Senior Level Administrator from the host institution must be consulted and will make the determination to play or delay the game. [*2/26/16*]

4. Inclement Weather / Makeup Policy

a. All games must be played within a proscribed 2-day period (Friday-Saturday or Saturday-Sunday) and may not be resumed or rescheduled outside of that period. Games may not be scheduled for, or resumed on, Thursday or Monday. [*5/27/20*]

The Mid-American Conference baseball inclement weather / make-up policy is used in conjunction with the NCAA rules regarding regulation and halted games and allows for games to be halted on Friday because of inclement weather, darkness, light failure or curfew. Games started or resumed by the completion of the series may not be halted for completion at a later date. [*Revised 5/27/20*]

b. Prior to the beginning of a weekend series, games may be shifted from Friday-Saturday to Saturday-Sunday with approval from both teams due to weather forecasts and/or field conditions. In this event, games will be scheduled as a doubleheader on Saturday and a single game on Sunday. [*5/27/20*]

c. Scheduled games and game times may be flexed within the proscribed 2-day period due to weather or field conditions, if approved by both teams. E.G., move to a doubleheader Friday, single game Saturday. [*5/27/20*]

d. An initial schedule for the weekend must be determined by 7:00pm local time on the Wednesday prior to the scheduled series. [*5/27/20*]

e. No more than two full games plus one halted game may be played in a single day. [*Revised 5/27/20*]

f. All halted games must be completed prior to the start of subsequent games. If by the end of the day on day 2 of the weekend series, a halted game is not resumed, it is subject to the provisions of the NCAA Baseball Rules. [*Revised 5/27/20*]

5. Travel Squad

There is no travel squad limitation for Mid-American Conference competition. [*Revised 5/30/19; 10/15/15*]

6. Facilities/Equipment

a. Field tarps are mandatory at all baseball stadiums and shall be in place on nights before home conference baseball games, when deemed necessary.

b. The official conference baseball is the Rawlings R1NCAA-MAC. [*Revised 5/30/19; 5/14/14*]

7. Bat Testing Policy

It is required that bat testing take place at all regular season home games, conference and non-conference. Testing shall be conducted by an assigned and trained non-coaching staff institutional representative (as determined by each institution) and must take place in the presence of a representative from each team. Institutions are responsible for notifying the conference office of who the institutional representative will be.

Testing will occur once prior to the beginning of a series (or game if a single game) at a time and location determined by the institution that must be included in the pregame protocol.

The conference office will provide bat testing stickers to each institution that should be placed on the barrel of bats that pass testing, just above the grip.

Bats that fail testing will not receive a sticker and will be removed from play by the home institution representative and returned to the team at the conclusion of the completed series (or game is a single game). [*1/24/18*]

B. Scouting/Exchange of Information

1. Due to legislative action, Division I coaches in all sports are prohibited from live scouting of future opponents. [Revised 7/1/13]

2. Each coach should send a copy of their media guide to each conference coach no later than one week before the Mid-American Conference season begins.

3. The coach of the home team shall communicate to the coach of the visiting team, no later than five days in advance of the series, information on the starting time of the games and the pregame workout schedules.

4. Team and individual statistics should be faxed or e-mailed to a university's upcoming Mid-American Conference opponent or available on the school's web site no later than one day before the scheduled series.

5. Schools can only video tape the game(s) in which they participate.

6. To aid conference teams in NCAA appearances, any number of video requests may be made within the conference after the completion of the conference tournament.

7. The sharing of scouting, videotape or other competitive information about Mid-American Conference baseball teams with non-conference information about Mid-American Conference baseball teams with non-conference teams is prohibited under any circumstances.

C. Umpires

1. Three officials for all home conference and non-conference games shall be assigned by the coordinator of umpires and approved by the office of the commissioner. The host university shall be responsible for payment of these officials. Officials shall be paid a flat fee of $990/weekend (to cover a three-game series). Non-conference games shall be paid at $330/game. [*Revised 5/27/20*]

2. Overnight lodging shall be provided to umpires traveling from 50 miles or more to the host institution. [*10/14/15*]

3. If an umpire has traveled to a site for a weekend series, the umpire shall receive a full weekend fee, regardless of the number of games played.

   If an Umpire has traveled to a site for a weekday double header and both games are cancelled due to rain, the umpire shall receive a game fee for one game. If the second game of a doubleheader is started, the umpire shall receive two game fees.

If an umpire has traveled to a site for a weekday single game, the umpire shall receive a full game fee regardless of whether the game is played.

If an umpire is contacted about a cancellation prior to departing for campus, no game fee is paid. [*10/14/15*]

D. Awards (see Mid-American Conference Bylaw X)

1. Pitcher & Player of the Week

During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference media relations department shall select a Pitcher and Player of the Week based on nominations received from member institutions.

2. All-MAC Team & All-MAC Defensive Team

The 30-member All-MAC team and the 9-member All-MAC Defensive team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches. Nomination forms will be sent to the coaches two weeks prior to the conclusion of the season. Based on nominations received, the conference office will generate a ballot to be distributed to the coaches after the conclusion of the season. Coaches may nominate their own players but may not vote for their own players. Separate voting shall be conducted for the 15-member All-MAC first team (1 DH, 1 relief pitcher, 4 pitchers, 1 utility, 8 position players) and 15-member All-MAC second team (same positions as first team), with each coach speaking on behalf of their nominee(s). Nominations for Mid-American Conference All-Conference DH must be documented as at least 50% his playing time before nominating a player. See Mid-American Conference Appendix for procedures to break ties in the voting. On the Monday following the conclusion of the regular season a conference call will take place during which each Head Coach will have a 5-minute (max) opportunity to discuss their All-MAC Nominations. [*Revised 10/17/14*]

3. Individual "of the Year" Awards

The Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, Freshman Player of the Year, Freshman Pitcher of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year and Coach of the Year will be selected by the coaches in conjunction with the All-MAC voting. Eligibility for the Freshman Pitcher and Freshman Player of the Year awards shall be open to true or red-shirt freshman. The conference office will include on the nomination form for the All-MAC team information relative to these awards. Based on nominations received, the conference office will generate a ballot to be distributed to the coaches. Coaches may nominate their own players but may not vote for their own players. Should a tie occur in the voting, a re-vote shall be conducted for the tied student-athletes. [*Revised 1/29/14*]

E. Coaches' Meeting (see appendix for meeting calendar)

The annual business meeting of the baseball coaches shall be conducted the fourth Wednesday in August. [*Revised 5/30/19; 8/16/17*]

F. Regular-Season Champion

The team with the best overall conference winning percentage shall be declared the Mid-American Conference Champion. If two or more teams are tied for the championship, they shall be considered co-champions.

1. **Tiebreaker Procedure (used for determination of NCAA AQ)**

The following tiebreaker procedure will apply to baseball and will be used to determine the team that receives the conference's automatic qualification to the NCAA Tournament. When comparing tied teams against positions lower in the standings, which are also tied, those lower-tied positions will be considered as a single position for purposes of comparison. (Example: Team A and Team B, who

tied for second place, would compare against Team X and Team Y who tied for 6th as follows: Team A would compare its combined record against both X and Y against Team B's combined record against both X and Y.)

Two Team Tiebreaker:
1. Head-to-head competition
2. Winning percentage* vs. ranked conference teams (top to bottom, regardless of division; versus common opponents, regardless of the number of times played)
3. RPI (final regular season)

Multiple (3 or more) Team Tiebreaker:
1. Combined head-to-head record among the tied teams**
2. If or when two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker goes into effect

[Note: If a three-team tie is reduced to two teams, the Two Team Tiebreaker goes into effect.]

* Winning percentage is used instead of record because of situations where teams do not play each other the same number of times. Therefore, a team that is 1-0 (1.000) would win the tiebreaker over a team that is 1-1 (.500).

** If the combined records of each tied team are different, the tiebreak is complete. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-1 and Team C is 1-2 then this is the order of the tiebreak.

Once only two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker is used. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-2 and Team C is 1-2 then Team A is ahead of Teams B and C and Teams B and C revert to the Two Team Tiebreaker.

[*Revised 5/27/20*]

2. **Minimum Number of Games (Full Season)**
In order to qualify as MAC Champion, and to receive the conference's automatic qualification to the NCAA Tournament, a team must complete at least 25 of their 30 scheduled conference competitions. [*7/2/20*]

3. **Minimum Number of Games (Incomplete Season)**
Refer to MAC Championships Manual, Section Z. [*7/2/20*]

Chapter III - Men's Basketball

A. Core Sport Recommendations

1. Scheduling

a. That each Institution attempts to schedule as follows:
   i. Top level programs expected to compete for the Conference Championship should attempt to schedule: Three Quadrant 1 teams; Three Quadrant 2 teams; Two Quadrant 3 teams; Four Quadrant 4 teams
   ii. Middle level preforming programs should attempt to schedule: Two quadrant 2 teams; Two quadrant 2 teams; Four quadrant 3 teams; Four quadrant 4 teams
   iii. Rebuilding programs should attempt to schedule: One Quadrant 1 team; One Quadrant 2 team; Four Quadrant 3 teams; Six Quadrant 4 teams.
   iv. All programs may schedule a maximum of one (1) non-division I opponent each year. *[Revised 7/6/19]*

2. Staffing

b. That each Institution prioritize staff retention and maintain a minimum staff size of six (6) as follows:
   i. One (1) Head Coach
   ii. Three (3) Full-Time Assistant Coaches
   iii. One (1) Director of Basketball Operations
   iv. One (1) additional fulltime staff position (e.g., administrative support)

c. That each Institution provide access to a full-time certified strength and conditioning coach and an academic advisor to work directly with men's basketball.

d. That each Institution provide a full-time certified athletic trainer, for men's basketball, that also travels with the team.

3. Marketing

e. That each Institution submit a men's basketball marketing plan to the Conference Office prior to each season, to be shared with the full membership as a best practice.

f. That each Institution produces a minimum of ten (10) home games on ESPN+/ESPN3 digital platform.

B. Regular Season

1. Rules

a. All conference competition shall be governed by NCAA rules

b. For all stand-alone regular season conference games, 60 minutes is required for on-court time prior to tip-off.

c. The host university shall provide 60 complimentary reserved tickets for the visiting team. The seat locations are to be in the area immediately behind the visiting team's bench (30 of the tickets may be in another location). The visiting team shall be provided with 15 bench seats for participants in addition to staff seating.

d. Complimentary admissions shall be provided to no more than four individuals designated by the student-athletes via a pass list.

e. The use of irritants (i.e., artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or public-address systems by cheerleaders) is prohibited in Mid-American Conference arenas.

f. The home team will determine the format that will be used during the introduction of starting lineups.

g. A maximum of 15 players may be dressed and fed at the pregame meal before home games.

2. Scheduling Procedures

a. Conference play shall consist of an 20-game schedule. Scheduling will be done by the Conference Office independent of the women's schedule.

b. The visiting team's coach shall request in writing, one month prior to the scheduled game, a minimum one-hour block of time for practice, with the host university athletics director establishing the practice time.

c. The last day of the regular-season shall be scheduled no earlier than Monday, March 8, 2021; unless a MAC-sponsored television arrangement facilitates a change.

3. National Television Parameters

a. January – Pre-selected dates for all National Television windows.

b. February – 21-day Wildcard selection. Established 21-day selection process coordinated by Conference Office with national T.V. partners;

1. No more than a combined five (5) February Friday national T.V. windows.
2. No schools will be asked to play at Home on consecutive Fridays.
3. A maximum of two (2) Home Friday appearances in January/and or February.
4. Last playing date (first Friday in March) outside of home game appearance parameter since all games are scheduled on Friday and no move(s) needed.
5. Protected Dates: Request two (2) protected dates (primary/secondary)

Only game date will be protected; not game time

4. Game Postponement/Rescheduling Protocol

The conference office recognizes emergencies may arise that make a contest's completion impossible or inadvisable and affect the safety of teams or game officials involved. The only reason a game should be cancelled/and or postponed include, but are not limited to, severe inclement weather, natural or man-made disasters, and conditions that prevent the gathering of necessary game personnel.

In those instances where conditions require a postponement of a game, each institution should adhere to the following procedures:

a. Both institutions athletic directors (or their respective designees) and the conference office should be in communication as soon as one learns of potential concerns or an event that may affect a contest's completion. As conditions may rapidly change, the decision to postpone a contest should

be withheld as long as possible to try and play the game at the regular scheduled time.

b. An effort by both institutions will be made to reschedule the contest on the earliest, agreed upon date and time available for both institutions.
c. Once an agreed upon date and time is determined, the institutions athletics director (or respective designee) should contact the Commissioner (or assigned designee) with all pertinent information related to the date and time of the contest.
d. The Commissioner (or assigned designee) will then approve of the new date and time and alert the necessary parties.
e. If a date and time cannot be agreed upon, the Commissioner (or assigned designee) will designate a new competition date and time.

Regarding officials, as long as at least two can reach the game site, the game should be played. Not having a full crew of three officials is not a reason for postponing a game. (Officials able to work the game may not be the ones originally assigned)

*It is understood that inclement weather may alter game operations and preparations and may result in less desirable situations. In these instances, the games should be played. [Adopted 7/3/19]

5. Travel Squad

The travel squad for Mid-American Conference competition shall be 15 participants. This limitation applies to any team competition between two or more members or affiliate member institutions that will count in the Mid-American Conference standings. The limitation applies to all institutional student-athletes who are included on the squad list, regardless if they dress for competition. Further, member institutions are bound to the travel squad limitations whenever Mid-American Conference competition occurs within a road trip (e.g., if a member institution participates in a multiple-team contest or is coupled with non-conference competition on a single road trip).

6. Facilities/Equipment (see NCAA Basketball Rules manual)

a. The home team will wear light jerseys and the visiting team will wear dark jerseys. This rule may be altered by mutual consent of the competing institutions and the Mid-American Conference Senior Associate Commissioner for Basketball.

b. Nothing may be affixed to any part of the backboard (front or back). Cameras can be mounted behind backboards; however, they must be affixed to the basket stanchion and cannot come into contact with back of the glass. From the perspective of a free throw shooter, cameras should not be viewed behind the middle 36” of the backboard (standard backboard length is 72”).

c. A stopwatch, capable of reading tenths of seconds, must be kept with the official timer in case of a clock malfunction or failure.

d. The team bench area extends from the baseline to the 38-foot line. All bench seating should be confined to this area.

e. NCAA rules require a 6-ft. restraining line behind each baseline to protect players and allow officials freedom of movement. Non-playing personnel (cheerleaders, band, mascot, fans) shall not be permitted in this area.

f. NCAA rules require a 4-ft. restricted-area arc to reduce the number of collisions at the basket.

7. Bands/Cheerleaders

a. Only the host university's pep band will play at conference games with visiting pep bands prohibited. Home team bands shall not be seated adjacent to the visiting team bench.

b. The play of bands or any portion of the bands shall be restricted to pregame, halftime, postgame and time-outs. There shall be no playing of band instruments during a free throw, throw-in, or live-ball situation. Bands must NOT play during the reading of the Mid-American Conference Sportsmanship Policy.

c. The travel squad for cheerleaders shall be limited to 6 individuals and one mascot, with no weekday travel permitted.

d. Cheerleaders, mascots and other uniformed personnel representing university organizations (i.e., bands) are prohibited from waving megaphones, instruments or pom-poms or in any other way distracting a player during a free throw, throw-in, or live-ball situation.

e. NCAA rules require a 6-ft. restraining line behind each baseline to protect players and allow officials freedom of movement. Non-playing personnel (cheerleaders, band, mascot, fans) shall not be permitted in this area.

8. Game Disruption Policy

The referee has the authority and the discretion under the playing rules to suspend play for any reason. In the event of a disturbance, which is of such character and proportions that it disrupts the game, the following action should be initiated:

a. The Referee shall call a halt to the game (referee's time-out) and instruct each team captain to send his/her teammates to their respective benches. Coaches will make special efforts to see that players do not become involved in the disturbance by holding them in the bench area or, upon instruction, taking them to their dressing room.

b. The Referee will make a note of the elapsed time. The clock operator will freeze the game clock at that point. This being accomplished, the Referee and his/her officiating crew will also return to the sideline. The Referee must make himself available to game management for further instruction ("game management" is defined as the host Athletics Director or designee).

c. Game management will assume responsibility immediately after teams and officials have cleared the floor. Under no circumstances are players, coaches or officials to become involved in the action.

d. Should the disturbance be of such proportions that a long delay is imminent or is such that it threatens the involvement and safety of the players, coaches or officials, the teams and officials will be instructed by game management to return to their respective dressing rooms.

e. Teams and officials will remain in their dressing rooms until the disturbance has been brought under control.

f. Game management will notify the referee of the "all clear" when order has been restored, making continuation of play possible.

g. Teams will return to the floor, after which a five-minute warm-up period will be permitted. Following the warm-up period, the game will be resumed from the exact point at which it had been stopped.

h. Should the disturbance be of such proportions that further play would be impossible; the status of the game will revert to the Athletics Directors of the institutions involved. For all conference games, no game shall be forfeited due to a game disruption, rather the game shall be rescheduled on the first Monday each team has open and play shall resume from the point of suspension. In the event the disrupted game is the first of two conference games, the rescheduled game shall be played prior to the date of the second scheduled game.

i. Should a game disruption be anticipated, the Athletics Director or designated representative shall attend the officials' conference prior to the game to review procedures to be followed in the event of a disturbance and to acquaint officials with communication facilities available. The Athletics Director shall contact the referee, either by phone or by mail, to determine the time and place of the pregame conference.

9. Arena Video Board Replay Policy

Host institutions ARE NOT limited in the use of replays on video boards except during game action. Replays featuring multiple angles may be shown in real time and slow motion.

However, in the event of an official review, institutions are not permitted to use replays once the official administers the ruling to determine the outcome of the official review process.

In accordance with the MAC Sportsmanship Code, the video board may not be used to embarrass, humiliate or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd, or distract a participant or coach. [*Adopted 7/3/19]*

C. Scouting/Exchange of Information

1. Mid-American Conference Video Exchange Policy

Mid-American Conference Men's Basketball will operate under an open exchange policy. All institutions shall utilize Synergy as the primary means to exchange video via the internet [*Revised* March 2016; Adopted; September 2008]. The Conference Office considers non-compliance to the Video Exchange Policy, as indicated, to be a violation of Conference regulations. The guidelines of the MAC Video Exchange Policy are outlined below:

a. Only the two competing teams may videotape a Mid-American Conference contest. Video, scouting reports, or verbal conversations about Mid-American Conference teams cannot be given to non-conference opponents.

b. Each institution will make available all non-conference and conference games to Mid-American Conference members via Synergy.

c. Institutions are required to upload the coaches' copy of the game video.

Home Games: All non-conference and conference home games must be uploaded to Synergy no later than 12:00 noon (local time) the next day, by the home institution.

Non-Conference away games: Non-conference away games must be uploaded to Synergy within 48 hours, upon arrival to campus.

d. All game videos that are exchanged in compliance with the Mid-American Conference Video Exchange Policy must be shot at mid-court, from an elevated area, and must include sound and shots of the scoreboard (at least 5 seconds) during all timeouts and at the end of each half and overtime period.

e. Video must include the entire game, including overtime.

f. There will be no live scouting of conference opponents.

D. Officials

1. Assignment of Officials

Three officials for all home games and select non-conference games shall be assigned by the Supervisor of Men's Basketball Officiating and approved by the Senior Associate Commissioner for Basketball. The host university shall be responsible for payment of these officials.

2. Fees

Tier One and Tier Two status shall be determined by the Supervisor of Men's Basketball Officials, in consultation with the Senior Associate Commissioner for Basketball. Any adjustments to the above fee structure must be authorized by the MAC COP, upon recommendation of the Mid-American Conference Joint Committee. *[Updated 7/3/19]*

3. Mid-American Conference Pool Reporter Policy

The pool reporter will be assigned by the home SID prior to the start of the basketball season. He/she will be the member of the media who covers that institution on a regular basis. SIDs will notify the Mid-American Conference Assistant Commissioner for Integrated Digital Services at the start of each season as to the identity of this pool reporter.

a. If the designated pool reporter is not in attendance for any reason, the host SID should designate a replacement reporter for that game. The pool reporter must be accompanied by the home SID or a member of the Media Relations staff. There will be only ONE pool reporter.

b. Following a 10-minute cooling off period, game management (director of athletics or other designee) will accompany the SID and pool reporter to the officials' locker room for a clarification of the rule. The pool reporter is to remain outside the official's locker room. Both the SID and reporter will tape the interview and upon conclusion, a typed transcript of the interview will be made available to all media.

c. No one except officials, the pool reporter, SID, and Game Management may be present during the interview process. The head referee must agree to participate in the conference. Only rule interpretations and game procedures can be discussed. Judgment

calls CANNOT be discussed. If this interview process is not available, all media questions shall be referred to the Conference Office.

E. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X)

1. Pre-Season All-MAC

Prior to the start of the season, a five-member East Division and five-member West Division Pre-Season All-MAC team shall be named.

2. Player of the Week

During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference media relations department shall select an East Division and West Division Player of the Week based on nominations received from member institutions.

3. Post-Season All-MAC

The 20-member All-MAC team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches. Nomination forms will be sent to the coaches two weeks prior to the end of the regular season. Based on nominations received, the conference office will generate a ballot to be faxed to the coaches on the Monday prior to the end of the season. The ballot must be returned by the Friday prior to the final regular-season game. Coaches may nominate their own players but may not vote for their own players. The first team shall be limited to the top five vote-getters (including ties), with the remaining honorees being named either second team or honorable mention. See Mid-American Conference Bylaw 10.04 for procedure to break ties in the voting.

4. Post-Season All-Freshmen and Defensive Player of the Year

The five-member All-Freshman Team and Defensive Player of the Year will be selected by the coaches following the conclusion of the regular season as part of the All-MAC team selection process. Eligibility for the All-Freshman Team shall be limited to individuals in their first year of collegiate competition (true freshman and/or red-shirt freshman - no non-qualifiers or transfers in their first year of eligibility). Based on nominations received, the conference office will generate a ballot to be distributed to the coaches. Coaches may nominate their own players but may not vote for their own players.

5. Post Season All-Defensive Team

The five-member All-Defensive Team will be selected by the coaches following the conclusion of the regular season as part of the All-MAC team selection process.

6. Sixth Man

A "Sixth Man" specialty award shall be voted on by the coaches along with the Defensive Player of the Year.

7. Coach, Player, and Freshman of the Year

The Coach of the Year, Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year will be selected by the Mid-American Conference News Media Association following the conclusion of the regular season.

F. Head Coaches' Meeting

The annual business meeting will be at the Final Four each year.

G. Divisional Champions / Regular-Season Champion

The divisional championship shall be decided by overall conference winning percentage. If two or more teams are tied for the divisional championship, they shall be considered co-champions. The team with the best overall conference winning

percentage shall be declared the Mid-American Conference Champion. If two or more teams are tied for the regular-season championship, they shall be considered co-champions.

H. Conference Post-Season Tournament (see Championships Manual)

1. Tournament Awards

As part of the awards listed in Mid-American Conference Bylaw V and the sport operating codes, a five-player all-tournament team and Most Valuable Player will be selected for both men's and women's tournaments by the MAC News Media Association at the conclusion of the tournaments.

2. Tournament Dates

The tournament dates shall be established annually based upon the dates of the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Championships.

3. Tournament Directors

The tournament directors shall be members of the Conference Office staff.

4. Tournament Format

The Conference Tournament shall be a eight (8)-team single elimination event.

The team winning the Mid-American Conference Championship will be the conference representative to the NCAA Tournament. Other conference teams may be extended the opportunity to accept an invitation to participate in the NCAA Tournament, the National Invitational Tournament (NIT), or other post-season events.

5. Tournament Manual

A detailed tournament manual will be distributed to member institutions' administrative and coaching staff members at least one month prior to the Mid-American Conference Championship.

6. Tournament Seeding

Seeding for the Conference Tournament will be based on overall conference record. Teams will be seeded 1 through 8. (see Tiebreaker Procedure listed under CHAMPIONSHIPS MANUAL). [*Revised 8/2011*]

7. Tournament Site

The quarter-finals, semi-finals, and final will be held at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse in Cleveland, Ohio.

8. Financial Commitment

Once the Championship arrives in Cleveland at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse, the Conference Office will be responsible for all officiating fees and lodging. The Mid-American Conference will also provide 15 hotel rooms per team, beginning with the evening prior to the quarter-final round.

I. Rules

1. Travel Squad

Each team shall be limited to 15 players in uniform for all tournament games. Eligible replacements are permitted up to the starting time of any game; after the game starts, replacements are not permitted. The official travel party for the tournament cannot exceed 25 members.

J. Tournament Schedule/Procedures

1. **Schedule of Games**
   The tentative schedule for the Mid-American Conference Championship shall be as follows:

Quarterfinals: Thursday, March 11, 2021
Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse, Cleveland, OH

No. 1 Seed vs. No. 8
No. 2 Seed vs. No. 7
No. 3 Seed vs. No. 6
No. 4 Seed vs. No. 5

Semifinals: Friday, March 12, 2021
Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse, Cleveland, OH

Winner 1/8 vs. Winner 4/5
Winner 2/7 vs. Winner 3/6

Championship (ESPN/CBS): Saturday, March 13, 2021
Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse, Cleveland, OH

2. **Notification of Teams**
   Upon completion of the regular season, an informational teleconference will be conducted with the administrators of every team to address Mid-American Conference Championship issues.

3. **Participant Passes**
   Members of each official travel party will be provided with participant passes, which will allow them entrance into the arena for the quarterfinals, semifinals and finals. Twenty-Five (25) participant credentials will be distributed to each of the eight men's and women's teams upon arrival in Cleveland.

4. **Practice Times**

   Practice times inside Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse will be determined by the Tournament Director. The acquisition of "off-site" practice facilities will be the responsibility of each Mid-American Conference Men's Basketball staff.

5. **Pregame Format**
   There will be a 30-minute warm-up period prior to each game. The game clock will be started 30 minutes prior to the designated starting time. The national anthem will be played when 10 minutes remain on the clock prior to the first game of each session, while both teams are off the court. Alternate player and coach introductions will begin when the game clock reaches 0:00.

The game will begin one-minute following introductions unless television dictates otherwise.

6. Press Conferences

Pre-tournament and post-tournament press conferences will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference Assistant Commissioner for Integrated Digital Services.

K. Facilities/Equipment

1. Ball

The official ball for the Mid-American Conference Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament will be the Spalding TF1000 Legacy Composite.

2. Banners and Noisemakers

Banners deemed objectionable by tournament management will be removed. The use of artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or public-address systems by fans or cheerleaders is prohibited during the tournament games.

3. Benches

Team benches and baskets will be assigned prior to the tournament. Only members of the official travel party will be allowed on the team bench.

4. Team Locker Rooms

Team locker rooms will be assigned to participating teams by the tournament management based on seeding. Each locker room will be supplied with the following: water, ice, ice bags, sports drinks, soft drinks and towels.

5. Uniforms / Home Team Designation

The home team for each tournament game will be the higher seed of the two teams in that game. The home team will wear its light game jerseys.

6. Courtside Monitors

A courtside video monitor will be available for all Mid-American Conference Championship games held at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse.

L. Officials

1. Assignment, Supervision, and Payment of Officials

a. Officials shall be assigned for all tournament games by the Supervisor of Men's Basketball Officials (in consultation with the Senior Associate Commissioner for Men's Basketball). A 4th alternate/standby official will also be assigned for all tournament games.

b. The Supervisor of Men's Basketball Officials and/or the Senior Associate Commissioner for Basketball shall be in attendance at all tournament games.

c. Officials for all Championship games shall be paid by the Mid-American Conference. Game fees will be determined by the Supervisor of Men's Basketball Officials, in consultation with the Senior Associate Commissioner for Basketball.

2. Pool Reporter Policy (See Section C)

M. Tiebreaker Procedure.

Ties in winning percentage, and thus for Tournament seeding positions shall be broken according to the following [*Revised 5/25/2010*]*:*

1. **Between TWO teams**:
   - A. Head-to-head competition
   - B. Division Record (10 games)
   - C. Winning percentage* vs. ranked conference teams (top to bottom, regardless of division, vs. common opponents regardless of the number of times played)
   - D. Coin flip

   * - Winning percentage is used instead of record because of situations where teams do not play each other the same number of times. Therefore, a team that is 1-0 (1.000) would win the tiebreaker over a team that is 1-1 (.500).

2. **For MULTIPLE** (3 or more) **team ties:**
   - E. Total won-lost record of games played among the tied teams
   - F. Two (2)-team tie-breaker procedure goes into effect (refer to A).

   NOTE: *Once a three-team tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tiebreaker will go into effect.*

   # - *For the purpose of determining the Divisional Champion*

   * - *Winning percentage is used instead of record because of situations where teams do not play each other the same number of times.*
   Therefore, a team that is 1-0 (1.000) would win the tiebreaker over a team that is 1-1 (.500).

Chapter IV - Women's Basketball

A. Core Sport Recommendations

1. Scheduling

a. That each Institution schedule 50% or more of non-conference games at home and/or neutral sites.

b. That each institution continues to make an effort at right-sized scheduling and to challenge themselves when appropriate

c. Participation in Multi-Team Events (MTE's) is encouraged, particularly if they present opportunities against top-100 opponents

d. That each institution schedules a minimum of 16 homes games

e. That each Institution maintains game guarantee budgets to enable opportunities to schedule a minimum of sixteen (16) home games.

f. That each Institution schedules non-conference competition against Division I opponents only.
Exception: Multi-Team Tournaments

g. That each Institution schedules in an effort to finish the non-conference season with a winning percentage of 50% or greater. [Revised 7/3/19]

2. Staffing

h. That each Institution prioritize staff retention and maintain a minimum staff size of six (6) as follows:

i. One (1) Head Coach
ii. Three (3) Full-Time Assistant Coaches
iii. One (1) Director of Basketball Operations
iv. One (1) additional fulltime staff position (e.g., administrative support)

i. That each Institution provide access to a full-time certified strength and conditioning coach and an academic advisor to work directly with women's basketball.

j. That each Institution provide a full-time certified athletic trainer, for women's basketball, that also travels with the team.

3. Marketing

k. That each Institution submit a women's basketball marketing plan to the Conference Office prior to each season, to be shared with the full membership as a best practice.

l. That each institution produces homes games for the ESPN+/ESPN3 digital platforms. [*Revised 7/3/19]*

B. Regular Season

1. Competition Rules

All conference competition shall be governed by NCAA Basketball rules.

a. **Complimentary Tickets**. The host university shall provide sixty (60) complimentary reserved tickets for the visiting team. The seat locations are to be in the area immediately behind the visiting team's bench (30 of the tickets may be in another location). The visiting team shall be provided with 15 bench seats.

b. **Complimentary Admission.** Complimentary admissions shall be provided to no more than four (4) individuals designated by the student-athletes via a pass list.

c. **Artificial Noisemakers**. The use of irritants (i.e., artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or public-address systems by cheerleaders) is prohibited in Mid-American Conference arenas.

d. **Introductions**. The home team will determine the format that will be used during the introduction of starting lineups.

e. **Instant Replay.** Instant Replay will be in effect for all Mid-American Conference men's and women's home (non-conference and conference) games.

f. **Court Access.** Players shall remain in the locker room or off the floor if students or fans are on the playing floor forming "tunnels" for players to run through.

g. **Travel Squad.** Team travel squad size is limited to fifteen (15) players, for Conference competition. This limitation applies to any team competition between two or more members or affiliate member institutions that will count in the Mid-American Conference standings. The limitation applies to all institutional student-athletes who are included on the squad list, regardless if they dress for competition. Further, member institutions are bound to the travel squad limitations whenever Mid-American Conference competition occurs within a road trip (e.g., if a member institution participates in a multiple-team contest or is coupled with non-conference competition on a single road trip).

2. Scheduling Procedures

Conference play shall consist of an unbalanced twenty (20)-game schedule. A postseason tournament consisting of eight (8) teams shall follow at the conclusion of the regular season.

a. **Conference.** The base schedule will be Wednesdays and Saturdays unless there is a facility conflict or dictated by television. Midweek doubleheaders with the men's team will not be scheduled. Mutual consent with the participating institution is necessary to change a Wednesday date of competition; however, no mutual consent is necessary should the host institution choose not to schedule a doubleheader on a Saturday.

b. **Non-Conference**. It is strongly recommended that non-conference games for men and women be scheduled with NCAA Division I institutions.

3. Practice.

The visiting team's coach shall request in writing, one month prior to the scheduled game, a minimum one-hour block of time for practice. On game day, the visiting team practice will be scheduled on the main competition floor 5-8 hours prior to the game start, with the host university athletics director/sport administrator establishing the practice time.

4. Postponed/Rescheduled Games

The conference office recognizes emergencies may arise that make a contest's completion impossible or inadvisable and affect the safety of teams or game officials involved. The only reason a game should be cancelled/and or postponed include, but are not limited to, severe inclement weather, natural or man-made disasters, and conditions that prevent the gathering of necessary game personnel.

In those instances where conditions require a postponement of a game, each institution should adhere to the following procedures:

a. Both institutions athletic directors (or their respective designees) and the conference office should be in communication as soon as one learns of potential concerns or an event that may affect a contest's completion. As conditions may rapidly change, the decision to postpone a contest should be withheld as long as possible to try and play the game at the regular scheduled time.
b. An effort by both institutions will be made to reschedule the contest on the earliest, agreed upon date and time available for both institutions.
c. Once an agreed upon date and time is determined, the institutions athletics director (or respective designee) should contact the Commissioner (or assigned designee) with all pertinent information related to the date and time of the contest.
d. The Commissioner (or assigned designee) will then approve of the new date and time and alert the necessary parties.
e. If a date and time cannot be agreed upon, the Commissioner (or assigned designee) will designate a new competition date and time.

Regarding officials, as long as at least two can reach the game site, the game should be played. Not having a full crew of three officials is not a reason for postponing a game. (Officials able to work the game may not be the ones originally assigned)

*It is understood that inclement weather may alter game operations and preparations and may result in less desirable situations. In these instances, the games should be played. *[Adopted 7/3/19]*

5. Facilities/Equipment (see NCAA Basketball Rules Manual)

a. **Uniform.** The home team will wear light jerseys and the visiting team will wear dark jerseys. This rule may be altered by mutual consent of the competing institutions.

b. **Basket / Backboard.** Nothing may be affixed to any part of the backboard (front or back). Cameras can be mounted behind backboards; however, they must be affixed to the basket stanchion and cannot come into contact with back of the glass. From the perspective of a free throw shooter, cameras should not be viewed behind the middle 36" of the backboard (standard backboard length is 72").

c. **Stopwatch.** A stopwatch, capable of reading tenths of seconds, must be kept with the official timer in case of a clock malfunction or failure.

d. **Team Bench Area.** The team bench area extends from the baseline to the 38-foot line. All bench seating should be confined to this area.

e. **Restraining Line.** NCAA rules require a 6-ft. restraining line behind each baseline to protect players and allow officials freedom of movement. Non-playing personnel (cheerleaders, band, mascot, fans) shall not be permitted in this area.

f. NCAA rules require a 4-ft. restricted-area arc to reduce the number of collisions at the basket.

6. Bands/Cheerleaders

a. Only the host university's pep band will play at conference games, visiting pep bands are prohibited. Home team bands shall not be seated adjacent to the visiting team bench.

b. The play of bands or any portion of the bands shall be restricted to pregame, halftime, postgame and time-outs. There shall be no playing of band instruments during a free throw, throw-in, or live-ball situation. Artificial noisemakers (interpreted as being any object that is used to manufacture noise by contact with another object or surface) shall fall under this policy as well. Bands must not play during the reading of the Sportsmanship statement.

c. The travel squad for cheerleader/dance squads shall be limited to 12 individuals and one mascot, weekday travel is prohibited.

d. Cheerleaders, mascots and other uniformed personnel representing university organizations (i.e., bands) are prohibited from waving megaphones, instruments or pom-poms or in any other way distracting a player during a free throw, throw-in, or live-ball situation.

e. NCAA rules require a 6-ft. restraining line behind each baseline to protect players and allow officials freedom of movement. Non-playing personnel (cheerleaders, band, mascot, fans) shall not be permitted in this area.

7. Game Management -- Game Disruption Policy

The referee has the authority and the discretion under the playing rules to suspend play for any reason. In the event of a disturbance, which is of such character and proportions that it disrupts the game, the following action should be initiated:

a. The Referee shall call a halt to the game (referee's time-out) and instruct each team captain to send his/her teammates to their respective benches. Coaches will make special efforts to see that players do not become involved in the disturbance by holding them in the bench area or, upon instruction, taking them to their dressing room.

b. The Referee will make a note of the elapsed time. The clock operator will freeze the game clock at that point. This being accomplished, the Referee and his/her officiating crew will also return to the sideline. The Referee must make him/her available to game management for further instruction. ["Game management" is the host Athletic Director or his/her designee.]

c. Game management will assume responsibility immediately after teams and officials have cleared the floor. Under no circumstances are players, coaches or officials to become involved in the action.

d. Should the disturbance be of such proportions that a long delay is imminent or is such that it threatens the involvement and safety of the players, coaches or officials, the teams and officials will be instructed by game management to return to their respective dressing rooms.

e. Teams and officials will remain in their dressing rooms until the disturbance has been brought under control.

f. Game management will notify the referee of the "all clear" when order has been restored, making continuation of play possible.

g. Teams will return to the floor, after which a five-minute warm-up period will be permitted. Following the warm-up period, the game will be resumed from the exact point at which it had been stopped.

h. Should the disturbance be of such proportions that further play would be impossible; the status of the game will revert to the Athletic Directors of the institutions involved. For all conference games, no game shall be forfeited due to a game disruption, rather the game shall be rescheduled on the first Monday each team has open and play shall resume from the point of suspension. In the event the disrupted game is the first of two conference games, the rescheduled game shall be played prior to the date of the second scheduled game.

i. Should a game disruption be anticipated, the Athletic Director or his/her designated representative shall attend the officials' conference prior to the game to review procedures to be followed in the event of a disturbance and to acquaint officials with communication facilities available. The Athletic Director shall contact the referee, either by phone or by mail, to determine the time and place of the pregame conference.

8. Arena Video Board Replay Policy

Host institutions ARE NOT limited in the use of replays on video boards except during game action. Replays featuring multiple angles may be shown in real time and slow motion.

However, in the event of an official review, institutions are not permitted to use replays once the official administers the ruling to determine the outcome of the official review process.

In accordance with the MAC Sportsmanship Code, the video board may not be used to embarrass, humiliate or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd, or distract a participant or coach. *[Adopted 7/3/19]*

C. Coaches' Meeting (see appendix for meeting calendar)

A business meeting of all Conference coaches will be determined at a later date.

D. Scouting/Exchange of Information

1. Mid-American Conference Video Exchange Policy

Mid-American Conference Women's Basketball will operate under an open exchange policy. All institutions shall utilize Synergy as the primary means to exchange video via the internet. [*Revised* 10/2015] [*Adopted 9/2008*]

The Conference Office considers this along with non-compliance to the video exchange policy as indicated, to be a violation of Conference regulations and will handle it accordingly. The guidelines of the Mid-American Conference video exchange policy are outlined below:

a. Only the two competing teams may videotape a Mid-American Conference contest. It is **NOT** permissible to provide film, video footage, scouting reports, or engage in verbal conversation with non-conference institutions about Mid-American Conference teams.

b. Each institution will make available all non-conference and conference games to Mid-American Conference members via Synergy.

c. Institutions are required to upload the coaches' copy of the game video.

d. **Home Games.** All home (non-conference and conference) game videos must be uploaded to Synergy no later than 12:00 midnight (ET). [*Revised 5/25/2010*]

e. **Non-Conference away games.** Non-conference away games must be uploaded to Synergy within 48 hours, upon arrival to campus.

f. **Required Video Elements.** All game videos that are exchanged in compliance with the Mid-American Conference video exchange policy must be shot at mid court from an elevated area and should include sound and, shots of the score board (at least 5/seconds) during all timeouts and at the end of each regulation and overtime period.

g. Video must include the entire game, including overtime.

h. There will be no live (in-person) scouting of conference opponents.

E. Officials

1. Assignment of Officials

Three (3) officials will be assigned (Conference and non-Conference games) by the Mid-American Conference Women's Basketball Coordinator of Officials, in coordination with the Conference Office.

2. Payment/Officiating Fees

The host university shall be responsible for payment of the officials.

3. Officials Meeting

A pre-game officials meeting should take place approximately 45 minutes prior to tip. The following personnel are required to attend the pre-game officials meeting [*Effective 5/19/2011*]:

Home Event Management, Game Referee, Team Liaison from each participating Institution, Public Safety Personnel/Police, Game Clock Operator, Shot Clock Operator, Official Scorer, Instant Replay Staff & Technicians, TV Production Liaison and Time Out Coordinator, Media Relations Staff Member, and In-House Video Feed representative (non-commercially televised game)

The Host Event Manager shall facilitate and chair the meeting.

F. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X)

1. Pre-Season All-MAC

Prior to the start of the season, a five-member East Division and five-member West Division Pre-Season All-Mid-American Conference team shall be named. The team members shall be invited to Media Day.

2. Player of the Week

During the course of the season, the coaches (in conjunction with the Mid-American Conference media relations department, for tie-breaking purposes) shall select an East Division and West Division Player of the Week based on nominations received from member institutions. [*Adopted 1/2008*]

3. All-MAC Team

The 20-member ALL-MAC team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches. Nomination forms will be sent to the coaches two weeks prior to the end of the regular season. Based on nominations received, the Conference Office will generate a ballot to be faxed to the coaches on the Monday prior to the end of the season. The ballot must be returned by the Friday prior to the final regular-

season game. Coaches may nominate their own players but may not vote for their own players. Coaches shall vote for 20 players (in rank order). The top five vote-getters shall be named to the first team, the next five vote-getters named to the second team, the next five vote-getters named to the third team, and the remaining vote getters (up to five) named honorable mention. See MAC Bylaw 10.04 for procedure to break ties in the voting. *[Revised 5/2017]*

4. **All-Freshman Team and Defensive Player of the Year**
   The five-member All-Freshman Team and Defensive Player of the Year will be selected by the coaches following the conclusion of the regular season as part of the All-MAC team selection process. Eligibility for the All-Freshman Team shall be limited to individuals in their first year of collegiate competition (true freshman and/or red-shirt freshman that have not completed a season of eligibility – no non-qualifiers in their first year of eligibility). Based on nominations received, the Conference Office will generate a ballot to be distributed to the coaches. Coaches may nominate their own players but may not vote for their own players. *[Revised 5/2017]*

5. **Post Season All-Defensive Team**
   The five-member All-Defensive Team will be selected by the coaches following the conclusion of the regular season as part of the All-MAC team selection process.

6. **Sixth Player Award**
   A "Sixth Player" specialty award shall be voted on by the coaches along with the Defensive Player of the Year.

7. **Coach, Player, and Freshman, of the Year Awards**
   The Coach of the Year, Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year will be selected by the four (4) voters from each institution [Head coach, SIDs and two (2) media members] following the conclusion of the regular season.

G. Divisional Champions / Regular-Season Champion

1. **Divisional Champion**
   The divisional champions shall be based on overall conference winning percentage. If two or more teams are tied for the championship, they shall be considered co-champions.

2. **Regular Season Champion**
   The team with the best overall conference winning percentage shall be declared the Mid-American Conference Champion. If two or more teams are tied for the championship, they shall be considered co-champions.

H. Conference Post-Season Tournament (see Championships Manual)

1. **Tournament Awards**
   As part of the awards listed in MAC Bylaw X and the sport operating codes, a five-player all-tournament team and Most Valuable Player will be selected for both men's and women's tournaments by the Mid-American Conference News Media Association at the conclusion of the tournaments.

2. **Tournament Dates**
   The tournament dates shall be established annually based upon the dates of the NCAA Men's and Women's Tournament.

3. **Tournament Directors**
   The tournament directors shall be members of the Mid-American Conference Office staff.

4. Tournament Format

The Conference Tournament shall be a twelve (12)-team single elimination event. Teams seeded 1-4, shall earn a first-round bye and advance to the quarter-final round. Teams seeded 5-12 will participate in the first-round games on their respective campuses. [*Revised 8/2015*; Revised 8/2011]

a. **NCAA Representative**. The team winning the Mid-American Conference Championship will be the conference representative to the NCAA DI Women's Basketball Tournament.

b. **WNIT Representative.** The Mid-American Conference representative for the WNIT shall be the team with the best regular season (conference) record not selected for the NCAA DI Women's Basketball Tournament. [*Adopted 5/25/2010*]

Other conference team(s) may be extended the opportunity to accept an invitation to participate in the additional post-season tournament events (i.e. Women's Basketball Invitational (WBI).

5. Tournament Manual

A detailed tournament manual will be distributed to member institutions' administrative and coaching staff members at least one month prior to the tournament

6. Tournament Seeding

Seeding for the Conference Tournament will be based on overall conference record. Teams will be seeded 1 through 8. [*Adopted 5/25/2010*] (see Tiebreaker Procedure listed under CHAMPIONSHIPS MANUAL).

7. Tournament Site

Quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals will be conducted at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse.

8. Tournament Squad Size/Official Travel Party

All teams are limited to fifteen (15) players in uniform for all tournament games. Eligible replacements are permitted up to the starting time of any game; after the game starts, replacements are not permitted. The official travel party for the tournament is limited to 25 individuals.

9. Tournament Scouting/Video Exchange

a. **Cleveland – Quarterfinals and Semifinals Games.**

"Live scouting" is permitted for all tournament games in Cleveland. Coaches coming over to scout games will need to notify the Conference liaison/designated Conference Staff and will be required to enter through a designated entrance at the arena and escorted to a location in the stands. [*Adopted 5/16/2012*].

Scouting seats (2 per team) will be available in press row for head coaches and/or their designees to scout a game involving the next potential opponent only. To access the scouting seats, Coaches must have their participant pin properly displayed.

I. Tournament Schedule/Procedures

1. Schedule of Games.

The tentative schedule of the women's tournament games shall be as follows:

Quarterfinals: Wednesday, March 10th

Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse, Cleveland, OH

No. 1 Seed vs. No. 8
No. 2 Seed vs. No. 7
No. 3 Seed vs. No. 6
No. 4 Seed vs. No. 5

Off Day (Women only): Thursday, March 11th

Semi-finals: Friday, March 12th

Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse, Cleveland, OH

Winner 1/8 vs. Winner 4/5
Winner 2/7 vs. Winner 3/6

Championship (Televised) Saturday, March 13th

Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse, Cleveland, OH

2. Notification of Teams

Upon completion of the regular season, an informational teleconference call will be conducted with the administrators of every team to address Mid-American Conference Championship issues.

3. Participant/Credential Pins

Only those listed on the official travel party (as listed on the Official Travel Party form) will receive a participant pin and be permitted to enter through the pass gate. Twenty-five (25) participant pins will be distributed to each of the eight (8) participating men's and women's teams upon arrival at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse, allowing them entrance to the area for the second round, third round, semifinals and finals.

4. Practice Times/Shoot around Times

The Conference, in coordination with Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse staff will make arrangement for practice/shoot around times for each participating team at the arena. Teams wishing to arrange additional practice time at an alternate "off-site" facility will be responsible for making those arrangements on their own.

5. Pregame Format

There will be a 30-minute warm-up period prior to each game. The game clock will be started 30 minutes prior to the designated starting time. The national

anthem will be played when 10 minutes remain on the clock prior to the first game of each session, while both teams are off the court. Alternate player and coach introductions will begin when the game clock reaches 0:00. The game will begin one-minute following introductions.

6. Press Conferences

Pre-tournament and post-tournament press conferences will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference Assistant Commissioner for Integrated Digital Strategies

7. Facilities/Equipment

a. **Game and Practice Ball**

The official ball for the Mid-American Conference basketball tournament will be Spalding TF1000 28.5 Composite.

b. **Banners and Noisemakers**

Banners deemed objectionable by tournament management will be removed. The use of artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or public-address systems by fans or cheerleaders is prohibited during the tournament games.

c. **Team Benches**

Team benches and baskets will be assigned prior to the tournament. Team benches will be set for 17 individuals only. Only members of the officials travel party may access the team bench area. Those individuals not in uniform much properly display their participant pin to gain access to the bench area (this includes, but is not limited to coaches, training staff, team managers, and team doctors/physicians).

Individuals not seated on the team bench during play will have to sit in the stands in the designated seating area behind their bench and must remain in those seats while the ball is in play.

d. **Courtside Monitors**

A courtside monitor must be available for all first-round tournament games.

e. **Facility**

f. **Team Locker Rooms**

Team locker rooms will be assigned to participating teams by the tournament management based on seeding. Each locker room will be supplied with the following: water, ice, ice bags, sports drinks, soft drinks and towels.

g. **Uniforms / Home Team Designation**

The home team for each tournament game will be the higher seed of the two teams in that game. The home team will wear its light game jerseys.

8. Officials

a. **Assignment.** Officials will be assigned (Conference and non-Conference games) by the Mid-American Conference Women's Basketball Coordinator of Officials. Three (3) officials shall be assigned for all tournament games by the Coordinator of Officials. An alternate official will also be assigned for all tournament games at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse

b. **Attendance**. The Coordinator of Officials shall be in attendance at all respective quarterfinal, semifinal, and championship game.

c. **Payment.** Officials for all tournament games in Cleveland shall be paid by the Mid-American Conference. In addition, each official should receive a complimentary room.

2019-20: Official assigned to work first round (campus site) games shall receive the regular season game fee amount (as outlined in Section D, item #2)

J. Tiebreaker Procedure.

Ties in winning percentage, and thus for Tournament seeding positions shall be broken according to the following: [*Revised 5/25/2010*]*:*

1. Between TWO teams:

a. Head-to-head competition
b. Division Record (10 games)^
c. Winning percentage* vs. ranked conference teams
(top to bottom, regardless of division, vs. common opponents regardless of the number of times played)
d. Coin flip

2. For MULTIPLE (3 or more) **team ties:**

a. Total won-lost record/winning percentage* of games played among the tied teams
b. Two (2)-team tie-breaker procedure goes into effect (refer to A).

NOTE: *Once a three-team tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tiebreaker will go into effect.*

^ - *For the purpose of determining the Divisional Champion*

* - ***Winning percentage*** *is used instead of record because of situations where teams do not play each other the same number of times. Therefore, a team that is 1-0 (1.000) would win the tiebreaker over a team that is 1-1 (.500).*

Chapter V – Men's and Women's Cross Country

A. Regular Season

1. Rules

All conference competition shall be governed by NCAA rules.

2. Scoring Procedures

a. **Scoring**. Scoring shall be limited to the first seven (7) to finish on each team.

b. **Team Score.** The team score shall be determined by totaling the points of the first five runners of each team to finish. The team scoring the lower number of points shall be the winner.

Although the sixth and seventh runners of a team to finish do not score points toward their team's total, their places, if better than those of any of the first five of an opposing team, serve to increase the team score of the opponents. Any additional runners on a team shall be disregarded in the scoring.

If fewer than five (5) finish, the places of all members of that team shall be disregarded.

c. **Ties**. Ties in team scoring shall be broken by comparing the place finish of the five scoring members of the tied teams. The team with majority of winning places shall be awarded the higher place.

3. Facilities/Equipment

a. Numbers shall be worn and secured to the front of each contestant's shirt, being clearly visible for inspectors. It is recommended that numbers be worn on both the front and the back. Numbers shall be assigned each team in lots of 1-10 etc. by alphabetical listing of conference teams.

b. **Course Length**

1. Men: 8,000 or 10,000 meters for scheduled meets. If not mutually agreed upon by the coaches, the distance will be 8,000 meters.

2. Women: 5,000 or 6,000 meters for scheduled meets. If not mutually agreed upon by the coaches, the distance will be 5,000 meters.

c. **Markings**

The course shall be properly measured and marked clearly in accordance with NCAA rules, the order of preference as follows (at least two methods):

1. A line on the ground for the entire distance of the course: single line is a guide; two lines will mark the outside borders of the course.

2. Sign posts, directional arrows on approaching turns or wherever there is any doubt in direction of travel.

3. Flags - seven-feet high: red indicates a left turn; yellow indicates a right turn; blue indicates straight ahead. Flags shall mark the shortest perimeter of the course.

d. **Finish Line/Chute**
It is suggested that a chute or rope be used at the finish to facilitate recording of contestants as they cross the finish line.

4**. Officials**
The securing and payment of qualified and appropriate meet officials shall be the responsibility of the host university.

5**. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X)**

a. **Runner of the Week**
During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference TF/XC Executive Committee shall select a Cross Country Runner of the Week based on nominations received from member institutions. The Conference Office will begin soliciting nominations in September. Executive committee members shall rank their top three nominees, in preference order. The Mid-American Conference media relations department will assign 3 points to each #1 rank, 2 points to each #2 rank, and one point to each #3 rank. The student-athletes with the most points will be awarded the Runner of the Week honor.

b. **All-MAC Team**
A seven (7) member All-MAC First Team and a seven (7) member All-MAC Second Team will be selected based on finish at the Mid-American Conference Championship. The First Team will be comprised of finishers 1 through 7 and the Second Team of 8 through 14.

c. **Freshman of the Year**
Freshman of the Year Male and Female Cross Country shall be named at the conclusion of the championship. The award will go to the highest freshman place finish at the Mid-American Conference Championship. Shall be limited to individuals in their first year of eligibility.

d. **Coach of the Year**
The Coach of the Year shall be selected by the coaches at the conclusion of the championship

6**. Coaches' Meeting**
The annual business meeting of the head cross country/track and field coaches shall be conducted the first Monday in August each year, alternating via teleconference (even years) and in-person (odd years).

a. Executive Committee
The Executive committee shall be comprised of an athletics administrator as chairperson and three (3) head coaches, as selected by their peers/volunteer base and shall serve for staggered three-year terms. The three head coaches must be from different institutions and represent cross country, men's track and women's track.

The Cross Country/Track and Field executive committee shall serve in an advisory capacity for the coaches and the Conference Office regarding matters pertinent to Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field. This committee has the authority to act for the coaches' association on emergency items which may arise.

B. Championship General Guidelines

1. Championship Date and Site.

The men's and women's cross country championship shall be conducted two weekends prior to the NCAA Regional Meets. In the event that the host institution has a home football game, the Mid-American Conference Cross Country Championship may be moved to Sunday. The cross country championship host site shall be determined on a rotational basis.

2. Championship Meeting

A coaches' meeting will be conducted on the evening before the championship.

Coaches Packet: These should be distributed at the coaches meeting and should contain (but not limited to) the following items:

1. Numbers
2. Safety pins for each competitor
3. Programs
4. Course Map
5. Copy of the scoring procedure
6. Coach of the Year Ballot

3. Championship Personnel

For the championship, sufficient personnel will be provided to perform the following duties. The number of course officials required to conduct the championships shall be established by the Championship Administrator. For specific responsibilities of cross country officials, see the NCAA Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track and Field Rules Book.

a. **Championship Meet Officials**

1. Administrative Chair
2. Conference Office Liaison
3. Championship Administrator
4. Referee
5. Starter
6. Jury of appeals (three officials selected by the Championship Administrator and the Conference Liaison)

b. **Course Officials**

1. Clerk of Course
2. Finish Line Judges
3. Course Inspectors
4. Marshals
5. Gate Controllers

c. **Support Crew**

1. Announcer
2. Photographer
3. Merchandise Tent
4. Athletic Training/Medical
5. Sports Information/Media

4. Rules

a. **Travel Squad Size Limit**

The travel squad for the men's and women's championship shall be nine (9); all nine runners are permitted to compete.

b. **Disqualification**
Competitors who fail to complete the prescribed course that is defined by a legal marking system shall be disqualified.

c. **Protests and Appeals**
Protest relative to matters which develop during the conduct of the championship must be made immediately to the Conference liaison and/or Head Referee, no later than 30 minutes after the Men's and the Women's final results have been posted. Any such protest must be made in writing by the head coach and submitted to the referee, who will render a decision. The Jury of Appeals shall handle all protests and appeals. A second protest (appeal) may be made to the referee. Upon receiving this (second) protest, the referee is required to turn the protests over to the Jury of Appeals who will make a final decision. The referee must leave the jury and may not be involved in deliberations. This decision is final and without appeal.
There is a $50.00 (cash only) protest fee. If the protest is upheld the protesting institution would receive the $50.00 fee back. If protest is not upheld the $50.00 fee would go to the conference office to be used towards the championship shared cost fund.

d. **Bicycles**
The use of bicycles is prohibited at the men's and women's cross country championship.

5. Schedule/Procedures

a. **Championship Information Packets**
The Conference Office working in conjunction with the host institution will prepare and distribute preliminary information regarding the championship event at least 30 days prior to the championship. The preliminary entry, and complete roster deadline will be Friday, one week prior to the championship. Entries will be finalized at the coaches' meeting the night prior to competition.

b. **Facility Availability/Practice**
All Facilities conducting the championship shall be available for inspection/practice the day prior to the event.

For any University hosting the championships on a golf course, the golf course closed from 1:00 p.m. (local time) on Friday and from 8:00 a.m. (local) until one hour after the end of the meet on Saturday. Competitors shall be allowed to practice on the course during this time or at other times designated by the Championship Administrator.

c. Sequence of Competition/Starting Times
The Mid-American Conference Cross Country Championship shall be conducted at 11 a.m. and 12 Noon local time, alternating between genders as to who runs first each year. In accordance with the NCAA Regionals and Championship

1. Women will begin at 11:00 a.m. (local time) in EVEN years and 12 Noon in odd years.
2. Men will begin at 11:00 a.m. (local time) in ODD years and 12 Noon in even years.

For the 2018 Championship, the Women's race shall begin at 11:00a.m. and the Men's race shall begin at 12:00 noon.

6. Scoring Policy/Procedures

a. Scorers. Only the first five (5) runners from each team shall enter into the scoring.

b. Scoring. First place shall score one (1) point; second place, two (2) points; third place, three (3) points; etc. All runners who finish the course shall be ranked and tallied in this manner. Team scores shall be determined by totaling the points scored by the first five (5) finishers from each team. The team with the lowest total number of points shall be declared the winner.

c. Non-Scorers. Although the sixth and seventh place finishers from each team do not score points toward their respective team's total, their places, if better than any of the first five finishers from any opposing team, serve to increase the opposing team's totals.

If fewer than five runners from a team finish the course, the places of all team members of that team shall be disregarded in the team scoring.

7. Results

Competition results at the championship will not become official until 30 (thirty) minutes after the conclusion of both the men's and women's race and they have been distributed to the coaches or posted for review (in one central location). The results from the cross country championships will be posted the day of the event on the Conference's and host institution's website.

8. Facilities/Equipment

The following areas should be identified and secured for the championship:

a. **Course Distance:** The course lengths shall be 6,000-meters for women and 8,000-meters for men. The course shall be properly measured using an accurate wheel or Jones Counter along the shortest possible route that a runner may take. GPS or satellite mapping is not an acceptable method of official course measurement.

b. **Course Layout:** Courses should be confined to layouts commonly used and accepted for cross country competition. Attention should be made to make courses spectator friendly. These courses should be confined to parks, golf courses, fields, grasslands, or wood where the layout is regularly maintained and can be properly prepared for competition. The turf should be of quality to promote safety and freedom from injury to runners, keeping the following in mind:

i. Dangerous ascents or descents, undergrowth, deep ditches, obstacles and in general any hindrance detrimental to the competitors, must be avoided.
ii. Continuous traversing of roadways should be avoided.
iii. The direction and path of the course shall be defined clearly for the runners.
iv. Turns must be gradual.

c. **Start:** The start shall be an arc surveyed to permit each competitor to line up equidistant from the first turn.

i. The start shall be located so as to provide a long, straight route from the starting line. The first turn, or curve of any kind, shall be not less than 200-meters, preferably not less than 400-meters, from the start.

ii. The starting line shall be wide enough to provide at least a 50-centimeter space for each of the five front-line team starters.
iii. Lane positions of the boxes shall be numbered from left to right facing the running area and shall be drawn by lot. Drawing of the starting boxes will be done at the head coaches meeting in August.

d. **Course Width:** After the start narrowing of the course width should occur gradually through the first 200-meters and should remain at least 10-meters wide until the 400-meters point into the course. Thereafter the course shall maintain a width of at least 5-meters throughout except for unavoidable bridge crossings or similar. Course narrowing for bridge and similar should be limited and may not occur within the first 800-meters, or the final 400-meters, of the race. These crossings may not be less than 2-meters wide, without obstacles present, and they may not extend the course narrowing to less than 5-meters for a distance greater than 25-meters.

e. **Course Markings:** Both courses shall be marked clearly in accordance with NCAA rules, with a continuous white line or colored line on the ground for the entire route of the course.
    a. The use of distance markers is required as follows:
        i. The top of signs stands at least 7 feet above ground level;
        ii. Easily viewable signage should mark each Mile and Kilometer;
        iii. Distance markers may not simply be painted on the ground.
    b. The use of directional signs or flags is recommended as follows:
        i. The top of signs or flags stand at least 7 feet above ground level;
        ii. A turn to the left is marked by a red flag or arrow of the direction on a sign post or stake;
        iii. A turn to the right is marked by a yellow flag or arrow of the direction on assign post or stake;
        iv. A course continuing straight is marked by a blue flag or arrow or direction on a sign post or stake; and
        v. All flags, sign post or stakes shall mark the shortest perimeter of the course.

Note: all of the above course-marking devices must be placed on the edge of the measured line when lines and flags, sign post or stakes are used to mark the course.

f. **Finish:** The finish area shall be on fairly level ground and shall include a straightaway finish of at least 100-meters without curve or turn. The finish chute shall be constructed in accordance with the NCAA guidelines. A chute of rope, or other similar appropriate material, must be used at the finish line to facilitate recording of competitors as they cross the finish line.
    a. The finish line shall be at least 5-meters wide and located at right angles to the course line. It shall be marked brightly and be visible from a distance. The finish line is at the mouth of the finish chute or finish corral.

g. **Hospitality Tent for workers/volunteers:** This area is to be closed to all student-athletes.

h. **Team Camps (if space is available)**

i. **Uniforms:** Student-athletes must compete in their respective team's uniform as described by the NCAA Guide.

j. **Medical Area:** A certified athletic trainer and/or physician should be made available during practice and the championship. There should be prompt and easy access to this area.

k. **Awards Presentation Area:** This area should be located in an area where teams and spectators have a clear view of the post-championship ceremony. A stage, pipe for Mid-American Conference backdrop and a skirted 6 or 8 foot table is recommended for trophy and medal placement.

l. **Officials/Timing Area:** This area should be tented in the case of inclement weather. Timing Company must be capable of and/or have the ability to pull performance information from Direct Athletics.

m. **Merchandise:** This should be set-up in a high traffic area for maximum exposure. This area should be tented as well in case of inclement weather.

n. **Equipment:** The following equipment shall be provided by the host institution:
   1. Stop watches available
   2. Large timing clock, if possible
   3. Large scoreboard for the posting of results for both individuals and teams
   4. An awards presentation area
   5. Public address system
   6. Two starting pistols
   7. Pads and pencils for inspectors
   8. Communication system to the course (walkie-talkies)
   9. Numbers for the competitors
   10. Video equipment (for use at the finish line)

o. **Lodging:** The host institution will designate the championship hotel(s). Teams are encouraged to stay at the designated hotel(s)

p. **Inclement Weather:** Weather Sentry lightning detection and weather monitoring system will be utilized to detect inclement weather.

Once lighting enters the 30-mile radius of competition, we will begin preparations to protect the student-athletes and spectators. Once lightning enters within the an 8-mile radius of site or host institutions indicated mile radius, competition must stop, and student-athletes and spectators will be moved to safe areas. We will not begin any activity until 30 minutes have passed since the last lightning strike inside the warning ring.

If the race has already begun and lightening enters within the 8-mile radius or host institutions indicated mile radius, the following will occur:

Men's 8,000 meter – If competition is less than 4,000 meters into the race, the race will be suspended a minimum of 30 minutes per NCAA rules. Final restart time will be determined by the

Games Committee. Lightening detected after 4,000 meters the race will be finished to the 8,000 meter distance.
Women's 6,000 meter – If competition is less than 3,000 meters into the race, the race will be suspended a minimum of 30 minutes per NCAA rules. Final restart time will be determined by the Games Committee. Lightening detected after 3,000 meters the race will be finished to the 6,000 meter distance.

In the event of lightning/severe weather (e.g. cold temperatures and/or heavy snow), the following sounds will be used:
ONE LONG BLAST (air horn) to indicate all runners, coaches, officials and spectators to exit the course
THREE SHORT BLASTS (air horn) to indicate that runners may return to the course

[Exceptions to the above Facilities/Equipment may be granted by appeal to the coaching body if done so at least one year in advance of their championship hosting date].

9. Officials

The Officials shall carry out their duties according to the NCAA Rules Manual.

a. **Meet Officials**. The host university in conjunction with the Games Committee Chair and the Conference Office will identify and select the following officials: referee, starter, and the jury (starter, clerk of the course, and a qualified individual well-versed in cross country procedures).

b. **Course Officials.** The host university will select and train all other officials in accordance with the NCAA Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track and Field Rules.

c. **Post-Championship.** The Championship Administrator, Jury of Appeals members and Conference staff along with pertinent officials at the championship site shall remain at the Championship site for at least 30 minutes after the final results are posted or read.

Prior to leaving the site at the conclusion of the competition, the championship referee shall make a written report of all actions, protests, and controversial decisions that may have affected the results of the championship or an event finish. This report shall be made available to all coaches at the site and mailed to all coaches, along with the official final results.

For any other incidents and decisions that do not affect the outcome of the championship, the referee shall also submit a written report for mailing with the championship results to the coaches immediately following the championship (this does not need to be done at the championship site).

d. **Payment.** The host institution is responsible for the payment of the officials. Minimum of $40.00 day of competition. In addition, the host institution is responsible for securing hotel rooms [as (or if) needed].

Chapter VI - Field Hockey

A. Regular Season

1. Rules

All conference competition shall be governed by NCAA rules.

2. Scheduling/Procedures

a. Conference play shall consist of a single round-robin format.

b. A university shall schedule only NCAA Division I opponents, unless permitted by the conference office.

c. The starting time for Friday conference games shall be no later than 3 p.m., unless mutually agreed upon by both parties. The starting time for Sunday games shall be determined by the host university.

d. The host university must guarantee the visiting team an opportunity to practice in similar game conditions both the day before the scheduled game for 90 minutes, additionally the day of the game for 45 minutes. The practice times must be assigned during a reasonable time frame while trying to avoid missed class time when possible. [*1/28/15*]

e. A minimum of 30 minutes will be available on the playing field for warm-up before each game.

f. Preseason and post-season practices shall conform to the current NCAA regulations.

g. The host university shall provide a trained statistician to record official game statistics, as well as a minimum of four (4) ball people for each Mid-American Conference contest.

h. Flex scheduling: Each institution can make changes to game dates if mutually agreed upon by all affected institutions. This should include Financial considerations, maintain or improve Student-Athlete Well-being, and must indicate a non-conference opportunity. [5/30/19]

i. Suspended games: NCAA policy will be used. [5/11/20]

3. Scouting/Exchange Information

a. Due to legislative action, Division I coaches in all sports are prohibited from live scouting of future opponents [*Revised 7/1/13*].

b. Mid-American Conference Field Hockey will operate under an open exchange policy through a video server. All provisions herein apply to both Conference and Non-Conference games.

c. All games that are played by a Mid-American Conference Field Hockey team must be made available via a video server to all and only coaches, the assignor, and the Conference Office. There shall not be video exchange sharing outside of the conference.

d. The host institution is responsible for posting the game by midnight the night of completion. [*Revised 1/28/15*]

e. If there are extenuating circumstances that do not permit a game to be uploaded on-time or footage is unavailable (e.g., inclement weather, equipment failure), then it is the Head Coach's responsibility to contact the other head coaches within the conference, the assignor and the Conference Office with an explanation of the failure to upload.

f. All games that are played by any Mid-American Conference Field Hockey team must be made available pursuant to NFHCA Policies. [*Revised 1/28/15; 1/27/16*]

g. Video recording preferences are:
   1. Record with volume to hear fouls only
   2. Show the scoreboard after each score, at halftime and at the end of the game
   3. Zoom to be used at appropriate times
   4. Video quality to be consistent

4. Travel Squad

There is no travel squad limitation for Mid-American Conference competition. [*Revised 5/30/19; 1/29/14*]

5. Facilities/Equipment

a. Any official field hockey ball may be used.

b. The host university should have an identifiable and centralized scorer's table where each team has equal access to scoring and timing information.

c. The host university shall have a scorer at a ground level table between the benches. The ground level table will be responsible for tracking substitutions, suspensions, suspension time clock, and communicate to the press box regarding the time clock. [*1/28/15*]

d. The host university will set out 80 balls (of the same type and color that will be used in the game) for the home and opposing team to warm up with (160 total) prior to the start of the contest. A total of 100 balls will be set out on the practice day. [*Revised 1/29/14*]

e. During inclement weather, access to a covered area during the halftime of the game should be equivalent for both home and visiting teams. [*Revised 1/24/12*]

f. In accordance, the playing surface for the Mid-American Conference Tournament shall be a watered, "non-filled" artificial surface which meets Level I FIH performance requirements for synthetic pitches. An institution unable to provide a watered surface or to otherwise meet these standards will forfeit its opportunity to host. [*1/28/15*]

g. Pre-game and/or halftime accommodations must be comparable for home and visiting teams. [*5/27/15*]

6. Pre-Game Player Introduction Procedure

It is required that the following format be used in all Mid-American Conference Regular Season games. The teams are led onto the field in two lines by the three officials. The officials are the first to be introduced. The captain of each

team heads the line of players (both starters and nonstarters). The officials will stop at midfield. At midfield, the teams, in single file, will turn 90 degrees and move toward their respective goals, ultimately forming a single line at center field facing the direction as determined by the venue. The announcer then introduces the visiting team's starters, then assistant coaches, and head coach. The announcer then introduces the home team using the same format. After both teams have been introduced and the national anthem has been played, the players should return to their respective benches to prepare for the start of the game. [*Revised 1/24/12; 1/24/10; 8/26/10*]

7. Game Protocol

a. The following protocol shall be adhered to for all conference games. The visiting team should be notified one week in advance of the contest of any changes to the protocol for special occasions (e.g., senior day, special recognitions, etc.). [*Revised 1/24/12*]

"Based on a 1:00 p.m. game time"

Time Allotted	Actual Time	Visible Clock	Activity
N/A	11:42 a.m. – 11:52 p.m.	70:00	Field Ready for Play
1hour	11:52 a.m. – 12:52 p.m.	60:00	Field Available for Team Warm-Up
N/A	12:32 p.m.	20:00	Officials on Site
8min.	12:52 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	00:00	Field Cleared Captains Meet; Coin Toss Team Introductions National Anthem
	1:00 p.m.	35:00	Game Begins

b. Water hoses shall be off the field 45 minutes prior to the start of the game. In the event that a game has to be stopped or cannot start, no game shall start or restart after 7 p.m. local time if either team has a game the next day. [*Revised 1/24/12*]

c. In the event that only one official is present for the start of a game and all efforts have been made to contact the missing official, the teams shall wait no longer than 30 minutes to begin the game.

8. Regular-Season Champion

The Conference champion in field hockey shall be the team with the best win-loss record at the conclusion of the regular season schedule. All teams shall be ranked for a final tabulation at the conclusion of the season on the basis of their final in-conference winning percentage. *[Revised 5/27/20]*

Should teams have the same winning percentage, those teams shall be ranked by using the following tiebreakers:

1. Total points earned through results, with teams earning:
   a. 3 points for a win in regulation,
   b. 2 points for a win in overtime or shootout,
   c. 1 point for a loss in overtime or shootout,
   d. 1 point for a tie,
   e. 0 points for a loss;
2. Goal differential among all conference teams, with a maximum of four;
3. Goals scored in MAC play;

4. Winning percentage against common non-MAC opponents;
5. RPI (Final Regular Season)

Minimum Number of Games (Incomplete Season)
Refer to MAC Championships Manual, Section Z. [*7/2/20*]

B. Officials

1. Officials for all Conference games shall be assigned and approved by a Coordinator of Officials as assigned by the conference office. The Coordinator of Officials shall be paid by the Conference Office, which will in turn invoice each school.

2. Officials shall receive a game fee of $250. Officials shall also be paid the institutional mileage or actual cost of airfare and lodging. In the event a game is cancelled; the host school shall notify officials directly. The Sport Administrator or Field Hockey Coach shall contact the Conference Office and assignor for rescheduling. If a game is cancelled after an official has departed for the game, but before the game begins, the official shall be paid half the game fee, full mileage and per diem, if applicable. When a game is cancelled at any point after the game has started, officials shall be paid the full game fee, full mileage and per diem when applicable. [*Revised 5/27/20; 1/28/15; 5/30/13*]

   Game Contracts shall be sent from the host institution and shall include the following:
   a. confirmation of game date, game time and game location (turf or grass);
   b. name and phone number (including cell) of a contact person at host institution who will be available on game day;
   c. confirmation of officials' address, phone numbers and social security number;
   d. confirmation of game fee, travel fee, lodging arrangements and per diem when necessary;
   e. directions to school and game field;
   f. deadline for returning signed contract.

   Schools shall also provide parking information and parking permits when needed. Designated parking should be near the playing surface and/or locker rooms. Locker room facilities and towels are to be available to the officials. The Conference Office will keep a w-9 as well as a general letter of intent regarding contract labor status for each official on file.

   All officials shall be a member of US Field Hockey (insurance included in membership). Officials are encouraged to attend a preseason rules interpretation meeting. Officials shall arrive at the game site one hour prior to game time and be dressed and on the field 30 minutes prior to game time. Officials shall be aware of NCAA/conference protocol for games. Any game changes must be cleared through the assignor and conference office. [*Revised 1/28/2015*]

3. Officials shall not have any current affiliation with the competing institutions, both for the regular season and the conference tournament.

C. Awards (see Mid-American Conference Bylaw X)

1. Players of the Week

During the course of the season, all Head Coaches (7) shall select a Defensive and Offensive Player of the Week based on nominations received from member institutions. *[Revised 1/2013]*

Each institution may submit one nominee for Defensive and Offensive Player of the Week. Nominees will be placed on a ballot by the Mid-American Conference media relations department that will be distributed to all head coaches for voting. Coaches shall rank their top three nominees, in order of preference. The Mid-American Conference media relations department will assign three points to each #1 rank, two points to each #2 rank and one point to each #3 rank. Winners will accumulate the most points. Coaches may vote for their own student-athletes. [*Revised 1/27/16*]

2. All-MAC Teams

The 22-member All-MAC team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches. Coaches shall email nominations for up to nine field players and one goalkeeper from their own team, in rank order, to the conference office by 10:00am EST on the Monday following the conclusion of the regular season. Nominee forms should include a paragraph of support for each nominee, detailing why a particular player has been nominated.

The conference office will generate and email a ballot to all coaches by the end of the day on the Monday following the conclusion of the regular season. Coaches will complete their ballots by ranking all field player nominees 1 through 20, with 1 being the most deserving of All-MAC consideration. Coaches may not vote for their own players and must rank a total of 20 field players. Completed ballots are due to the conference office by 12:00noon EST on the Tuesday following the conclusion of the regular season. When calculating All-MAC votes, the conference office will assign a player receiving a rank of "1" with 20 points, players with the rank of "2" 19 points and so on. The 10 field players receiving the most assigned points will be named to the first team and the next 10 will be named to the second team.

Goalkeepers shall be ranked on a separate ballot with the top vote-getter being named to the first team and the second vote getter named to the second team. Three points shall be given for each first team vote and one point shall be given for each second team vote. See Mid-American Conference Bylaw 10.04 for procedure to break ties in the voting.

Voting results will be made available to coaches. [*Revised 5/30/19; 1/29/13; 6/2/11*]

3. Freshman and Offensive/Defensive Players of the Year

A Freshman of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year, and Defensive Player of the Year will be selected in conjunction with the All-MAC team selection process. Coaches are limited to one nomination for each award and eligibility for the Freshman of the Year award shall be limited to true freshmen. Coaches shall nominate only his/her own student-athlete for post-season specialty awards. Coaches shall rank the nominees and may not vote for their own players. (If a school does not nominate a player, the coach shall not rank one nominee. Example: if only five teams nominate players, each coach will rank four players). [*Revised 5/30/19; 1/24/18; 1/26/17;*]

4. **Coach of the Year**
   The Coach of the Year will be selected in conjunction with the All-MAC team selection process. Coaches vote for all nominees in rank order (coaches may NOT vote for themselves).

5. **Awards Announcements**
   The announcement of the All-MAC team and all specialty awards shall be made on the Wednesday following the conclusion of the regular season.

D. Coaches' Meeting (see appendix for meeting calendar)

The annual business meeting of the field hockey coaches shall be conducted on the second Wednesday in December.

Chapter VII – Football

A. Core Sport Recommendations

1. Staffing

a. That each Institution develop a plan to increase the pool of money available for the hiring of more experienced head and assistant football coaches.
b. That each Institution continues to examine the level of football support staff and look to increase the investment in support staff.
c. That each Football Office have the following positions:
   One (1) full-time Director of Football Operations
   One (1) full-time Administrative Assistant
   One (1) Graduate Assistant/Office Support (Administrative)
   One (1) full-time Video Coordinator
   One (1) Graduate Assistant (Video)
d. That each Institution work towards funding a strength staff with one (1) full-time coach, one (1) full-time assistant and one (1) full-time graduate assistant/support staff dedicated to football.
e. That each football program has a team doctor, a full-time trainer year-round assigned to football and access (where available on campus) to a sports psychologist and sports nutritionist.

2. Scheduling

f. That each institution will attempt to average six (6) home games over a three-year rolling period
g. That each institution will adhere to the following non-conference guidelines:
   i. Play no more than two (2) guarantee games,
   ii. 1 FCS Home Opponent
   iii. 1 Peer Opponent
   iv. Ultimately, each final non-conference schedule is an institutional decision
h. As a conference, win 40 percent of non-conference regular-season games
i. As a conference, achieve a .500 or better winning percentage in bowl games

3. Academic Support

j. That each Institution support summer school for student-athletes (current and incoming prospects).
k. That each Institution has one (1) full-time academic position along with one (1) graduate assistant/support position dedicated to football.
l. That MAC APR, GSR and GPA data vs. Non-Autonomous 5 conferences will be collected and shared annually
m. As a conference, exceed peer Non-Autonomous 5 conferences in academic measurements
n. That Conference Office will collect and provide night class attendance data for home institutions the night prior to a mid-week football game on an annual basis
o. Mid-American Conference Institutions are committed to supporting the academic endeavors of student-athletes, and to contribute towards the annual earning of a values-based revenue unit as established by the NCAA.

4. Marketing/Branding

p. That a continue focus will be placed on social outlets by conference office and institutions.

q. That the Conference Office and institutions will highlight past great MAC players and current NFL players
r. That added definition/specificity will be established for the MAC "Fly the Flag" initiative

5. Miscellaneous

s. That institutional data regarding facilities, training tables, fueling stations, and nutritionist data will be collected and shared annually with Directors of Athletics
t. That there will be a continued focus on reinvestment of dollars back into football via guarantee games, annual CFP distribution, and the MAC's ESPN television agreement.

B. Regular Season

1. Rules

a. All conference competition shall be governed by NCAA rules.

b. The starting date shall be determined by the Conference Office in accordance with NCAA rules.

c. There will be no introductions of starting lineups that include players jogging onto the field as names are announced on the PA.

d. The host institution shall provide 350 complimentary reserved tickets for the visiting team. Complimentary admissions shall be provided to no more than four individuals designated by the student-athletes via a pass list.

e. The team area shall be limited to squad members in full uniform and a maximum of 60 other individuals directly involved in the game. The 60 individuals not in full uniform shall wear special team area credentials numbered 1 through 60. No other credential is valid for the team area.

2. Scheduling/Procedures

a. The halftime intermission for all games played on Mid-American Conference fields shall be 20 minutes.

b. The visiting coach shall request in writing from the host institution a block of time for practice on the day prior to a scheduled game. The visiting team shall have no less than a one-hour block of practice time available. At Friday pregame workouts, the home team has preference for a one-hour block of time.
c. Contest Disruption. For conference and non-conference contests hosted by Mid-American Conference member institutions, if the contest is interrupted by external forces and unable to be resumed, prior to the completion of the third quarter, the contest shall be declared no contest. For contests that meet the requirement of completion of three (3) quarters of play and any time thereafter and cannot be resumed, for conference and non-conference contests, the score at the time of interruption shall be recorded as the official score of the contest.
However, a conference contest will be rescheduled and resumed from the point of suspension if that contest has a bearing on the determination of teams participating in the MAC Football Championship Game. *[Revised 7/15/2019]*

d. Overtime. In the case of an overtime situation during late season contests in stadiums that have no lights, the Referee will stop the game and both

coaches will be notified that the game will be recorded as a tie. In an overtime situation where only one team is provided with an opportunity to score (e.g., darkness sets in midway through the overtime period), the same situation would occur with the game being recorded as a tie.

3. Scheduling/Parameters

a. Competitive Parameters.

1. No more than two (2) consecutive away **CONFERENCE** games;
2. May play on five (5) days no more than once in season, provided opponent also has five (5) days. Would not be required to play on five (5) days in consecutive years. Requirement only applies in 13-week regular season;
3. May play on six (6) days no more than twice in season, provided opponent does not have a bye week;
4. Would have no more than two (2) short weeks any one (1) season [combination of (2) and (3)]; the two (2) short weeks could not be consecutive;
5. Bye week the first Saturday in November, maximum of two (2) home games in November;
6. Not required to host on consecutive Thanksgiving weekends;
7. Competitive parameters may be waived with institutional sign-off.

b. Per Mid-American Conference policy, all non-conference football games shall be scheduled during the first five (5) weeks of the season. If a non-conference football game is scheduled outside this window the institution waives the above scheduling parameters **IF** a violation occurs. **NO** non-conference games can be scheduled in November.

c. No non-conference football road games can be scheduled vs. non-Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) institutions.

d. Institutions shall have the right, per the MAC/ESPN agreement, to identify one (1) game each season that requires a pre-determined time commitment (e.g. a date that is an institution's homecoming game must have a committed start time to be mutually determined regardless of television well in advance). ESPN and the Mid-American Conference will mutually agree on a date by which this determination must be made by each conference institution prior to the season. **ESPN can reject no more than two (2) requests annually.**

e. The Conference Office will solicit one (1) protected date from each institution by September 1 of the ensuing season. The institution has the ability to designate the protected date as home or road. This will be the **ONLY** special request available to an institution. **NO protected November dates allowed.**

f. Final schedule complete by March 1.

4. Travel Squad

The travel squad for Mid-American Conference competition shall be 70 participants dressed for competition. This limitation applies to any team competition between two or more members or affiliate member institutions. The limitation applies to all institutional student-athletes who are included on the squad list. Additional, non-competing players may travel so long as they fall within the NCAA mandated 60-bench pass rule and are otherwise eligible for competition. *[Revised 7/24/2018]*

5. Reporting Procedures for Fighting Foul Ejections.

a. The calling official and the Referee are to notify the HEAD coach of a disqualification before the ball is next declared ready for play. Information given to the coach should include penalty information (including possible next game suspension). Official decision and notification of future suspensions will come from the Conference Office.

b. After the game, the Referee is to contact THEIR coordinator of officials by phone notifying them of the disqualification, including the segment of the game in which the disqualification occurred, the jersey number of the offender(s), and if possible, the involved names.

c. The coordinator of officials is then to report the fighting disqualification to the Conference Commissioner.

d. The Conference Commissioner is to contact the offending team's athletics director notifying him/her of the situation. This would include a non-league athletics director and the Commissioner of such league.

e. In cases where it is thought that the officials identified the wrong transgressor, an appeal can be made by sending substantiating video tape to both the conference Commissioner and the coordinator of officials for their review. An offender who is first identified after a tape review will not be penalized under NCAA rules, but may be done so by the Commissioner and/or the offending team's athletics director.

f. The athletics director is responsible for notifying the HEAD coach of levied suspensions, remembering that a squad member, player or coach disqualified for the second time in a season is suspended for the balance of the season, inclusive of a bowl game. Fight-related disqualifications occurring during the last game of the season require coaches and players with eligibility remaining to serve suspension time during the first game of the next season unless the time had been served at a bowl game.

g. A player or coach suspended for the first half of the ensuing game may participate in pregame warm-ups and be in the sideline area provided he does not participate during the first half. Those suspended for the entire ensuing game are not to be in the team area for said game. Players disqualified from a game are to stay in the team area for the rest of the game while coaches are to go to the locker room.

h. The coordinator of officials is to notify the Referee scheduled for the next game involving the affected team of the jersey number and name of any suspended squad member and, in the case of a season-long suspension, the Referees of all ensuing games. Notification is for informational purposes only. The Referee's responsibility is only to inform his supervisor of officials if it is determined that the suspension penalty is violated.

i. Failure to comply with a suspension penalty is to be referred by the coordinator of officials to the conference Commissioner for further action.

j. The head coach should withhold a suspended participant(s) for the time period specified by the penalty even if he has not been informed by his athletics director or the conference Commissioner (due possibly to a breakdown in communications).

6. Facilities/Equipment

a. Mid-American Conference Football Home Uniform Rule: In accordance with NCAA Football Rules 1-4-4 and 1-4-5; the home team shall wear dark jerseys and the visiting team shall wear white or light jerseys during a contest. A home team may opt to wear white jerseys in accordance with the Mid-American Conference Uniform Request Policy **(see Appendix).** Both home and away teams may opt to wear dark/colored jerseys in accordance with the Mid-American Conference.

Uniform Request Policy.

1. The home team has agreed in writing prior to the game; and

2. The conference of the home team certifies that the jersey of the visiting team is of a contrasting color.

3. If on the kickoff at the start of each half, the visiting team wears a colored jersey in violation of the conditions specified in Rule 1-4-3-a-2, it is a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct.

PENALTY: Administer as a dead-ball foul. 15 yards at the succeeding spot following the kickoff. If the kickoff is returned for a touchdown, the penalty is assessed either on the try or on the succeeding kickoff, at the option of the home team. [S27]

b. The host institution is responsible for providing three (3) game balls. Any official leather ball may be used, but the Wilson ball is recommended. If the host institution plans to use a ball other than the Wilson, it should notify the visiting team in the pregame information forms. The visiting team should be prepared to furnish its own ball, if it chooses not to use the ball designated by the host institution.

c. The ball to be used for night games will be the official brown or natural colored ball with two white stripes.

d. Fields are to be marked in accordance with the NCAA official football rules. If the institution name or nickname is placed in the end zone, it shall be in white or color and no closer than four feet to any boundary line as per NCAA rule. The Mid-American Conference seal or institution logo may be used in the center of the field for all television games.

e. A play clock is mandatory for all Mid-American Conference games. Clocks should be at both ends of the field. All clocks should be capable of providing a 40/25-second clock.

f. Head Sets. If requested, the host institution will make available the same number of sideline phones of equal quality for each team bench. Throughout the game, the number of such working phones must be equal for both teams. The visiting team shall be allowed to bring its own equipment, which can exceed the number that the home team utilizes. This is with the understanding that the visiting team will assume any additional costs to accommodate the equipment and should its equipment malfunction, the home team will not be required to reduce its number of sideline phones.

7. Bands/Cheerleaders

a. Each member institution commits to a safe, secure and sportsmanlike environment behind the visiting team bench area (30-yard line to 30-yard

line). As part of that commitment, home team student and band seating shall be OUTSIDE the visiting team bench area. Additionally, the host institution commits to an active and responsive security presence behind the visiting team bench area to address potential violations of the above policy.

b. The request of the visiting team's band to perform at pregame and halftime will be the host institution's option and should be submitted to the host athletics director (or designated administrator) by July 1 or earlier. Listed below is the pregame format and guidelines. A comparable schedule will be in effect for games with other starting times.

1:15 Field cleared of team personnel (1:10 for special events or two bands)
1:16 Start of pregame band show
1:25 National Anthem
1:29 Final team huddle
1:30 Kickoff

c. Bands are prohibited from playing from the time the offensive team breaks from the huddle until the completion of that play.

d. Bands, cheerleaders, spirit groups and mascots are prohibited from coming onto the playing field while the game is in progress.

e. During pregame, if bands of both competing teams are to perform, no more than six and one-half minutes will be allotted to either band for its performance. If only the home team's band performs during pregame activities, that performance and any pregame ceremonies shall be limited to 10 minutes. The above times include time to get the bands on and off the field.

f. During halftime, if bands of both institutions are to perform, each is limited to eight minutes. If only the home team band performs, that performance and any associated activity is to be limited to 16 minutes. This includes the time necessary to get the bands on and off the field. In all cases, the field must be cleared four minutes before the second half starts.

g. The travel squad for cheerleaders shall be limited to 12 and one mascot.

C. Divisional Champions

The divisional championship shall be decided on conference winning percentage. If two or more teams are tied for the championship, they shall be considered divisional co-champions. The following tie-breaking formula shall be used to determine which team will represent that division in the Mid-American Conference.

Championship game:

1. Head-to-head competition
   a. In the event of a multiple-team (two or more teams) tie, the team with the best head-to-head record amongst tied teams wins the tie-breaker;
   b. In a two-team tie, head-to-head competition will be the first criteria;
   c. If two teams did not play, the second criteria is used to break the tie;

2. Record of tied teams vs. common opponents within the division [versus rank order, highest to lowest, of division teams]
   a. The above tie-breaker procedure is used to determine rank order in the division;
   b. Team(s) eliminated in the second tie-breaker criterion are not included in further consideration in tie-breaking formula;

c. Head-to-head competition is again used to break the tie between the remaining tied teams.

3. Comparison of conference winning percentage of cross-over opponents of tied teams;
   a. Tie-breaker is awarded to the team whose cross-division opponents had the best cumulative conference winning percentage;
   b. Head-to-head competition is used to break the tie between the two tied teams.
4. If multiple teams remain tied, the final tie-breaker is as follows:
   a. Record of tied teams versus cross-division opponents in rank order;
   b. Head-to-head competition is used to break the tie between the two tied teams.

D. Bowl Games

A Mid-American Conference team shall participate in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, the Arizona Bowl, the Quick Lane Bowl, and the Bahamas Bowl for the 2020 football season. A Mid-American Conference team will rotate annually in two (2) of the following games: the Camelia Bowl, the Lending Tree Bowl, the Myrtle Beach Bowl, the Cure Bowl, the Cheribundi Boca Raton Bowl, the Tropical Smoothie Frisco Bowl, and the New Mexico Bowl.

The Mid-American Conference Champion (winner of the Mid-American Conference Football Championship) is guaranteed an invitation to one of the Mid-American Conference's contracted bowl games. The other division winner (Mid-American Conference Championship game runner-up) is also guaranteed an invitation to one of the Mid-American Conference's contracted bowl games.

(For Bowl Reimbursement Policy, please see Appendix)

E. Scouting Video/Exchange of Information

All conference institutions shall participate in the National Open Exchange program and shall appropriately comply with all policies set by the National Open Exchange Co-op. An open exchange shall be defined as the video exchange of all prior games (conference and non-conference) from the current season, which may be secured from the member institutions internet exchange provider by any conference institution at its discretion once the games have been loaded. The conference would continue to not assist non-conference institutions with current in-season video exchange unless it involves a direct exchange between the member institution and a non-conference opponent of the current season.

1. Video Exchange Policies

a. Acquisition of Game Footage
   1. All exchange video should be recorded in one of the acceptable HD formats: 720p @ 8 mbps or 1080i @ 6mbps.
   2. Each exchange video file should have H.264 mp4 file accompanied by an .xchange file for game marks and metadata.

2. Editing of Game Footage

a. Offense, Defense, and Special Teams will be separated into individual consolidated exchange mp4 files with the accompanying .Xchange files. Offense and Defense will be in sequential game order. Special Teams will be in sequential game order by the following grouping: Kickoff, Kickoff Return, Punt, Punt Return, Field Goal/PAT, and Field Goal/PAT Block. If the kicker is in the game on a Field Goal/PAT try, the play goes on the Special Teams video file regardless of whether or not it is a fake kick or other two-point try. If the kicker is not in the game, the play goes on Offense or Defense.

b. Each play should be a triple cut showing the scoreboard, sideline angle, and then the end zone angle.
c. Preceding each sideline play, a full two-second shot of the scoreboard showing the correct down, distance, field position, and game clock must be shown. Care should be taken so as to not miss the formation at the start of the play.
d. The sideline view must show all 22 players on the field at the beginning of the play for offense and defense. Every sideline view is required to show ALL pre-snap adjustments, shifting, and motions that occur prior to the start of the play. The end zone view does not need to include all of the pre-snap shifting and motions, but it is required to show, at a minimum, a full three seconds prior to the snap.
e. End zone video used for exchange intercuts must be from the same end zone for all four quarters and overtime.
f. On Kickoff/Kickoff Returns the Sideline frame should include the Kickoff Team and the first line of the Kickoff Return Team. Once ball is kicked zoom out to include the returner catching the ball and then zoom in as the Kickoff Team converges on the returner. Endzone will include all 22 players on the field in the frame and zoom in as teams converge on the ball.
g. On Field Goal/Field Goal Block, tilt to the officials under the goalposts for the good/no good sign from the end zone camera. Or if you include the official on the sideline view, zoom to the official to the side of the kicker. Make sure to hold the shot long enough to get all pertinent footage before zooming to the official.
h. For Punt/Punt Returns Sideline frame should be Linebacker depth to the punter excluding the returner. Upon the ball being kicked zoom out to include the returner catching the ball and then zooming in at the coverage and return teams appear in the frame. If the Punter is not pursuing play it is permitted to exclude. For the Endzone frame a Traditional Punt formation will look like Offense and Defense with the gunners excluded. For a Shield or Spread Punt will include the core of the formation provided the front line is evenly spaced. If gunners are removed, they will be excluded. Once ball is kicked expand out to include gunners and finish as if it were a Kickoff and zoom in as teams converge on the ball.
i. Do not include excessive footage in your intercut (celebrations, etc.).

3. Stadium Camera Locations

a. The home team will provide safe, adequate, and equivalent sideline and end zone videotaping locations for the visiting team.
b. The home team is responsible for providing one sideline and one end zone location. Additional spots must be approved prior to game day with the host Video Coordinator.
c. The home team will assist in providing a safe working location with table, chair, and power for the visiting video staff.
d. It is the responsibility of the host video coordinator to provide step-by-step directions from the visitor's locker room to the sideline camera location and end zone camera location to the visiting video coordinator in advance of the contest.

4. Video Exchange

a. At the conclusion of each contest, each team should post their games, conference and non-conference, into an individual game specific folder on their internet exchange provider account. The folder should contain six files: an mp4 video file for Offense, Defense, and Special Teams along with an .xchange file that correlates to each mp4.

b. When a Mid-American Conference team is the home team (conference and non-conference), that team should upload their game to its internet exchange provider account as soon as possible but no later than 2 hours following the conclusion of the contest. When a Mid-American Conference team is the road team, that team should upload their game to its internet exchange provider account as soon as possible but no later than 2 hours from their time of arrival back at their home facility.

c. In the case of mid-week games, all uploading/posting rules remain valid. It should be noted that no team should seek to gain an unfair advantage over another team.

d. It is the responsibility of each institution to send game to everyone in the conference once posted to its internet exchange provider account.

e. All video requests from non-conference opponents scheduled to play Mid-American Conference teams should be made directly to the opposing Mid-American Conference team. Conference members are only allowed to share their self-scout games with non-conference opponents. No other Mid-American Conference teams should exchange video with those non-conference opponents.

f. Championship games and Bowl games should be posted, as normal, to each team's internet exchange provider account. These games should not be shared with any non-conference teams unless it is part of a direct exchange between a Mid-American Conference team and the non-conference team meeting in a bowl game or future contest.

g. All exchange video should remain posted in each team's internet exchange provider account until August 1 of the following year. All member institutions will have access to the exchange video during this time.

h. Naming of Video files should follow the following order each with a space in between:

i. Two Digit Season Number
ii. Two Digit Game Number
iii. Team Abbreviation of Video of whom it is from
iv. Side of Ball (O, D, K)
v. vs or @
vi. Opponent Team Abbreviation
vii. Six Digit Date of Game

Naming Examples

- 16 05 WMU O @ CMU 100116
- 16 10 BSU D vs EMU 110816
- 16 09 OHIO K @ UT 102716

Approved Institution Abbreviations

Akron – UA
Ball State – BSU
Bowling Green - BGSU
Buffalo – UB
Central Michigan – CMU
Eastern Michigan – EMU
Kent State – KSU
Miami – MU
Northern Illinois - NIU
Ohio – OHIO
Toledo – UT
Western Michigan - WMU

5. Data Policy

a. Each team should secure an XML file of the game Play by Play and Stats from their SID. This XML file should be shared in data specific folder on the team's internet exchange provider account.
b. Data locker can be a season locker or individual per game, it is the VC's choice.
c. CSV and TXT files will be posted in same data locker and sent no later than 1pm (local time) Sunday or day after the game (mid-week games)
d. CSV and TXT files shall include the following headings in the first row, in this order for OFF & DEF (internal name doesn't matter, as long as data matches the required field):
    i. Series
    ii. Series # or Series Sequence
    iii. Quarter
    iv. Down
    v. Distance
    vi. Field Position or Yard Line
    vii. R/P or Run/Pass
    viii. Gain
f. All Data columns MUST be filled in.
g. No Special Teams Data is required.

6. Officials Video

a. For conference games and home non-conference games involving Mid-American Conference officials, it is the responsibility of the home conference team to provide a continuous sequential game file (mp4 and .Xchange; intercut as normal) to the COC Football Officials when the Trade Video is posted. At the very latest the time frame will be 12 PM Noon EST the day following the contest. This file should be sent via the team's internet exchange provider account to the Big Ten account located at: Big Ten Conference – BIG10 Conference Office – MFB.
b. For non-conference road games involving Mid-American Conference officials, it is the responsibility of the road conference team to provide a continuous sequential game file in the same manner as above by the stated deadline.
c. A consortium representative will notify the Video Directors the week of the game to indicate whom is responsible for sending a continuous sequential game file.

F. Officials

1. Eight (8) on-field officials, one (1) instant replay official, and one (1) communicator shall be assigned for all home games. Select road non-conference games will have eight (8) on-field officials assigned.

2. ALL OFFICIATING PAYMENTS WILL BE CENTRALIZED VIA THE CONFERENCE OFFICE. Please contact Kerri Camardo (kcamardo@mac-sports.com or 216.566.4622, ext. 324) with any questions.

3. For **ALL** games, officials are paid the following flat fee:
- Referee: $2,375;
- Remaining on-field crew: $2,300;
- Replay Official: $2,300;
- Communicator: $1,100;
- Replay Technician: $200 (**minimum**);

4. Officials should receive credentials, parking permits and tickets (two each) prior to game day. If you provide transportation from the hotel to the game site, please confirm that with the referee prior to the day of the game.

5. A pre-game officials meeting should take place approximately 110 minutes prior to kickoff. The following personnel are required to attend the pre-game officials meeting:

Home Event Management, Game Referee, Team Liaison from each participating Institution, Public Safety Personnel/Police, Game Clock Operator, Play Clock Operator, Instant Replay Staff & Technicians, TV Production Liaison and Red Hat/Timeout Coordinator, and Media Relations Staff Member.

A time out protocol, and other game management items of importance, should be written and reviewed at the meeting.

The Host Event Manager shall facilitate and chair the meeting. [*Effective 5/19/2011*]

6. The following standardized fees will be in place for all member institutions:
- Spring/Fall Games: $225 per official assigned;
- Scrimmages: $100 per official assigned;
- Practices: $75 per official assigned;

All officials for the above events will be assigned by the COC. Institutions are responsible for payment for all officials assigned.

G. Snow Removal Policy

If snow is in the forecast for game day, the home team's Stadium Manager must meet with the Referee before the game (100-minute meeting) to discuss field conditions and the procedures for snow removal should snow become a factor before or during the game.

The following rules are in place for removal of snow during the game:

a. Brushes or other appropriate clearing devices should be used to keep sidelines, goal lines, and end lines as clear as possible.
b. It is permissible to clear the 10-yard intervals, sidelines, goal lines and end lines away from the direction of an offensive team play.
c. It is not permissible to clear any 10-yard intervals when an offensive team is inside its opponent's 20-yard line so that team would get a potential open spot for the placement of field goal or PAT attempt.
d. The goal line can be cleared if the Referee has any doubt on the location of the goal line when an offensive team is going in for a possible score.
e. Only players are permitted to clear a spot for a PAT or field goal attempt by hand or foot.
f. Head Coaches cannot agree to have a spot cleared for a kicker.
g. Extension of time between periods, during timeouts, and at halftime can be approved by the referee.

H. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X)

1. During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference media relations department shall select an Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Player of the Week from each division based on nominations received from member institutions.

2. The All-MAC team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches. Nomination forms will be sent to the coaches two weeks prior to the end of the regular season. Nominations must be received by the Conference Office no later than noon on Friday, one week prior to the final game involving a Mid-American Conference team. Based

on nominations received, the Conference Office will generate a ballot to be faxed to the coaches on the Monday prior to the end of the season.

Each institution may nominate up to 12 players, regardless of position, in rank order (1 through 12) and three (3) special teams players regardless of position, in rank order (1 through 3). Three (3) All-MAC teams will be recognized, First Team, Second Team and Third Team.

The Ballot will be listed by position, alphabetically by institution and votes are required to be submitted following the conclusion of the regular season.

The offensive teams and defensive teams will be comprised of the following positions.

Offense:	**Defense:**	**Specialists:**
Linemen - 5	Outside Linebackers - 2	Kickoff Return Specialist - 1
Tight End - 1	Down Linemen - 4	Punt Return Specialist - 1
Wide Receivers - 4	Inside Linebackers - 2	**Total - 2**
Quarterback - 1	Defensive Backs - 4	
Running Backs - 2	Punter - 1	
Place Kicker - 1	**Total - 13**	
Total – 14		

Voting procedures:

a. Coaches may not vote for their own players.
b. Coaches must vote for the respective number of honorees at each position in rank order, with a ranking of 1 being the highest rank.
c. Points shall be assigned as follows (for Conference Office use only):

Point Distribution (for use by Conference Office staff):

Positions Available	**Rank**	**Point Assignment**
4 positions	1-12	12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
3 positions	1-9	12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4
2 positions	1-6	12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7
1 position	1-3	12, 11, 10

2019 All-MAC Team Selection Timetable:

Aug. 10: Head Coach's All-MAC "Watch Lists" due in the Conference Office.
Aug. 23: Composite All-MAC "Watch List" by position and institution (rank order) distributed to campuses.
Nov. 1: Resend pre-season "Watch Lists" to campuses for additions and/or deletions.
Nov. 15: Changes due back to Conference Office by 12 Noon ET.
Nov. 22: Final All-MAC ballot distributed to campuses.
Nov. 27: Completed All-MAC ballots returned to Conference Office by 5 pm ET.
Dec. 4: Public release of 2018 All-MAC teams (first, second and third).

The individual(s) receiving the most points at each position will be named to the respective first team, based on the number to be named to each position (maximum of 14 offense/13 defense, including ties). The individual(s) receiving the next highest point total at each position will be named to the second team (number honored may vary due to ties in the voting process). Those individuals receiving the third highest point totals will be named to the third team. See Mid-American Conference Bylaw 10.04 for procedure to break ties in the voting.

3. Voting for the Vern Smith Leadership award will be conducted by the Mid-American Conference Head Football Coaches.

4. The Freshman of the Year, Offensive/Defensive Players of the Year, Special Teams Player of the Year and Coach of the Year shall be selected by a vote of the Mid-American Conference Head Football Coaches and Mid-American Conference News Media Association following the conclusion of the regular season.

I. Coaches' Meeting (see appendix for meeting calendar)

The annual business meeting of the football coaches shall be conducted each February via conference call, based on availability. The Head Coaches will also meet annually each May at a site to be determined.

J. Mid-American Conference Football Championship

1. Administration

The championship game shall be conducted under the general direction and supervision of the Conference Office, subject to the controlling legislation, regulations and policies of the NCAA and the Mid-American Conference.

2. Championship Awards

As part of the awards listed in Mid-American Conference Bylaw X and the sport operating codes, an Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Player of the Game will be selected by a media vote.

3. Championship Date

The championship will be held following the conclusion of the college football season and prior to the College Football Playoff (CFP) selection show.

4. Championship Director

The championship director shall be a member of the Mid-American Conference Office staff.

5. Championship Format

The East and West Division Champions (based on conference winning percentage) will compete in the championship game. An ineligible team shall not be considered in the standings for determination of the divisional representative to the payoff game. In the event of a tie, the Mid-American Conference tie-breaking procedure for football shall be used.

6. Championship Site

The championship game shall be held at Ford Field in Detroit, Mich.

7. Game Programs

125 complimentary game programs will be provided to each participating team.

8. Team Expenses

Each institution shall receive a $25,000 stipend from the Conference Office for participating in the Mid-American Conference Football Championship Game. It will also receive, at no cost, 3,000 complimentary tickets valued at $60,000 ($20 each) and will retain all revenue from sales of those tickets.

K. Rules

1. Travel Squad

No limit. Size is at the discretion of the participating institutions.

2. Travel Party
No limit. Size is at the discretion of the participating institutions.

L. Schedule/Procedures

1. Credentials
The following credentials shall be issued:

a. Working passes - provided to bona fide working personnel, including media representatives.
b. Sideline passes – Per NCAA rule, 60 to each participating team.
c. Coaches' Box passes - Eight (8) to each participating team.

M. Facilities/Equipment

1. Banners

a. At televised championships, no banner other than approved television, radio, corporate sponsor and conference banners may be posted.

b. All banners must be approved by the Mid-American Conference Championship representative.

c. The Mid-American Conference will provide championship and corporate sponsorship banners at all conference championships. The host institution is responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged banners.

N. Officials

1. Eleven (11) officials (eight (8) on-field, one (1) alternate, one (1) instant replay, and one (1) communicator) shall be assigned for the championship game by the Coordinator of Officials (in consultation with the Commissioner).

2. The Coordinator of Officials shall attend the game.

3. Officials shall be paid by the Conference Office. Each official shall be paid a flat game fee. In addition, each official shall receive one (1) complimentary hotel room for a maximum of two (2) nights.

4. The Conference Office will be responsible for administration of instant replay for the Football Championship Game. The replay official and communicator will be assigned by the Coordinator of Officials and paid by the Conference Office.

O. Game Delays – Lightning

1. DELAYED GAME DUE TO LIGHTNING (Prior to kickoff).
When lightning is detected within eight (8) miles or less of the competition site, the start of the competition shall be immediately delayed by Game Management with both teams returning to their locker rooms. The competition may be resumed after 30 minutes of no detected lightning strikes within an eight-mile radius or less of the site. In addition, band(s) will be given 10 minutes following the teams' warm-up period for pre-game activities and the National Anthem unless TV dictates otherwise.

The 30:00-minute time starts in the press box after the last detected lightning strike. After 30 minutes of no detected strikes, the game clock will be set to 10:00 minutes and started.

CLOCK	EVENT
10:00	Teams will be directed to take the field for warm-up
0:00	Teams return to the locker room
10:00	Clock is reset for 10 minutes
	Marching Band/National Anthem
0:00	Teams re-take the field for kick-off

2. SUSPENDED GAME DUE TO LIGHTNING (After the game has officially started)

When lightning is detected within eight (8) miles or less of the competition site, the competition shall be immediately suspended by the referee, in consultation with Game Management. Both teams will return to their locker rooms. The competition may be resumed after 30 minutes of no detected lightning strikes within an eight-mile radius of the site

The 30 minutes time starts in the press box after the last detected lightning strike. After 30 minutes of no detected strikes, the game clock will be set to 10 minutes and started.

CLOCK	EVENT
10:00	Teams will be directed to take the field for warm-up
0:00	Competition resumes

P. Football Media Policies

1. MAC Pool Reporter Policy

The pool reporter will be assigned by the home sports information director prior to the start of the football season.

The pool reporter will be one member of the media who covers that institution on a regular basis. Sports Information Directors (SIDs) will notify Ken Mather of the Conference Office at the start of each season as to the identity of the pool reporter.

If the designated pool reporter is not in attendance for any reason, the host SID should designate a replacement for that game. The pool reporter must be accompanied by the Home SID or a member of the media relations staff as designated by the Home SID.

a. There will be only one (1) pool reporter.

b. The referee must agree to the conference.

c. What can be discussed
   - Rule Interpretation
   - Game Procedures

d. What cannot be discussed:
   - Judgment Calls

e. Following a 10-minute cooling off period, game management (director of athletics or other designee) will accompany the SID and pool reporter to the officials' locker room for a clarification of the rule.

f. The pool reporter is to remain outside of the Referees Locker Room. The referee may be accompanied by another official. Both the SID and reporter will tape record the interview. Upon conclusion of the interview, a typed transcript of the interview will be made available to all media.

g. No one except the officials, the pool reporter, SID and game management may be present during the interview\process.

h. The Director of Athletics (and/or game management designee) has the discretion to defer implementing this process if the safety of an official, player or fan would be endangered as a result of this interview

opportunity. If this interview process is not available, all media questions shall be referred to the Mid-American Conference Office.

Each summer the Conference Office will host a Football Media Day event, which will require the participation of each head football coach and two student-athletes. The selection of the two (2) student-athletes will be coordinated by the Conference Office as each institution will select one (1) student-athlete, while the Conference Office will select one (1) student-athlete.

All head football coaches are required to participate in a weekly football coach's media conference call hosted by the Conference Office. The conference call will be hosted each Monday during the regular season and require each head coaches' participation each week during the regular season.

The Conference Office will host a Football Championship Game media conference call the Monday prior to the Championship Game. The head football coach and a minimum of two (2) student-athletes from each institution in the Football Championship Game are required to participate. The participating student-athletes are required to be starters that will participate in the Championship Game.

The Conference Office will host a Football Championship Game press conference one (1) day prior to the Championship Game at the host site. The head football coach and minimum of two (2) student-athletes from each institution in the Football Championship Game are required to participate in the press conference. The participating student-athletes are required to be starters that will participate in the Championship Game.

The Conference Office will host a postgame press conference immediately following the Football Championship Game. Each head football coach and a minimum of two (2) student-athletes from each institution are required to participate in the press conference. The participating student-athletes are required to be either starters or players that made a significant contribution to his team during the Championship Game.

Each Mid-American Conference football program that receives an invitation to a bowl game is required to participate in the bowl games media press conferences and events including the following: bowl invitation conference call; on-site pre-bowl press conference; bowl arrival press conference; all media related press conferences including sponsor and community press conferences on site the week of the bowl game; bowl game post-game press conference.

Q. Game Operations Check List - Officiating/Instant Replay

1. Official Assignments/Fees

a. Utilize www.teamworksapp.com to review your assigned crew and fees.

b. ALL OFFICIATING PAYMENTS WILL BE CENTRALIZED VIA THE CONFERENCE OFFICE. Please contact Kerri Camardo (kcamardo@mac-sports.com or 216-566-4622, ext. 324) with questions.

c. For **ALL** games, officials are paid the following flat fee:
- Referee: $2,375;
- Remaining on-field crew: $2,300;
- Replay Official: $2,300;
- Communicator: $1,100;
- Replay Technician: $200 **minimum**;

d. Officials should receive credentials, parking permits and tickets (two each) prior to game day. If you provide transportation from the hotel to the game site, please confirm that with the referee prior to the day of the game.

2. Field Issues

a. The on-field microphone should be tested prior to the game and placed in the officials' locker room for the referee. Please be prepared with a backup microphone.

b. Instant Replay Pagers should be tested prior to game day. There will be a minimum of 10 pagers on the field. They should be left in the locker room for the following positions: side judge, referee, umpire, field judge, line judge and two (2) designated instant replay sideline assistants.

c. A back-up system needs to be in place in the event the instant replay pager system fails. Please have a walkie-talkie in the instant replay booth and one (1) with each instant replay sideline assistant. This will allow the replay official to still institute a shutdown for replay review in the event the pager system fails to operate.

d. Check the chains and be certain that the chain crew has vests and hats. Please have the chain crew report to the head linesman one (1) hour prior to game time.

e. Check to make certain that yard-line markers are in place as well as the pylons for the goal line and end line. An orange ribbon should be four inches from the top of the goal post.

f. The clock operator and play clock operator should report to the officials' locker room a minimum of 100 minutes prior to the start of the game.

g. The TOC/Red Hat must check in with the officials prior to the start of the game. Please work with the network televising your game to determine TOC/red cap assignments**. The Conference Office WILL NOT assign TOC/Red Haps. Host institutions are responsible for assignment and payment of ALL Red Hats.**

h. TOC/Red Hat Uniform: All TOC/Red Hat persons will wear the same uniform attire during games: officials uniform black pants with white stripe, black football shoes, black belt, and red vest & hat provided by the conference. No team name, logo, lettering, insignia or other markings that would be related to any institution is allowed. *[Revised 5/4/2015]*

3. Officials Locker Room

a. The officials' locker room should have an attendant and must be secured.

b. "NO ADMITTANCE" signage, provided by the Conference Office, **MUST** be displayed on the door.

b. Drinks/water and towels should be in the room as well. Please keep in mind that crews will arrive at the site 3-4 hours prior to the game and remain there until at least one hour after the game. The postgame meal should be in the locker room when the crew exits the field following the game.

c. Officials should be able to access the locker room and field safely. If they must travel through a general public area, please provide proper security.

4. Instant Replay Official/Communicator

a. An Instant Replay Official shall be assigned to all home games. Instant replay will be in place for all Mid-American Conference home games during the 2019 football season.

b. All games shall be assigned an Instant Replay Official and a Communicator. Each will need a credential, parking permit and two (2) game tickets. They will need field access /access to the officials for post-game review.

c. It is the responsibility of the host institution to provide an identified instant replay technician for every home game. The technicians are responsible for set up and break down of the Instant Replay system, maintenance of the system for the duration of the game, and operation of the system's touch-screen technology.

R. Guidelines - Game and Play Clock, Chain and Ball Crew

1. Game Clock Operator Guidelines

a. Game Clock Operator will report to Referee and Side Judge 110 minutes prior to game time. Game Clock Operator will inform both Referee and Side Judge his location in the Press Box or sideline.

b. Game Clock Operator should start Game Clock 60 minutes before game time.

c. 20-minute halftime intermission will be time on the Game Clock. Game Clock will start when the Referee gives the signal to start the clock.

d. Game Clock Operator should have an extra stopwatch in case of clock malfunction.

e. Should the game clock become inoperative an announcement will be made over the PA system that the official game time will be kept on the field.

f. Side Judge will attempt throughout the game to provide information to the PA announcer concerning remaining time. This information will be communicated to the Press Box through the Red Hat, Game Clock Operator or Game Operations Contact.

2. Play Clock Operator Guidelines

a. The Play Clock Operator will report to the Referee and Back Judge 100 minutes prior to the game time.

b. Back Judge will instruct the Play Clock Operator as to when to reset the clock.

c. If there is a malfunction of both play clocks time will be kept on the field with the Back Judge.

d. With 10 seconds remaining on the play clock the Back Judge will raise his hand in the air to signal 10 seconds are left.

3. Chain Crew and Ball Crew Guidelines

a. Chain Crew will report in uniform to the Head Linesman 60 minutes prior to game time. They must report in proper uniform.

b. Chain Crew Uniform: MAC-branded Vests and Hat.

c. Ball Crew will report in uniform to the Side Judge and Field Judge 60 minutes prior to game time. They must report in proper uniform -- MAC-branded ball boy vests provided by the Conference Office.

S. Instant Replay Guidelines

Minimum Equipment Standards - The following minimum equipment standards are required inside the replay booth and on the field of play:

1. Interior of Replay Booth

a. Two (2) Monitors - it is recommended that institutions shall utilize a system designed for instant replay that includes monitors of sufficient size and picture quality to effectively conduct video reviews. One (1) of the two (2) monitors should include touch screen technology for viewing multiple angles and for selecting the best angles to forward to the replay official. The additional monitor should be equipped with play, pause, FF, RW, freeze frame and slow-motion capabilities that are operated by a remote control.

b. Pager system - The booth should have the pager system base to allow the replay official to alert all on-field personnel that a review is being requested.

c. One (1) covered double muff, noise reducing headset that is directly connected/cabled to the headset on the field that is carried by the sideline assistant and utilized by the referee for communication with the booth.

d. All replay booths should allow the replay official to hear on-field announcements.

e. One (1) hand-held walkie-talkie unit for back up communication

f. One (1) standard telephone capable of ring down to the field and production truck

2. On-Field Replay Equipment

a. Two (2) covered double muff, noise reducing headsets with sufficient cord length to reach the referee between the sideline and the numbers at either 20-yard line. This headset should be directly connected/cabled to the headset in the booth.

b. Two (2) sideline tablets with connectivity to the replay system for use by the referee during replay shutdowns.

c. A minimum of two (2) or three (3) hand-held walkie-talkies as back up for pagers, one (1) for the red hat or designated representative and one (1) for each sideline assistant. These walkie-talkies should be equipped with earpieces that should be worn to ensure back-up communication is available.

d. Minimum of 10 pagers on playing field with location to be determined by assigning Conference (must include the sideline assistant).

d. One (1) standard telephone that is connected to the replay booth.

3. Back-up Replay Equipment

An acceptable back up system should include a digital recording system that allows for instantaneous playback of video/live game action.

4. Replay System Failure

In the event that the primary replay system goes down the technician should immediately notify the replay official and move to the backup system. In the event that both the primary and backup systems are down the replay official should stop the game, for no more than two minutes, while replay is repaired. If after two minutes replay is not operational the replay official should notify the referee, who will notify both head coaches, announce that replay is down and continue play without instant replay. Once replay is again available it will immediately be utilized and at the next dead ball the replay official will communicate this fact with the sideline assistant, who will notify the referee, who will inform both head coaches and announce that replay is again operational. In the event that a reviewable play occurs before the referee or head coaches have been notified it will be the responsibility of the replay to stop the game and to initiate replay accordingly.

5. Minimum Number of Cameras and Required Camera Locations:

a. Televised Games

All institutions must utilize the television feed with a minimum of four (4) cameras as the source for instant replay. In addition, there should be no supplemental feeds used to aid the replay process. All feeds should exclude audio.

b. Non-Televised Games with Third Party Production

All institutions must commit to a minimum of four (4) cameras dedicated to on-field game action for instant replay. In addition, there should be no supplemental feeds used to aid the replay process. All feeds should exclude audio.

c. Non-Televised games with In-House Production

If an in-house system is the method used to provide instant replay, it must have a minimum of four (4) cameras solely committed to game action for instant replay. In addition, there should be no supplemental feeds used to aid the replay process. All feeds should exclude audio.

d. Required Minimum Camera Locations:

-Camera 1 – one (1) high 50-yard line shot
-Camera 2 – one (1) high end zone shot
-Camera 3 and 4 – two (2) hand-held sideline roving (it is strongly recommended that the hand-held cameras move to a position on the goal line when the ball is in the red zone and be cognizant of their positioning generally for replay purposes.

6. Required Personnel and Specified Duties for Each Person

Replay personnel should consist of a minimum of three (3) individuals in the replay booth. The identification and assignment of all replay personnel shall be at the direction of the host Conference and include the following:

a. Replay Official- The replay official is in charge of the replay booth and will have ultimate decision-making authority to review, confirm or reverse on-field rulings. Other replay personnel, while critical to the replay process,

serve only a support role in helping the replay official make decisions. The replay official will have a window view of the field and a replay monitor to be used in determining if it is necessary to stop the game for further review.

b. Communicator - The communicator should also be positioned in front of a separate replay monitor, with a touch screen, to manipulate plays for use of the replay official. The communicator should communicate to the replay official what is happening on the field when a booth review is in process and there is no game stoppage. In the event that the replay official is unable to perform his duties, the communicator immediately assumes the responsibilities of the replay official in addition to those of the communicator.

c. Technician - The technician is responsible for the set-up, testing and operation of the entire replay system, including: ring down field phone, officials' pagers, walkie-talkies and monitors. The technician should sit in front of a live monitor and mark each play at the discretion of the replay official. When there is a game stoppage the technician will ring the production truck to notify them of a review, explain what the replay official is looking for and maintain communication with the production truck until all available replays have been provided.

d. Sideline Assistant(s) - The primary responsibility of the replay sideline assistant is to ensure the sideline headset is working properly and to wear the headset during the game. This individual will also wear a walkie-talkie to be used in the event of a head-set failure. The sideline assistant shall stand or sit at the headset station at all times during play. In the event of game stoppage for a review, the sideline assistant shall step out onto the field of play in between the sideline and the numbers to meet the Referee and hand him the headset.

e. Conferences may decide to employ two (2) sideline assistants but at a minimum one (1) must be provided. The sideline assistant should be positioned at the 20-yard line nearest the line of scrimmage or at the line of scrimmage. Each side line assistant should be equipped with a double muff noise reducing headset, a pager and a walkie-talkie for communication with the replay booth. The sideline assistant MUST wear a LIME GREEN VEST, consistently and clearly identifying himself nationally as the sideline assistant. In the event of a replay review all communications with the replay official and replay booth should occur on the playing field.

7. **Equipment Testing Requirements and Timing of Required Tests -** All replay personnel should be at the stadium and assume their appropriate positions 2 hours and 10 minutes prior to kick-off. All instant replay equipment should be tested 2 hours before kick-off, again at 50 minutes before kick-off, and during half time prior to the captains returning to the field and no earlier than 10 minutes prior to the second half kick-off. It is the responsibility of the technician to test all replay equipment including pagers, head sets, walkie-talkies, monitors, video feeds and ring down phones. The technician should also carry spare AA and AAA batteries for emergency purposes.

8. **Replay Booth and Production Facility Communication -** To ensure consistency in expectations for both TV and the replay team it is recommended that communication from the replay booth and production truck should be limited to the following:

9. **Booth to Truck Communication -** Instant Replay personnel should only contact the production truck when the game is being stopped for further replay review. In such case, the technician should inform the production truck what instant replay is looking for and should remain on the phone with the production truck until TV confirms that all available replays have been sent. In addition to the aforementioned, the technician should also call the production truck to seek assistance with any technical difficulties in the replay booth.

10. **Truck to Booth Communication -** It is permissible, in only the most unusual and or extreme cases, for the production staff located in the production truck to contact the replay booth only during a break or stoppage in play to clarify replay rulings or to respond/assist with any technical difficulties. Any communications relative to replay rulings should only take place with the replay official or communicator.

    The replay subcommittee encourages both the replay official and communicator meet with the television producer and or director in the television truck 21/2 hours before the kick-off if possible.

T. Red Hat Guidelines

1. Each campus is required to assign a red hat for **ALL** home games. Please provide that person's name and contact information to the Conference Office. [*Revised 5/19/2011*]

2. The red hat is usually a paid position for a television broadcast. However, some institutions have used volunteers in the past. Because pay scales vary by television productions a common rate is difficult to establish; however, historically, this position is paid between $75-150 per contest.

3. **It is the responsibility of the host institution to provide payment to the Red Hat.**

4. TOC/Red Hat Uniform: All Red Hat persons will wear the same uniform attire during games: officials uniform black pants with white stripe, black football shoes, black belt, and red vest & hat provided by the conference. No team name, logo, lettering, insignia or other markings that would be related to any institution is allowed**.** *[Revised 5/4/2015]*

5. Red Hat Duties
    a. Meet with producer 90 minutes prior to kickoff and get pre-game/in-game TV format.
    b. Meet with football officials one (1) hour prior to kickoff and review format and communication and participate in the pre-game officials meeting. [*Revised 5/19/2011*]
    c. Test out communications equipment -- this is the lifeline between the field and the truck.
    d. Communicate with the officials as to kickoff time, media timeouts and when to resume play.
    e. Coordination of Media/TV Timeout clock operation.
    f. Act as eyes and ears for producer on the sidelines, informing them of possible injury timeouts or other rulings that may have consequence in the broadcast.
    g. Help coordinate overtime situations, if necessary.

U. Media/TV Timeout Clock Policy

All Media/TV timeouts in ALL football stadiums will be timed using the following:

a. Dedicated on-field countdown clock, provided by the conference office, is operated by the assigned TOC/Red Hat;
b. Dedicated on-field countdown clock is set to total stoppage time per approved commercial TV format. Countdown clock is operated the assigned TOC/Red Hat;
c. At 0:00 on the dedicated on-field countdown clock the Red Hat signals ready for play;
f. Play clock is set for 25 seconds and starts on the Referee's "Ready for Play" signal;

V. Bowl Reimbursement Policy

For all bowl games a participating Mid-American Conference institution receives:

- $350,000 reimbursement;
- Retains revenue from all tickets sold;
- Conference assigns and pays for charter aircrafts;
- If applicable, ground transportation costs incurred instead of air charter will be reimbursed subject to review and approval of the Commissioner

Above policy does not apply to 5-7 institutions participating in a bowl game. The participating institution is only eligible to receive funds provided by the bowl. (Revised 2/20/17)

W. Bowl Assessment

Member Institutions will be assessed $130,000 annually for the purpose of funding the Conference's primary and secondary bowl agreements.

X. Bowl Charter Airfare Policy

The Mid-American Conference will contract and assign charter aircrafts to be used for postseason bowl travel for the conference's primary bowl agreements. The Conference Office will be responsible for assignment and payment of charters.

Y. Independent Medical Observer Policy

In the event the Independent Medical Observer has clear, reasonable visual evidence that:

a. A player displays obvious signs of possible head injury, disorientation or is clearly unstable, and
b. It becomes apparent that the player will remain in the game and/or the signs have not been recognized by the institution's medical or athletic training staff and the on-field officiating crew;

Then the Independent Medical Observer will contact the replay official/sideline assistant(s) to alert the designated officials on the field by a buzzer system or other appropriate means.

Upon being notified, per NCAA Football Rule 12-3-6-f, the designated on-field official(s) will immediately stop the game and the referee shall announce:

"The previous play is under further review."

After it has been communicated to the referee that play was stopped due to medical reasons, the referee shall announce:

"Official's timeout for medical reasons. The previous play is not under further review."

The replay official/sideline assistant(s) will communicate the team and uniform number of the player in question to the referee. Once the game has been stopped, with one exception, the current rules for such an injured player (NCAA Football Rule 3-3-5) will

take effect, just as for any other injury. The exception is that there would be no 10-second runoff should the injury take place during the last minute of a half (NCAA Football Rule 3-3-5-f).

Finally, there will be a phone placed on each sideline that provides a direct line of communication to the Independent Medical Observer. Medical staffs from both teams are permitted to call the Independent Medical Observer during the game to inquire about specific situations where a head injury may have occurred.

In addition to the information described above, the Independent Medical Observer will be responsible for the following:

1. **Pre-Game**
    a. Report to stadium at least two (2) hours prior to the designated game start time;
    b. Meet with officiating crew during the 100-minute meeting (i.e., 1:40 prior to kick-off);
    c. Meet with medical staff from both teams on the sideline no later than 45 minutes prior to kick-off;
    d. Report to replay booth no less than 30 minutes prior to the designated game start time.

2. **In-Game**
    a. Record time and quarter for any plays where a stoppage occurs due to medical replay;
    b. Also, chart any instance where the officials or the medical staffs remove a player without the use of the Independent Medical Observer.

3. **Post-Game**
    a. Once the game ends, the Independent Medical Observer can leave the stadium;
    b. The Independent Medical Observer is not permitted to speak with any media members during or following the game;
    c. Within 48 hours following the conclusion of the game, the Independent Medical Observer shall communicate any data charted during the game or any other issues that arose during the game to the Conference Office.

Chapter VIII - Men's Golf

A. Regular Season

1. Competition Rules

All conference competition shall be governed by USGA and NCAA rules.

a. Conduct. In the Conference championship and all tournaments hosted by member institutions, a two-stroke penalty will be assessed for conduct deemed "unbecoming of a collegiate player" (e.g., slow play, abusive language and/or club throwing by any participant).

2. Scheduling/Procedures

a. Conference. Conference scheduling shall adhere to Mid-American Conference Bylaw 6.01 which states that “each member institution shall compete annually with a minimum of 50% of other MAC member institutions”. [Waived per Joint Committee for 2008-09 and 2009-10; waiver extended for 2010-2011, 5/26/2010; waiver extended through 2015-16, 2/23/2011]

b. Any Conference institution hosting more than three institutions shall play a minimum of five players medal-play, counting the best 4-out-of-5 scores for the team total. If agreeable to participating institutions, they may play as many as seven players, using a similar format.

3. Travel Squad

There is no travel squad limitation for Mid-American Conference competition. [*5/30/19*]

4. Individual Participation

Individual participation at events is not restricted.

B. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X)

1. Golfer of the Week

During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference media relations department shall select a Golfer of the Week based on nominations submitted by member institutions. A Golfer of the Week shall be selected during September, October and November when two-or-more teams are competing. Teams do not need to be at the same tournament. When teams are at the same tournament, only the golfer with the highest finish will be placed on the ballot. When teams are competing at different tournaments, the strength of the field shall also be considered. If a golfer wins a tournament, they are automatically awarded the weekly honor. Co-golfer may be awarded in cases of ties or in cases of top golfers competing at different tournaments, per the coaches’ decision.

2. All-MAC Team

The 10-member All-MAC team will be selected by the coaches on the Thursday following the championship at 10:00am EST on a teleconference. The Executive Committee (future host, current host, previous host) will determine and provide player rankings to the full coaches group in the fall by November 15th and once again in the spring by April 1st. The MAC Office will forward the nomination list to Golfstat and will send the head-to-head standings along with a ballot to the Coaches’ following the Championship no later than 5:00pm on Tuesday. Voting will be conducted on Thursday’s teleconference call. Coaches may nominate and vote for their own players. A first and second team shall be selected, with the number of first team

honorees limited to 5 (including ties). If the medalist is not voted to the first team, he is automatically placed on that team.
See Mid-American Conference Bylaw 10.04 for procedure to break ties in the voting.

3. All-Tournament Team
A five (5) - member all-tournament team shall be awarded at the conference Championship. The team shall consist of the top-five finishers, including ties.

4. Coach, Freshman and Golfer of the Year
The Kermit Blosser Coach of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Golfer of the Year will also be selected following the championship. Nominees for Freshman of the Year must be in their first year of competition and have three years of eligibility. The Conference Office will solicit nominations at the same time as the All-MAC nominations and provide ballots at the Coaches' Meeting at the Championship.

5. Sportsmanship Award
The Earl Yestingsmeier Sportsmanship Award is voted on by the participants at the Championship following the third round of play. Only seniors are eligible for this award.

C. Coaches' Meeting (see appendix for meeting calendar).
A business meeting of all conference head coaches shall be conducted annually, on the third Tuesday in August via teleconference.

D. Tournament General Guidelines

1. Championship Date
The Championship shall be held in May on two consecutive days. To secure tee times, this may need to not fall over a weekend. The Championship must be completed prior to the NCAA regional competition.

2. Championship Site
The 2021 Championship will be held at Sycamore Hills in Fort Wayne, IN. If a course is deemed unfit or is unable to host the championship on a given year, an alternate site shall be pre-determined by the coaches a minimum of 12 months prior to the tournament.

3. Host Rotation
Current rotation: Miami (2021), NIU (2022), Ohio (2023), Toledo (2024),

4. Championship Format
All teams will participate in the two (2)-day, 54-hole play event (36/18).
[Revised 5/27/20; 7/23/19]

5. Rules Committee
There shall be a Rules Committee, consisting of no less than 3 USGA officials, PGA officials or other qualified individuals selected by the host institution. The Rules Committee shall:

a. Establish the local playing rules
b. Set up and mark the Championship course
c. Offer decisions or rulings throughout the Championship
d. Take any appropriate disciplinary action
e. Interpret all rules throughout the competition

E. Rules

1. Travel Squad & Travel Party

For the MAC tournament, the travel squad for each institution is six (6) participants. Of those six (6) participants, five (5) will compete during each round. Each institution is allowed the opportunity to substitute their 6th player prior to each round, per NCAA Rules. There is no travel party limit. *[Revised 5/30/19]*

2. Inclement Weather

In order for a round to count as a completed round, 18 holes must be completed.

a. If less than 18 holes are completed due to inclement weather or darkness, play shall be suspended at that point. No partial score shall be counted toward the team score.

b. The Rules Committee may shorten or alter the Championship due to inclement weather or hazardous conditions. The committee, in consultation with the conference representative, sport administrators (from the men's golf executive committee), and the golf course professional, will make the final decision.

c. For the Championship to be official, a minimum of 36 holes must be completed.

d. If less than 18 holes of the conference Championship are complete, the highest ranked team in District rankings shall receive the NCAA automatic bid.

e. In the event that two or more teams are tied after 18 holes of play, but the tournament cannot be completed, the top-place teams will be named MAC Co-Champions. For the purpose of an automatic qualifier to the NCAA, the following tiebreaker will be used:
   1. Cumulative total of non-counting scores
   2. Highest individual total
   3. Second highest individual total
   4. Third highest individual total
   5. Fourth highest individual total
   6. Lowest individual total
   7. Committee decision

   These will be used only in the event that a playoff cannot be conducted (ie. inclement weather).

f. In the event the conference Championship cannot be completed (i.e., a minimum of 36 holes are not completed), the institution leading after 18 holes of play shall receive the MAC's automatic bid to the NCAA Men's Golf Championship.

3. Conduct

A two-stroke penalty shall be assessed by the Rules Committee for "conduct unbecoming of a collegiate player." This conduct shall include, but is not limited to:

a. Club throwing (defined by releasing the club in any manner which could cause harm to any person or the course)
b. Use of abusive language
c. Slow play
d. Willful acts which damage property or equipment on the course

e. Other unbecoming conduct as determined by the Rules Committee

F. Tournament Procedures

1. Entry Fee

The shared cost model fund will be provided to the host institution. The shared cost model fund will be used to cover the expenses associated with the Championship, outlined as: Course usage fees, Food at the Course (box lunches, drinks, snacks and final day meal), Golf Stat – Live Scoring, Scorekeeper, Officials and Calligrapher.

2. Entry Procedures

The Championship Administrator in conjunction with the conference office shall prepare and distribute an entry blank for coaches to use when submitting their official team lineup. Preliminary lineups are due the day before the Championship, with final lineups declared one hour before the first tee time.

3. Pairings

a. Day One. First-round pairings shall be based on the final Golfstat rankings, as of the last Golfstat updates prior to the Championship. Pairings for the second round shall be based on the team and individual first-round scores. [1/29/19]

b. Day Two. The final round pairings shall be based on the team and individual scores after two rounds of play. Team pairings will continue as listed above and individuals shall be re-paired according to their score, with the highest scores going first. [5/27/20]

4. Practice Rounds

Players and coaches from any member institution may conduct one practice round at any time prior to the start of the conference Championship. All six (6) members of the official travel squad may participate in the practice round.

a. Players from any member institution are prohibited from paying greens fees, playing or walking through the course of the conference championship, other than the one practice round, from the student-athlete's first day of classes through the first day of the championship. (If a member of the course, one must be a dues paying member by January 1st a year prior to the championship.) *[Revised 1/29/14]*

(Note: This does not prohibit a coach from performing administrative duties pertaining to hosting the conference Championship.)

b. There shall be no competition between conference members at the site of the conference championship during the week of the championship.

c. The Championship course shall be made available for all participating teams to walk the day prior to the Championship. If possible, electric carts shall be utilized for the "walk-through."

d. If available, a practice range shall be made available to the participants.

5. Protests

Decisions by the Rules Committee are final.

6. Schedule of Rounds

The schedule of rounds will be determined by the host institution. It is suggested that the schedule of rounds be 36 holes on the first day and 18 holes the second day. It is recommended that final play start early in the morning on the final day.

a. Five golfers may be entered by each institution. The lowest four scores per 18 holes shall count toward the team score.

b. In the event teams tie for the Championship, a sudden death hole-by-hole elimination shall be held, counting the low four of five scores each hole. The winner of the play-off will be the team champion.

c. In the event of a tie for the MAC individual championship, a sudden death hole-by-hole elimination shall be held. The winner of the playoff will be the individual champion or medalist.

7. Tiebreaker Procedures

Ties shall be broken during a sudden-death playoff counting the low four scores (relative to par). If possible, all playoffs will begin at the first tee; however, the Rules Committee will determine the starting hole(s).

Individual Medalist. Ties shall be broken during a play-off, starting at hole #1 (or another hole as determined by the Games Committee) to determine the individual medalist.

Starting format (two-team tie)
Group #1 #5A,#5B, #4A
Group #2 #3A,#3B, #4B
Group #3 #1A,#1B,#2A, #2B
Note: Players will play the numbered positions they held at the start of the tournament. Play is to be continued until a winner is determined.

If conditions and/or time constraints do not allow a playoff to occur, the tie shall be broken following NCAA tiebreaker procedures.

G. Facilities/Equipment

1. Ball

The official golf ball for the Championship shall be the NCAA-approved ball. Each institution shall provide its own golf balls for practice and competition.

2. Course

It is recommended that the golf course be closed to all those not competing in the Championship during the practice round. It is required that the course be closed during competition so as to not interfere with the flow of competitive play.

a. Course Greens. Greens should be mowed for the practice rounds and should be similar to the cut for the Championship. Course markings should be consistent with USGA rules. Additionally, the traps should be raked each day and the rough should not be mowed once play begins.

b. Pin Placement. Pin placement during the practice round should be reasonable (recommended 15 feet). Pin and tee placement for the Championship competition shall be set in advance by the Head Championship official and distributed to the coaches at the coaches' meeting.

3. Carts

a. Student-Athletes. Competing student-athletes may not use carts to carry their clubs nor use caddies; it shall be permissible to use a push/pull cart and shuttle student-athletes between holes as necessary. (Depending on the course)

b. Coaches. The host institution shall provide carts (at least 1 per institution) for the head coaches so that may observe their student-athletes competing throughout the Championship. Golf Carts may be driven by coaching staff and/or Institution Administrators. Student-athletes are not allowed to drive provided golf carts during the Championship.

4. Scoreboard

It is recommended that the host institution install or have professionally printed a scoreboard of adequate size and in position for spectators and competitors to follow the competition's progress. A designated staffer shall prepare the scoreboard with each team's lineup and maintain the scoreboard throughout the Championship. The host shall ensure adequate space for the board. The host institution is responsible for providing the statistic software and staffing to conduct hole-by-hole live scoring.

H. Officials

The host institution shall arrange, provide and pay all expenses for officials. For the Championship, Course Officials shall be paid a daily fee of $225 plus mileage at institutional rates with lodging provided. Meals will be provided to Officials at the Course at no charge, for all other meals Officials are on their own. The Rules Committee shall make all rulings during the course of the Championship.

Chapter IX - Women's Golf

A. Regular Season

1. Rules

a. All conference competition shall be governed by USGA and NCAA rules.

b. In the conference championship and all tournaments hosted by member institutions, a two-stroke penalty will be assessed for conduct deemed "unbecoming of a collegiate player" (e.g., slow play, abusive language and/or club throwing by any participant).

2. Scheduling/Procedures

a. Conference. Conference scheduling shall adhere to Mid-American Conference Bylaw 6.01 which states that "each member institution shall compete annually with a minimum of 50% of other MAC member institutions". [*Permanently Waived per Joint Committee 1/2017; Waived per Joint Committee for 2008-09 and 2009-10; waiver extended for 2010-2011, 5/26/2010; waiver extended through 2015-16, 2/23/2011*]

b. Any conference university hosting more than three institutions shall play a minimum of five players medal-play, counting the best 4-out-of-5 scores for the team total.

3. Travel Squad

There is no travel squad limitation for Mid-American Conference competition.

B. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X)

1. Golfer of the Week

During the course of the season, all ten Mid-American Conference Head Coaches shall select a Golfer of the Week based on nominations submitted by member institutions. A Golfer of the Week Shall be selected during September, October, November, February, March and April when two-or-more teams are competing. Teams do not need to be at the same tournament. If only one Mid-American Conference team is competing that week to be Golfer of the Week, golfer must be a top five individual finish with ten or more teams competing.

Each institution may submit one nominee (two nominees may be submitted from one institution when both golfers have a tied score and competed at the same tournament) for Golfer of the week. Nominees will be placed on a ballot by the Mid-American Conference media relations department that will be distributed to all head coaches for voting. Coaches shall rank their top three nominees, in order of preference. The Mid-American Conference media relations department will assign three points to each #1 rank, two points to each #2 rank and one point to each #3 rank. Winners will accumulate the most points. Coaches may not vote for their own players.

Nominations are due in the Conference Office by 10:00am (EST) Wednesday. The Conference Office will send a ballot to the coaches by 5:00pm (EST) on Wednesday. Ballots are due to the conference off by 10:00am (EST) on Thursday. The release of Golfer of the Week will be Thursday afternoon. [*Revised 3/5/2014; 8/19/2014*]

2. All-MAC Team

The 10-member All-MAC team will be selected by the coaches immediately following the championship. Nominations are due the Monday before the conference championship. The following statistics shall be included with the nominations: head-to-head results, score vs. par, tournament wins and top finishes (the final two statistics shall include information relative to tournament fields). The Conference Office will generate a ballot to be distributed at the pre-tournament coaches' meeting. Voting will be conducted immediately following the final round. Coaches may nominate and vote for their own players. A first and second team shall be selected, with the number of first team honorees limited to 5 (including ties). See MAC Bylaw 10.04 for procedure to break ties in the voting.

3. All-Tournament Team

A five-member all-tournament team shall be awarded at the conference tournament. The team shall consist of the top-five finishers, including ties.

4. Coach, Freshman and Golfer of the Year

The Coach of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Golfer of the Year will also be selected following the championship. Nominations for Freshman of the Year and Golfer of the Year are due to the Conference Office the Monday before the conference championship. The following statistics shall be included with the nominations: head-to-head results, score vs. par, tournament wins and top finishes (the final two statistics shall include information relative to tournament fields). Eligibility for Freshman of the Year shall be limited to those student-athletes in their first year of competition and who have three years of eligibility remaining. The Conference Office will generate a ballot to be distributed at the pre-tournament coaches' meeting. Coaches may vote for their own players.

5. Sportsmanship Award

The Sportswoman Award is voted on by the participants at the championship. This award shall recognize the player whom players enjoy playing or conversing with; has good rapport with her own team; is supportive of her own team, but also respects the competition; makes players feel comfortable to be around her; commands respect and esteem rather than merely being popular, and one would consider to be worthy of representing women's intercollegiate golf to others. Freshman are not eligible for this award. Each coach will nominate one player from his/her team to be placed on a ballot that will be generated by the Conference Office. The ballot will be distributed to each player to vote for one nominee. The ballots will be turned in at the official table along with their score cards after the second round of play.

C. Coaches' Meeting

The annual business meeting of the women's golf coaches shall be conducted via teleconference on the third Tuesday in August.

D. Tournament General Guidelines

1. Championship Date

The championship shall be held on two consecutive days (depending on course availability). To secure tee times, these need not fall over a weekend. The championship must be completed prior to the date set by the NCAA/Golfstat for regional selection purposes.

2. Championship Site

The Women's Golf Championship shall be conducted at a site to be determined a minimum of 18 months prior to the championship date. Host institution is prohibited from playing, practicing or walking through the course after November 1st of the championships year. [*Revised 1/2017; 5/24/2013*]

3. Championship Host

The host rotation is as follows:
Akron (2020); Toledo (2021); WMU (2022); Ohio (2023); BSU (2024); BGSU (2025); EMU (2026); KSU (2027); NIU (2028); CMU (2029).

4. Championship Format

All teams will participate in a two-day, 54-hole play event (36/18). The course yardage shall be a minimum of 6000 yards and a maximum of 6300 yards. [*Revised 1/24/10*]

5. Rules Committee

There shall be a Rules Committee, consisting of no less than three USGA officials, PGA or LPGA officials, or other qualified individuals selected by the host institution. The Rules Committee shall:

a. Establish the local playing rules

b. Set up and mark the championship course

c. Offer decisions or rulings throughout the championship

d. Take any appropriate disciplinary action

e. Interpret all rules throughout the competition

E. Rules

1. Travel Squad/Travel Party

The travel squad for the conference championship shall be six participants. All six individuals may participate in the practice round. There is no travel party limit.

2. Players and coaches from any member institution are prohibited from playing, practicing or walking through the course designated to host the conference championship at any time after November 1st, of the championship year.

With regard to membership clubs selected to host championships, if a student-athlete prior to attending a member institution had a membership at a course selected for the championship, that individual could continue to use the facility consistent with the privileges of any member of that course. Each coach is responsible for reporting to the Conference Office any individual who qualifies for this exception.

Note: This does not prohibit a coach from performing administrative duties pertaining to hosting the conference championship or preparation for other events noted above. The host management will be responsible for enforcing this rule.

3. There shall be no competition at the site of the conference championship during the week of the championship.

4. Inclement Weather

In order for a round to count as a completed round, 18 holes must be completed.

a. If less than 18 holes are completed due to inclement weather or darkness, play shall be suspended at that point. No partial score shall be counted toward the team score.

b. The Rules Committee may shorten the championship due to inclement weather or hazardous conditions. The committee may also alter the championship schedule, if necessary. A minimum 32 degree with wind chill temperature as determined by www.nationalweatherservice.com is required to begin play. Once play begins, continuation is at the discretion of the rules committee in consultation with the conference representative, women's golf executive committee, and host golf professional. [*Revised 1/24/2010*]

c. For the championship to be official, a minimum of 18 holes must be completed.

d. If less than 18 holes of the conference championship are completed due to inclement weather, the highest ranked team in the Golfstat rankings shall receive the NCAA automatic bid. If after 18 holes, two teams are tied after 18 holes or 36 holes of play, but the tournament cannot be completed, the top placed teams will be named Mid-American Conference Co-champions. [*Revised 10.12.10*]

For the purpose of an automatic qualifier to the NCAA, the following tie breaker will be used:

1) Cumulative total of non-counting scores
2) Lowest individual total score
3) Second lowest individual total score
4) Third lowest individual total score
5) Fourth lowest individual total score
6) Fifth lowest individual total score
7) Committee Decision

These will be used only in the event that a playoff cannot be conducted (i.e. inclement weather)

5. Conduct

A two-stroke penalty shall be assessed by the Rules Committee for "conduct unbecoming of a collegiate player." This conduct shall include, but is not limited to:

a. Club throwing (defined by releasing the club in any manner which could cause harm to any person or the course)

b. Use of abusive language

c. Slow play

d. Willful acts which damage property or equipment on the course

e. Other unbecoming conduct as determined by the Rules Committee

F. Schedule/Procedures

1. Entry Fee

The shared cost model fund will be provided to the host institution. The shared cost model fund will be used to cover the expenses associated with the championship.

2. Entry Procedures

The Championship Administrator in conjunction with the Conference Office shall prepare and distribute an entry blank for coaches to use when submitting their official team lineup. Preliminary lineups are due the day before the Championship, with final lineups declared one hour before the first tee time. [*Revised 8/19/2014*]

3. Pairings

a. First-day pairings shall be based on the final Golfstat rankings, as of the last Golfstat updates prior to the championship. [*Revised 8/30/2013; 8/19/2014*]

b. Pairings for the second day shall be based on the team and individual first-day scores. Team pairings will continue as listed above and individuals shall be re-paired according to their score, with the highest scores going first.

4. Practice Rounds

a. If available, the championship course shall be made available for all participating teams to conduct a practice round prior to the championship. If the course is not available for a practice round, a “walk-through” shall be conducted the day prior to the championship. If possible, electric carts shall be utilized for the "walk-through." Practice Round order shall be based on the previous year’s Mid-American Conference Championship standings.

b. A practice range shall be made available to the participants (if available).

5. Protests

Decisions by the Rules Committee are final.

6. Schedule of Rounds

The schedule of rounds will be determined by the host institution. It is suggested that the schedule of rounds for a two-day championship be 36 holes on the first day and 18 holes the second day. It is recommended that final play start early in the morning on the final day.

a. Five golfers may be entered by each institution. The lowest four scores per 18 holes shall count toward the team score.

b. In the event teams tie for the championship, a sudden death hole-by-hole elimination shall be held, counting the low four of five scores each hole. The winner of the playoff will be the team champion. If conditions and/or time constraints do not allow a playoff to occur, the tie shall be broken following NCAA tiebreaker procedures. For purposes of this regulation, when applying the cumulative total of non-counting scores, if an individual was disqualified at any point during championship competition, that team shall be eliminated from the tiebreaker procedure.

c. In the event of a tie for the Mid-American Conference individual championship, a sudden death hole-by-hole elimination shall be held. The winner of the playoff will be the individual champion or medalist.

G. Facilities/Equipment

1. Ball

The official golf ball for the championship shall be the USGA-approved ball. Each institution shall provide its own golf balls for practice and competition.

2. Course

a. It is recommended that the golf course be closed to all those not competing in the championship during the practice round and during competition so as to not interfere with the flow of competitive play.

b. Greens should be mowed for the practice rounds and should be similar to the cut for the championship. Course markings should be consistent with USGA rules.

c. Pin placement during the practice round should be reasonable (recommended 15 feet). Pin and tee placement for the championship competition shall be set in advance by the Championship Director and distributed to the coaches upon check-in at the golf course on the practice day. [*Revised 8/19/2014*]

3. Carts

a. Competing student-athletes may not use carts to carry their clubs nor use caddies; however, it shall be permissible to use a push/pull cart and shuttle student-athletes between holes as necessary (depending on the course).

b. The championship host shall provide carts for the head coaches so they may observe their student-athletes competing throughout the championship. Carts may be driven by coaching staff and/or institutions administrators. Student-Athletes are not allowed to drive provided golf carts during the championship.

4. Scoreboard

It is recommended that the host institution install or have professionally printed a scoreboard of adequate size and in position for spectators and competitors to follow the competition's progress. A designated staffer shall prepare the scoreboard with each team's lineup, and maintain the scoreboard throughout the championship. The host shall ensure adequate space for the board. The host institution is responsible for providing the statistic software and staffing to conduct hole-by-hole live scoring.

H. Officials

The host institution shall arrange, provide and pay all expenses for officials. For the Championship, Course Officials shall be paid a daily fee of $225 plus mileage at institutional rates with lodging provided. Meals will be provided to Officials at the Course at no charge, for all other meals Officials are on their own. The Rules Committee shall make all rulings during the course of the Championship.

Conference golf coaches may be called upon to conduct selected officials' duties if needed. The host institution is responsible for providing the statistic software and staffing to conduct hole-by-hole live scoring. [*Revised 5/14/14*]

Chapter XII - Women's Soccer

A. Regular Season

1. Rules

All conference competition shall be governed by NCAA rules.

2. Scheduling/Procedures

a. The schedule format will continue with an 11-game round-robin model. The schedule will be based on a two-year rotation, with five home/six away and vice versa on alternating years. Conference matches shall be scheduled at least two years in advance. Non-conference matches shall only be scheduled against Division I opponents.

b. Four ball persons are highly recommended for all regular-season games.

c. All Sunday matches will begin between 11:00am and 2:00pm local time. [*Revised 1/29/14*]

d. The final match of the regular season shall take place on the Sunday prior to the NCAA Selection Date and shall begin at 1:00pm EST/12:00pm CST. [*Revised 1/29/14*]

e. In cases of unplayable games, Friday matches will be rescheduled for Saturday. Every effort will be made to play the match on Friday (into the evening if the host institution has lights). Match time for games rescheduled for Saturday will be at the discretion of the host, but not earlier than 9 am and not later than 4 pm. If the match cannot be played on Saturday it is lost. Sunday matches will be rescheduled for no later than 4 pm on Sunday. If the match cannot begin by 4 pm on Sunday, it will be lost. Weekday games shall be treated as Sunday games.

~~i. Exception to Sunday games: The last regular season conference match will be rescheduled and/or completed no later than Friday prior to the quarterfinal match.~~

f. If at any point in the season a game is "lost", the total number of points will be divided by the number of games played.

3. Travel Squad

There is no travel squad limitation for Mid-American Conference competition. [*Revised 5/30/19*]

4. Facilities/Equipment

a. For Mid-American Conference play, the home team will wear light uniforms on Thursday/Saturday and the visitor will wear dark. On Sunday, the home team will wear the dark uniforms and the visitors will wear the light uniforms. On split weekend home team will wear light uniforms, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by both coaches to wear a different color.

b. Minimum field requirements according to NCAA rules and regulations.

c. A minimum of 4 official, "like" game balls shall be provided by the host university.

d. A public-address system and game clock at the scorer's table are mandatory.

5. Pre-Game and Halftime

Pre-game and/or halftime accommodations must be comparable for both home and visiting teams. [*5/27/15*]

6. Match Protocol

The following match protocol shall be adhered to for single games or the first game of a doubleheader. Team introductions shall be limited to the starting 11 players and coaching staff. The visiting team should be notified one week in advance of the contest of any changes to the protocol for special occasions (e.g., senior day, special recognitions, etc.). The protocol can be amended for the second game of a doubleheader based on the mutual consent of the participating teams. Locker rooms for the visiting team shall be available 2 hours prior to the start of the match.

Actual Clock	Activity
60:00	Teams may begin warm-up
15:00	Game rosters exchanged
10:00	Captains and officials meet
	Team Clear field
	Introduction of officials, coaches and players.
	1. Officials
	2. Visiting Coaches and team
	3. Home coaches and team
	National Anthem
00:00	Match starts

B. Regular-Season Champions

The Mid-American Conference regular-season champion shall be decided by point accumulation (i.e., 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss). The team with the most points, shall be named Mid-American Conference Regular Season Champion. If two or more teams have the same point total, they shall be considered co-champions. [Revised 5/31/18; *Revised 1/20/11*]

C. Scouting/Exchange of Information:

1. Due to NCAA legislative action, Division I coaches in all sports are prohibited from live scouting of future opponents. [*Revised 7/1/13*]

2. It is NOT permissible for institutions to provide film, videotapes or scouting reports to non-conference teams on conference teams.

3. Mid-American Conference Women's Soccer will operate under an open exchange policy through VidSwap video server. All provisions herein apply to both Conference and Non-Conference games.

4. All Member Institutions will make all game tape available (both Conference and Non-Conference) to all MAC Institutions Coaches, the assignor and the Conference Office at all times by uploading all completed games to VidSwap.

5. Games are to be uploaded to VidSwap: Non-Conference games 12:00pm EST the Monday following the competition. Conference games the following day by 12:00pm EST.

a. If there are extenuating circumstances that do not permit a game to be uploaded on-time or footage is unavailable (e.g., inclement weather, equipment failure, travel), then it is the Head Coach's responsibility to contact the other head coaches within the conference, VidSwap and the Conference Office with an explanation of the failure to upload.

6. Exchange Guidelines

a. Conference Games: The Mid-American Conference Home team is responsible for uploading Conference Game video on VidSwap for each completed game by deadlines established above.

b. Non-Conference Games: The Mid-American Conference Institution team is responsible for uploading Non-Conference Game video on VidSwap for each completed game by deadlines established above.

c. Each game shall be placed in the appropriate game file within the VidSwap video server.

7. Institutions are to video at the Midfield Center Touch Line on an elevated platform (e.g. scissor lift, press box) with an HD Camera and Tripod. Zoom to be used at appropriate times. Video shall be clear to see jersey numbers. No obstructions in view of camera. Completed games should be uploaded in MP4 format. [*Revised 8/17/15*]

8. Exhibition Games are not required to be uploaded to the VidSwap video server.

D. Officials

Assignment. The Conference Coordinator of Officials in consultation with the Conference Office shall assign, four (4) officials (one referee, two linesmen) for all conference games.

Payment. The host institution shall be responsible for payment of these officials.

Referees shall be paid $330/ per game
Linesmen shall receive $260/ per game.
Alternate (4th) shall receive $95/ per game. [*1/28/15*]

E. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X)

1. Offensive/Defensive Players of the Week

During the course of the season, all twelve Mid-American Conference Head Coaches shall select an Offensive Player of the Week and a Defensive Player of the Week based on nominations submitted by member institutions. Each institution may submit one nominee for Offensive Player of the Week and one nominee Defensive Player of the Week. Nominees will be placed on a ballot by the Mid-American Conference Media Relations department that will be distributed to all head coaches for voting. Coaches shall rank their top three nominees, in order of preference. The Mid-American Conference Media Relations department will assign three points to each #1 rank, two points to each #2 rank and one point to each #3 rank. Winners will accumulate the most points. Coaches may not vote for their own players.

2. All-MAC Team

The 22-member All-MAC team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches. Nomination forms will be distributed to coaches on the Monday prior to the conclusion of regular-season play and are due back to the Conference Office by noon on the following Monday. Coaches shall nominate individuals from their team based on the following scale:

Seeds	Number of Nominations	Total
1-2	6	12
3-4	5	10
5-6	4	8
7-10	3	12
11-12	2	4

Additionally, all teams shall nominate a goalkeeper. The Conference Office will compile this information and submit it along with the All-MAC ballot. The Conference Office will prepare a ballot, including Mid-American Conference statistics only and distributed to each coach by noon on the Tuesday of quarterfinal play. Coaches may not vote for their own players. Ballots shall be emailed to the Conference Office by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday. The first and second teams shall consist of 11 members each (including ties): three forwards, three midfielders, three defenders, the next highest vote-getter from all field players and 1 goalkeeper. See Mid-American Conference Bylaw 10.04 for procedure to break ties in the voting. *[Revised 12/7/11]*

3. All-Freshman Team

The 11-member All-Freshmen team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches. Nomination forms will be distributed to coaches on the Monday prior to the conclusion of regular-season play. Coaches shall nominate individuals from their team, in rank order. Nominations (unlimited number) and coaches' comments must be submitted to the Conference Office by the Monday prior to the conclusion of the regular season. The Conference Office will generate and fax a ballot (including coaches' comments and complete statistics, through the end of the season, for each nominee) to the coaches. Ballots are due back to the Conference Office by noon on the following Monday. Only players with freshman eligibility may be nominated for the MAC All-Freshman Team. Transfer students are not eligible for the award. *[Revised 12/7/11]*

4. Coach, Offensive Player, Defensive Player and Freshman of the Year

The Coach of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year will be selected by the coaches at the same time as the All-MAC Team voting. Coaches shall vote for two individuals, in rank order, for Coach of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year and Freshmen of the Year honors. Only players with freshmen eligibility may be nominated for the Freshman of the Year Award. Transfer students are not eligible for the award. Points shall be assigned as follows: first choice (5 points) and second choice (1 point). The individual receiving the most votes will be named the respective award winner.

F. Coaches' Meeting (see appendix for meeting calendar)

The annual business meeting of the women's soccer coaches shall be conducted the Tuesday following the NCAA DI Women's Soccer College Cup in December.

G. **Automatic Qualifier Tiebreaker**

Ties in the conference standings will be broken as follows:

Two Team Tiebreaker:

1. Head-to-head competition
2. Point accumulation vs. highest seeded teams
3. Goal differential (all conference games)
4. Goals allowed (all conference games)
5. Goals scored (all conference games)
6. Coin flip

Multiple (3 or more) Team Tiebreaker:

1. Combined head-to-head record among the tied teams**
2. If or when two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker goes into effect

[Note: If a three-team tie is reduced to two teams, the two-team tiebreaker goes into effect.]

* Winning percentage is used instead of record because of situations where teams do not play each other the same number of times. Therefore, a team that is 1-0 (1.000) would win the tiebreaker over a team that is 1-1 (.500).

** If the combined records of each tied team are different, the tiebreak is complete. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-1 and Team C is 1-2 then this is the order of the tiebreak.

Once only two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker is used. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-2 and Team C is 1-2 then Team A is ahead of Teams B and C and Teams B and C revert to the Two Team Tiebreaker.

Chapter X - Gymnastics (women)

[*revised 6/30/2020***]**

A. Regular Season: Meet Procedures when Hosting

1. Rules

All competition hosted by a conference member institution shall be governed by NCAA rules. NCAA dual-meet scoring policies will be used. Follow NCAA meet procedures.

The following governs only from the time the athletic training room opens for all teams at the competition venue the day of the competition to the conclusion of that competition.

Gymnasts may not mount the equipment or use it for gymnastics-specific or inverted skills prior to the start of the 30-minute open stretch & warm-up period listed in #1a below (see #3 below for further clarification). Any event not used by a team during the allowable periods listed in #1a & #1b below may be used by any gymnast.

All teams must make an effort to ensure the integrity of the competition by respecting the rules below and allowing all aspects of the warm-up and competition to move at a consistent and steady pace.

PRIOR TO COMPETITION The following periods must start at the same time and be provided for all teams prior to the start of competition:

a. A 30-minute open stretch & warm-up followed immediately by a 2-minute transition period.
b. 15-minute event warm-up on each event in each team's competitive order, to be followed immediately by a 2-minute transition period for the first 3 event warm-up rotations.
c. 2-minute transition as listed in #1a and #1b. Gymnasts are allowed to use matting around the apparatus to stretch, invert and prepare as needed, however the apparatus must not be mounted or used for gymnastics skills during this time. On floor exercise, jumping, bouncing, running, stretching type of warm up activity is allowed however gymnastics skills are not allowed on the floor exercise apparatus. Gymnasts may use the vault runway to prepare for the warm-up on vault.
d. At the conclusion of the march-in ceremony, a 2-minute transition will begin when teams arrive at their corrals or seating area.
e. A 4-minute touch warm-up immediately after the 2-minute transition provided in #1d above and prior to each team's initial competitive event.

DURING COMPETITION The following periods must start at the same time and be provided for all teams during competition:

a. A 2-minute transition at the conclusion of each remaining competitive event, to begin when the final competitor's initial score is flashed (to include exhibition competitors) or when teams arrive at the corral for podium style competition.
b. Teams must transition immediately to their next event after the last score is flashed and allowable activity may be performed only at the next competitive event.
    - During the 2-minute transition, gymnasts are allowed to use matting around the apparatus to stretch, invert and prepare as needed for the 4-minute touch, however the apparatus must not be mounted or used for gymnastics skills during this time. On floor exercise, jumping, bouncing, running, stretching type of warm up activity is allowed however gymnastics skills are not allowed on the floor exercise

apparatus. Gymnasts may use the vault runway to prepare for the 4-minute touch warm up on vault.

- A 4-minute touch warm-up immediately after the 2-minute transitions provided in #2a above and prior to the start of competition on each remaining competitive event
- The start of time periods #1a, #1b, #1d, #1e, #2a & #2c must be announced by the competition's PA announcer.

VISUALIZATION. Visualization and/or stretching activities are allowed when the athletic training room opens for the event and may be done on the competition area by any gymnast prior to the 30- minute open stretch & warm-up period listed in #1a. Matting surrounding each event (including FX itself & V runway only) may be used for visualization, provided the equipment itself is not mounted or used for gymnastics-specific or inverted skills.
[*Revised 6/30/2020*]

2. Equipment and Procedures

All equipment must be used as intended by the manufacturer. An institution that does not adhere to the policies and procedures during NCAA championships competition may be subject to further disciplinary action and/or a financial penalty up to a maximum of $600 per offense by the women's gymnastics committee. Note: A .30 deduction may be incurred for improper use of equipment.

a. The only allowable entry pads are the TAC-10 RO pads.
b. The RO pad may be used only for RO Vaults or Front handspring onto the board entry vaults. *[Same as JO; included as a reminder due to recent change]*
c. **Athletic tape or Velcro strips (NO CHALK) may be placed on the vault runway, provided that such markings are removed no later than the end of the rotation. The tape measure is to be used to determine where to begin the approach for vault. Chalk only may be used on the student-athlete as needed (e.g., hands, feet, legs).**
d. 1 ⅜" padded vault runway is required for all competitions and must extend a minimum of 82 feet from the base of the apparatus. The gymnast may use the entire length of a manufactured runway (beyond 82 feet if available). Exceptions to the minimum requirement will be made in cases where a host institution cannot provide 82 feet of runway due to venue limitations. In such cases, the host institution must notify visiting team(s) in writing, of the distance that will be provided, before meet contracts are signed. No deduction will be taken, if a gymnast starts off the runway to begin her approach.
e. Low bar must be adjustable to 165 centimeters (AAI 155cm-185cm from floor to top of rail +/- 1cm) and the high bar adjustable to 245 centimeters (AAI 235-265cm from floor to top of the rail +/-1cm without the bar height adapters.
f. The uneven bars should be set so that the low bar and the high bar lean at the same angle when the bars are set at the maximum width according to AAI specifications (192 cm +/- 1cm)
g. If a gymnast has a broken/torn grip, she may repeat her routine as the last team competitor or after the all-around competitor (specialist). If this does not allow for a sufficient amount of time to change grips or enough time to prepare, the gymnast will repeat the routine as soon as it is safe to do so. However, the time should not exceed five minutes. [Note: Common sense and safety must always prevail.]

h. Foreign Substance. Foreign substances may NOT be placed on the hands and/or feet of the gymnasts or any piece of equipment (e.g.: honey and sugar, tuff skin, etc.) Water, Chalk, AAI solutions and AAI hand Tac/10 towels are the only acceptable substances.

i. The minimum run distance that must be provided for mounts on uneven bars and balance beam during competition is 27 ½' from the base or leg of the respective apparatus. If more than 27 ½' of matting exists, the maximum run distance may be used. [Note: the host institution need not provide more than the minimum which will be provided at NCAA regional and national competition]. Exceeding the length of the provided manufactured matting will result in .10 deduction from the gymnast's score.

j. If a plywood board is used under the springboard for mounting bars and beam, then it must be a ½" plywood board with a non-skid surface on both sides.

k. It is allowable to mount off a "4" mat on top of a sting on Uneven Bars and Balance Beam.

l. Except for a small mark on the top surface of the beam, chalk may not be applied directly to the beam. A small amount of chalk may be applied to the gymnast's hands and feet as needed for safety.

m. A minimum of 15 ½' matting must be available on the dismount end of the beam.

n. A chalk arc line may be placed on the corners of the floor exercise mat.

o. If a mat used on floor exercise exceeds the boundary lines, the mat must be clearly marked with tape (not chalk) to indicate the actual boundary lines. Failure to mark the mat will result in a .10 deduction taken off the average. Tape may not be placed in the center of the floor exercise mat.

p. Only one of the following mats: Stingmat, 4" Throw mat, 8" Skill cushion may be used per tumbling pass/leap combination (i.e., a gymnast may not punch off one mat and land on another). EXCEPTION: Sting mat on floor are allowed, but they count as two mats if stacked. There shall be no more than two mats on the floor.

- Improper use of matting shall incur a .3 deduction for improper use of equipment. (39.4 ½" x 39. 4½ +/- ').

q. Floor Exercise Field of Play: 12m x12m. +/-3cm. If tape line outside of line;

r. Beam and Vault Table measures from top of the beam and vault to floor. (125cm +/-1/14").

[*Revised 6/30/2020*]

B. Awards (see Mid-American Conference Bylaw X)

1. Gymnast/Specialist of the Week

During the course of the season, all seven Mid-American Conference Head Coaches shall select a Gymnast of the Week and a Specialist of the Week based on nominations submitted by member institutions.

Each institution may submit one nominee for Gymnast of the Week and one nominee for Specialist of the Week. Nominees will be placed on a ballot by the Mid-American Conference media relations department that will be distributed to all head coaches for voting. Coaches shall rank their top three nominees, in order of preference. The Mid-American Conference media relations department will assign three points to each #1 rank, two points to each #2 rank and one point to each #3 rank. Winners will accumulate the most points. Coaches may vote for their own student-athletes.

The criteria for selecting these individuals shall be:

a. A gymnast must compete in three-four events to be eligible for Gymnast of the Week
b. A gymnast can compete in no more than two events to be eligible for Specialist of the Week
c. A gymnast can only be nominated for one of the above honors (not both) in a given week
d. School record
e. Personal-best record (consideration should be given to the nominee's eligibility; i.e. a freshman or sophomore is more likely to score a person-best while a senior may have been competing for several years already).
f. Number of first-place finishes at: (1) Invitational, (2) Mid-American Conference dual meet
   * Note: number of first-place finishes may not always apply in the case of Specialist of the Week
g. Individual event winner
h. Scores (understanding that competitors at different meets are not scored by the same judges)
i. Outstanding gymnast that week on individual team
   [*Revised 1/29/13*]

2. All-MAC Team

The 15-member All-MAC team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department. The team will be based of the National Qualify Score (NQS). The top NQS in each event: vault, bars, beam, floor and all-around (including ties) will be named to the first team. The second and third place NQS in each event (including ties) will be named to the second team. All-MAC Awards will be shipped or distributed to campus and will not be presented during the post-championship awards ceremony.

The announcement of the All-MAC Team shall be made the week prior to the MAC championship, no later than the morning of the MAC championship day, from the final National Qualify Scores. [*Revised 1/28/15; 1/25/11; 1/24/12, 6/30/2020*]

3. All-Tournament Team

A 10-member All-Tournament Team will be selected following the Mid-American Conference Championship. The first place and second-place finisher in each event: vault, bars, beam, floor and all-around (including ties). In the event of multiple event winners any openings will be filled from the all-around competition (in order of finish) to complete the 10-member team. All-Tournament Awards will be shipped or distributed to campus and will not be presented during the post-championship awards ceremony. Note: Multiple event winners would only be counted once in the event of a tie. [*Revised 1/28/15; 1/25/11; 1/24/12*]

4. Senior Gymnast, Gymnast, Specialist and Freshman of the Year

The Senior Gymnast of the Year, Gymnast of the Year, Specialist of the Year and Freshman of the Year awards will be selected prior to the championship. Eligibility for Senior Gymnast of the Year is limited to senior gymnasts, Gymnast of the Year nominations are open to all gymnasts, Specialist of the Year nominees must have only competed in the same one or two event (s) throughout the season and Freshman of the Year nominees are limited to student-athletes in their first year of residence at the university (transfers are not eligible).

The Mid-American Conference media relations department shall solicit nominations (one per team) from the coaches two weeks prior to the championship for each of these awards. Nominations are due in the Conference Office by the Monday of the week of the championship. The Conference Office will email a ballot to the coaches on Wednesday. Coaches must vote for three individuals in rank order with points assigned as follows: first-place ranking = 3 points; second-place ranking = 2 points; third-place ranking = 1 point. Coaches may vote for their own student-athletes. Ballots are due at the coaches meeting on Friday.

The announcement of these awards shall be made at the post-championship awards ceremony, along with any Scholar-Athlete of the Week and Gymnast of the Week recipients. Nominees for each individual award shall be announced, followed by the announcement of the award winner. [*Revised 1/25/11; 10/15/12*]

5. Coach of the Year

The Coach of the Year will be selected along with the Gymnast of the Year and Specialty Awards. Coaches must vote for three coaches, in rank order, with points assigned as follows: first-place ranking = 3 points; second-place ranking = 2 points; third-place ranking = 1 point. In the event of a tie, Co-Coaches of the Year will be named. The recipient(s) of this award will be announced at the post-championship awards ceremony. [*Revised 1/25/11*]

C. Coaches' Meeting (see appendix for meeting calendar)

The annual business meeting of the gymnastics coaches shall be conducted on the second Wednesday in September.

D. Mid-American Conference Championship General Guidelines

1. Championship Date

The championship shall be held on Saturday, two weeks prior to the NCAA Regionals. The host rotation is as follows: WMU (2021);
EMU (2022); KSU (2023); BSU (2024)

2. Championship Format

All teams will participate in the one-day championship.

3. Championship Personnel

The following personnel shall be provided for the conduct of the conference championship:

a. Championship Director
b. Championship referee
c. Championship equipment manager (must be knowledgeable of gymnastics equipment and the repair thereof, should be an onsite representative of the equipment manufacturer with replacement kits on site.)
d. Head scorekeeper (Coaches have requested that Bobbi Cesarek be recruited to coordinate scoring at the meet)
e. Announcer
f. Sixteen score flashers
g. Two beam timers, one bar timer and one floor timer

E. Rules

1. Travel Squad

The travel squad for the conference championship shall be 18 participants. Three additional non-participating student-athletes are allowed on the floor and in corral area during the Mid-American Conference Championship. The

number of student-athletes allowed in uniform continues to be 18. Number of individuals in the corral cannot exceed 24.

2. Timers

Two timers will be used for the balance beam. One timer will be responsible for clocking the running time, while the other timer is responsible for timing falls.

3. Inquiries

Inquiries concerning scores must be submitted to the championship referee before the beginning of competition of the next event. The championship referee and panel of judges shall act on such a protest. Inquiries will be considered only as designated by NCAA Rules Modifications and Meet Procedures.

4. Scoring

Team scoring will follow the policies, procedures and regulations of the NCAA Rules Modifications and Meet Procedures. Moves and vaults shall be of a value consistent with NCAA Rules Modifications and Meet Procedures.

a. All-around individual scores are determined by adding a performer's score from each of the four Olympic events.
b. Any coach receiving a ruling by the Women's Technical Director of USA Gymnastics on the value of a new move or vault not classified by the NCAA Rules Modifications and Meet Procedures must submit this ruling in writing to the championship referee during the coaches' meeting.

F. Schedule/Procedures

1. Entry Procedures

The host institution shall prepare and distribute entry blanks or other procedures appropriate for the sport being hosted. It is the responsibility of each institution to assure that only eligible student-athletes compete in the championship. Each competing student-athlete shall be listed on a certified eligibility list on file in the Conference Office. Individual entrants in the championship events need not be declared until the start of competition in accordance with NCAA Rules Modifications and Meet Procedures.

2. Event Rotation

The following rotation shall be adhered to: Bye 1, Vault, Bye 2, Bars, Beam, Bye 3 and Floor.

3. Coaches' Meeting

A championship meeting should be conducted the Friday before the Championship following the walk-through. The meeting should be led by the Conference Liaison and tournament director and must include head coaches, the head scorekeeper, meet referee and training personnel. A media relations update should be provided as well. [*ER 9/18/19*]

4. Practice Policies

There will be no practice on the competition floor, at the championship facility, the day prior to the Championship. There will be a walk-through with coaches to check equipment the day before the Championship. [*Revised 10/11/18*]

5. Recommended Schedule/Competition Order

One session - general warm-up shall be a minimum of 20 minutes with a minimum of 15 minutes for each event (2-minute transfer time to the next event). [*Revised 1/29/13*]

The starting order of competition will be based on random draw.

a. There will be two buckets of information: one with events and one with the team names.

b. The Conference Liaison shall conduct the random draw by pulling out a team name and then the event of which the team will start on.

c. No team can have the same rotation more than 2 years in a row. If that happens there will be a redraw. Only that one team would redraw, unless it is the 7th pick then there would be a redraw of all teams.

d. Once completed, a final event rotation and practice schedule will be emailed by the Conference Office to all coaches. [*Revised 10/15/12*]

G. Facilities/Equipment for Mid-American Conference Championship

1. Equipment

The preferred equipment list for the Mid-American Conference Gymnastics Championship is the NCAA Regional list. The host institution shall have adequate competitive floor space to comfortably accommodate the student-athletes, championship personnel and all necessary equipment. In addition, the host institution shall provide:

a. A high-quality sound system with a variable speed CD player and MP3 accessibility.

b. A visible scoreboard with countdown clock and running score throughout the meet.

2. The following shall be required for the conference championship:

a. Approaches will be a minimum of 27.5 feet (solid, level approaches a minimum of 20 cm and velcroed together). Bar apparatus must have the minimum approach distance for mounts from both sides of the apparatus.

b. Appearance of mats must be considered (i.e., color, softness, dismounts, velcroed together, level dismount, etc.)

c. Dismounts:
Vault (minimum of 18 feet) – apparatus-specific mat minimum 20 cm thick is required
Bars (minimum of 15 feet from the base of high bar) – must be one piece
Balance Beam (15 feet) – apparatus-specific mat (padded with Velcro), one-piece mat and leg insert padding.

d. Uneven bars. In determining the angle, the bars will be set so that the angle of the uprights is the same when set at FIG.

3. Equipment Manager

The Equipment Manager must be knowledgeable of gymnastics equipment and the repair thereof and should be a representative of the equipment manufacturer. The responsibilities of the championship Equipment Manager shall be as follows:

a. To coordinate with the Championship Director in securing the required gymnastics equipment for the championship.

b. To oversee any equipment modifications or equipment failures during the entire championship.

c. To check the proper function of all equipment one half hour before the start of the meet warm-up session.

d. To remain onsite throughout the championship, equipped with proper replacement parts and/or kits.

4. Music System

It is required that the music system be on the floor and separate from the PA system. It is also required that a representative from the host institution's audio/visual department be on hand to run the A/V equipment.

5. Banners

All banners and signage shall be provided by the Conference Office. No outside banners (teams, fans) may be affixed to the venue.

6. Spectator Seating

Spectator seating for the Mid-American Conference Championship will be assigned to seating sections per-designated by the host institution for each competing team of equivalent number of seats. Sections will be assigned based on the previous year Mid-American Conference Championship results with the host institution having first selection for seating.

H. Officials

1. Judges

There shall be at least 16 judges selected for the conference championship. Officials shall be assigned by the Judges' Assignor System.

a. There shall be four panels of judges with a minimum of four judges per event. One judge from each panel shall be assigned by the championship referee to be the chief judge for that event. The chief judge shall have the highest judge's rating of that panel.

b. The fee shall be $400 for the meet referee and $300 for judges. Mileage and per diem will be determined by the JAS manual. A hotel room shall be provided for the meet referee and judges if necessary. [*Revised 7/6/10; 5/30/13, 6/30/2020*]

2. Championship Referee

The championship referee shall be responsible for the following:

a. To handle all written inquiries concerning new move and vault rulings in a timely manner.

b. To coordinate with the Championship Director a meeting with all assigned judges prior to the start of the championship for briefing purposes.

c. To attend the coaches' meeting the evening preceding the championship.

d. To contact the equipment manager for any modifications, or equipment failures and adjusting any warm-up time affected by equipment modifications or failures.

Chapter XI - Men's Soccer

A. Regular Season

1. Competition Rules

All Conference competition (regular season) shall be governed by the soccer rules as specified in the NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rule book.

2. Conduct

Coaches, student-athletes and spectators will be held to a high standard of conduct as dictated by the Conference Sportsmanlike Conduct policy. Officials and Administrators shall be responsible for enforcing that conduct.

3. Coaches' Meeting (see appendix for meeting calendar)

A business meeting of all Conference coaches shall be conducted annually, on the Wednesday following the Men's College Cup (in December). This meeting will be conducted via teleconference unless otherwise specified.

4. Scheduling

a. **Conference**. The conference regular season schedule shall consist of a single round-robin, weekend (Fri-Sat-Sun) scheduling format. All Conference weekend games shall be played on Saturdays unless it conflicts with football, or both institutions mutually agree to move the game with Conference approval (games should not be moved for competitive advantages). The last conference match will be played on the Friday prior to the NCAA Tournament. Game times will be determined by the host institution. [Revised 5/27/20]

Any team scheduled for a Mid-American Conference contest on Sunday and no Mid-American Conference contest on the Friday prior, must schedule a non-conference match on Friday prior to the match if the opposing Mid-American Conference team has a scheduled Mid-American Conference contest on the Friday prior.

b. **Non-conference**. Non-conference matches must be scheduled against Division I opponents only, except the one lower division opponent allowed by the NCAA. Any team scheduled for a Mid-American Conference contest on Sunday and no Mid-American Conference contest on the Friday prior, must schedule a non-conference match on Friday prior to the match if the opposing Mid-American Conference team has a scheduled Mid-American Conference contest on the Friday prior. [*Revised 12/17/08*]

c. **Cancelled/Rescheduled Games**. In the event that a game cannot be played on the scheduled date, the teams may reschedule the game IF both schools mutually agree and no financial loss or missed class time has occurred. Every effort shall be made by both institutions to reschedule the game. If the game cannot be rescheduled, the group will use winning percentage.

5. Artificial Noisemakers

There is no Conference policy regarding the use of artificial noisemakers during regular season competition in soccer. Per NCAA Rules, permit bands to play and the use of musical instruments/artificial noisemakers at any time during the game.

6. Practice/Warm-ups

The home team shall provide an equal amount of warm-up time (15-30 minutes minimum) on the competition field. The visiting team shall be notified one week prior to the match of the pre-match warm-up format. This is with the understanding that teams may have to utilize a practice field in some cases and that home teams will receive no greater access to the competition field than visiting teams.

7. Pre-Game & Halftime

Pre-game and/or halftime accommodations must be comparable for both home and visiting teams. [*5/27/15*]

8. Special Event Presentations

Special events (including senior recognition) shall be no longer than 5 minutes and shall immediately precede the introductions. If presentations are longer than 5 minutes, they should take place at the conclusion of the game. The visiting team should be notified well in advance (one week prior) if special presentations are to take place.

9. Squad Size

There is no travel squad size limit for regular season Conference play. Schools may travel as many student-athletes as they deem appropriate; schools shall be sure to provide a written list of the designated, NCAA permissible number of eligible participants to the opposing team prior to the start of the contest; further no substitutions or alterations in this list may be made subsequent to the start of the contest. [*Adopted 12/26/08*]

10. Uniforms

The home team will wear light-colored uniforms and the visiting team will wear dark-colored uniforms (socks must match shirts), unless mutually agreed upon between the participating teams.

11. Field

All contests shall be conducted on a field that meets the minimum field requirements according to NCAA rules and regulations.

12. Match Protocol

For conference regular season and tournament games, the NCAA pre-game protocol regulations will be followed. This format calls for a 60-minute countdown on the game clock followed by introductions and the National Anthem.

The following match protocol shall be adhered to for single games or the first game of a doubleheader. Team introductions shall be limited to the starting 11 players and coaching staff. The protocol can be amended for the second game of a doubleheader based on the mutual consent of the participating teams. Locker rooms for the visiting team shall be available 2 hours prior to the start of the match.

The game clock shall be set so that it reaches zero (0:00) at the scheduled start time with both teams clearing the field at the ten (10)-minute mark. At the ten (10)-minute mark on the clock, the:

Officials meet with the captains;
Teams clear the field;
Introductions of officials and players;

Visiting team starters, Home Team starters and Officials line up and march to the infield international style for introductions.
Introduce visiting team starters, home team starters and coaches.
National Anthem
Kick-off shall take place at the scheduled game time.

13. Regular-Season Champion

The Mid-American Conference regular-season champion shall be decided by point accumulation (i.e., 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss). If two or more teams have the same point total, they shall be considered co-champions.

Ties in the conference standings will be broken as follows:

Two Team Tiebreaker:
1. Head-to-head competition
2. Goal differential (all conference games)
3. Goals allowed (all conference games)
4. Point accumulation vs. ranked conference teams
5. RPI (Final Regular Season)
[Revised 5/27/20]

Multiple (3 or more) Team Tiebreaker:
1. Combined head-to-head record among the tied teams**
2. If or when two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker goes into effect

[Note: If a three-team tie is reduced to two teams, the two-team tie-breaker goes into effect.]

* Winning percentage is used instead of record because of situations where teams do not play each other the same number of times. Therefore, a team that is 1-0 (1.000) would win the tiebreaker over a team that is 1-1 (.500).

** If the combined records of each tied team are different, the tiebreak is complete. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-1 and Team C is 1-2 then this is the order of the tiebreak.

Once only two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker is used. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-2 and Team C is 1-2 then Team A is ahead of Teams B and C and Teams B and C revert to the Two Team Tiebreaker.

Minimum Number of Games (Incomplete Season)
Refer to MAC Championships Manual, Section Z. [*7/2/20*]

14. Scouting/Exchange of Information.

a. Due to NCAA legislative action, Division I coaches in all sports are prohibited from live scouting of future opponents. [*Revised 7/1/13*]

b. It is NOT permissible for institutions to provide film, videotapes or scouting reports to non-conference teams on conference teams.

c. Mid-American Conference Men's Soccer will operate under an open exchange policy through Hudl / WyScout video server. All provisions herein apply to both Conference and Non-Conference games.

d. All Member Institutions will make all game tape available (both Conference and Non-Conference) to all Member Institutions Coaches, the assignor and the Conference Office at all times by uploading all completed games to Hudl / WyScout.

e. The host institution is responsible for uploading the game within 24-hours of completion; the visiting institution playing a non-conference game is responsible for uploading the game within 24-hours upon return to campus.

    i. If there are extenuating circumstances that do not permit a game to be uploaded on-time or footage is unavailable (e.g., inclement weather, equipment failure, travel), then it is the Head Coach's responsibility to contact the other head coaches within the Conference, Hudl / WyScout and the Conference Office with an explanation of the failure to upload.

f. Tape Exchange Guidelines

    i. Conference Games: The Mid-American Conference Home team is responsible for uploading Conference Game video on Hudl / WyScout for each completed game by deadlines established above.

    ii. Non-Conference Games: The Member Institution team is responsible for uploading Non-Conference Game video on InStat for each completed game by deadlines established above.

    iii. Each game shall be placed in the appropriate folder within the InStat video server and labeled by date, the posting institution's initials, "v" or "at", and the opponent's initials. (Example: 10/9/18 UAvWMU ~or~ 10/9/18 UAatWMU).

g. Institutions are to videotape at the Midfield Center Touch Line on an elevated platform (e.g. scissor lift, press box). Zoom to be used at appropriate times. No obstructions in view of camera.
[*Revised 8/18/15; 1/29/13*]

15. Officials (see Officiating Manual)

a. Assignment. The Conference Coordinator of Officials in consultation with the Conference Office shall assign, four (4) officials (one referee, two linesmen) for all conference games.

Payment. The host institution shall be responsible for payment of these officials.

Referees shall be paid $330/ per game
Linesmen shall receive $260/ per game.
Alternate (4th) shall receive $95/ per game. [*Approved 1/29/13*]

Referee's Jurisdiction. The referee's jurisdiction shall begin 30 minutes before the start of play and shall end when the officials leave the site of the competition. The site of competition is defined as the field, locker rooms, parking area and the surroundings generally associated with athletics facilities.

b. Officials – Communication. At no point should a coach (or bench personnel) approach or communicate with game officials following the

game. If there are unsportsmanlike conduct issues related to coach/official interaction, disciplinary action may be taken with the parties involved.

C. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X)

1. Player of the Week

During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference media relations department shall select a Player of the Week for Men's Soccer based on nominations submitted by member institutions.

2. All-Conference Team

The 22-member All-MAC team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches.

The Conference Office will generate and email a ballot (including complete statistics through that point in the season) to the coaches by the following Tuesday. Each coach must vote for 22 players and email his All-MAC selections to the Conference Office by noon the following Wednesday. The first and second teams shall consist of 11 players each (including ties). Coaches may not vote for their own players. See MAC Bylaw 10.04 for procedure to break ties in the voting.

5. Coach of the Year, Freshman of the Year, Player of the Year

The "Gary V. Palmisano" Coach of the Year, Freshman of the Year, and Player of the Year will be selected by the coaches at the same time as the All-MAC team voting. Freshman of the Year nominees shall be limited to individuals in their first year of collegiate competition (true freshmen and/or red shirt freshmen – no non-qualifiers or transfers in their first year of eligibility) [Revised 12/18/13]. Nominations will be due the Monday prior to the conclusion of the regular season play.

**At the conclusion of the NCAA Tournament, award voting results will be made available to the coaches through email. [*Adopted 12/14/2016*;]

Chapter XV - Men's Tennis

A. Regular Season

1. Rules

1. All conference competition shall be governed by ITA rules.
[*Revised 1/28/15*]

2. All Mid-American Conference dual matches will be played in a 3-6 format (doubles first, then singles), with doubles counting one point (7-point scoring system).

3. Each match shall be played in its entirety, regardless of inclement weather or darkness.

4. Singles shall be played to completion. Doubles matches shall be played to clinch.
[*Revised 10/17/14*]

2. Scheduling/Procedures

a. Each member institution shall schedule one match each other member institution during the regular season. The starting time for all matches is 1:00 p.m., unless agreed otherwise by the coaches (indoor court time may alter start times). Mid-American Conference Men's matches must be scheduled a minimum of four (4) hour before or after any scheduled Mid-American Conference Women's match start time. [*Revised 1/28/15; 1/29/14*]

b. The host institution shall be responsible for securing, and payment of, indoor court space.

c. One conference match may be scheduled in either January/February, with the remaining matches scheduled during March and April. Dates of competition shall be determined by mutual consent of the participating institutions.

d. Regular Season Line-ups: Each week team line-ups must be presented to the Conference Office in rank order for both singles and doubles by 10:00 a.m. EST. Conference Office will distribute line-up to opposing coaches for that week. By 12:00 p.m. noon on Tuesday coaches will email coach of opposing team and Conference Office with an approval or denial of line-up.

If a line-up is denied a challenge may be made to the Committee (three coaches not involved in the challenge). A teleconference will be scheduled for Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. with the Committee for the challenge to be presented. In case of a challenge, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The coach issuing the challenge will present the rationale for the challenge to the Committee.
2. The coach whose line-up has been challenged will present justification for the line-up to this Committee.
3. The Committee, after reviewing the statements, may question either coach.
4. In closed session at the conclusion of the call, the Committee will discuss the issue and make the decision(s). Teams will be notified of final decisions via e-mail from the Conference Office. [*Adopted 1/29/13*]

3. Travel Squad

There is no travel squad limitation for Mid-American Conference competition. [*Revised 5/30/19*]

4. Facilities/Equipment

a. Optic yellow USTA-approved balls shall be used.

b. Three new balls will be furnished at the start of each set to match the NCAA Championship protocol, Host institutions will provide balls for all scheduled matches.

c. It is recommended that host institutions rent all courts (indoor or outdoor) during match play to ensure that the side courts are not used during Mid-American Conference competition. [*Supported 10/17/14*]

B. Regular-Season Champion

The team with the best overall conference winning percentage shall be declared the Mid-American Conference Champion. If two or more teams are tied for the championship, they shall be considered co-champions.

C. Officials (see Officiating Manual)

The securing and payment of a minimum of three USTA-certified officials to arbitrate disputes shall be the responsibility of the host institution.

D. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X)

1. Player of the Week

During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference head coaches shall select a Singles Player of the Week and a Doubles Team of the Week based on nominations submitted by member institutions.

Each institution may submit one nominee for the Singles Player of the Week and one nominee for the Doubles Team of the Week. Nominees will be placed on a ballot by the Mid-American Conference media relations department that will be distributed to all head coaches for voting. Coaches shall rank their top two nominees, in order of preference. The Mid-American Conference media relations department will assign two points to each #1 Rank and one point to each #2 Rank. Winners will accumulate the most points. Coaches may vote for their own players. Men's Player of the Week selections shall begin the third week in January. [*Revised 1/29/14*]

2. All-MAC Team

The 12-member All-MAC team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches based on seasonal performances. Coaches may nominate up to four players from their team. The nominations are due to the Conference Office by Monday following the completion of Mid-American Conference play. The Mid-American Conference media relations department will distribute ballots to the coaches at the pre-championship meeting on Wednesday.

Each coach must vote for the top 12 players on the ballot, in rank order (1=best, 12=last). Coaches may vote for their own players. Ballots are due from each coach by 5:00 p.m. on Monday following the completion of the championship. The top six (6) vote-getters (including ties) will be named to the first team, with the remaining honorees being named to the second team. See MAC Bylaw 10.04 for procedure to break ties in the voting.

3. All-Tournament Team

A six (6) member All-Tournament Team will be selected following the Mid-American Conference Championship. The team will consist of one student-athlete from each semi-finals team and two student-athletes from each team that reaches the finals. The members of the All-Tournament Team will be selected by the student-athlete's respective coach. The Tournament Most Outstanding Player will be selected by the Tournament Champion Coach.

4. Sportsmanship Award

The "Jack Vredevelt" Sportsmanship Award shall be selected by the coaches at the conclusion the championship. This award is limited to a senior student-athlete who is in their final year of eligibility who has displayed outstanding sportsmanship in Mid-American Conference competition. The Conference Office shall prepare a ballot to be distributed to the coaches.

5. Newcomer, Player and Coach of the Year

Newcomer of the Year, Player of the Year and Coach of the Year shall be selected by the coaches at the conclusion of the championship. Based on the nominations received, the Mid-American Conference media relations department will generate a ballot to be distributed at the pre-championship coaches meeting Wednesday. Coaches may nominate one player for each award. Newcomer of the Year is limited to student-athletes in their first year of collegiate participation. Coaches may not vote for themselves for Coach of the Year.

Ballots are due from each coach by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday following the Mid-American Conference Championship. Coaches shall rank order all nominees based on the number of nominees for each award and may vote for their own players. The recipients of these awards will be announced on the Tuesday following the championship.

E. Coaches' Meeting

The annual business meeting of the men's tennis coaches shall be conducted the first Thursday in September.

F. Automatic Qualifier Seeding

Team seeds shall be determined based upon Mid-American Conference dual-match play. All teams will be seeded with all flights played out. In the event of a tie, the Mid-American Conference tiebreaker procedure shall be used.

Two Team Tiebreaker:

1. Head-to-Head Competition
2. Combine the scores for each individual dual match and compare matches won verses matches lost of each team involved in the tie until an advantage is gained
3. ITA National Ranking based upon the list as of the Tuesday following the last conference matches

Multiple (3 or more) Team Tiebreaker:

1. Combined head-to-head record among the tied teams**
2. Total team points against all conference opponents
3. Team points against all tied teams
4. Winning percentage vs. ranked conference opponents top to bottom
5. ITA National Ranking based upon the list as of the Tuesday following the last conference matches

[Note: If a three-team tie is reduced to two teams, the Two Team Tiebreaker goes into effect.]

* Winning percentage is used instead of record because of situations where teams do not play each other the same number of times. Therefore, a team that is 1-0 (1.000) would win the tiebreaker over a team that is 1-1 (.500).

** If the combined records of each tied team are different, the tiebreak is complete. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-1 and Team C is 1-2 then this is the order of the tiebreak.
Once only two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker is used. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-2 and Team C is 1-2 then Team A is ahead of Teams B and C and Teams B and C revert to the Two Team Tiebreaker.

G. Minimum Number of Games (Incomplete Season)

Refer to MAC Championships Manual, Section Z. [*7/2/20*]

Chapter XIII - Softball

A. Regular Season

1. Rules

a. All conference competition shall be governed by NCAA rules and Mid-American Conference policies.

b. A regulation game shall be defined in the NCAA softball rules. The 8-run rule after five innings will be implemented.

c. Forfeited games are governed by the NCAA rule book (recorded as a loss: see scoring options).

d. Code of Ethics. The following code of ethics has been adopted by the Mid-American Conference softball coaches as it relates to publicly and unduly criticizing a game official, Conference Office personnel, another member university, a student-athlete or personnel of another member university.

1. Always know you are representing yourself as a professional, a member of the Mid-American Conference, NCAA, NFCA, and representative of your individual university.
2. Study the rules of the game diligently, observe and attempt to improve at all times.
3. Remember that while your work as a coach is important, you must conduct yourself in such a way that spectator attention is directed to those playing the game and not at you.
4. Conduct yourself as to be a worthy example of those playing the game and to the fans.
5. Cooperate and be professional in your associations with your fellow coaches and do nothing to cause them public embarrassment.
6. Keep in mind the game is more important than the wishes of any individual player or coach, or the ambitions of any individual umpire.
7. Umpires and/or officials shall be spoken to or referred to as "Blue" or "Umpire."

2. Scheduling/Procedures

a. Conference competition shall consist of a 20-game schedule versus ten (10) conference opponents, The conference schedule shall begin seven (7) weeks prior to the conference Tournament. [*Revised 5/30/19; 5/27/15*]

b. Weekend opponents (7 weekends) shall include, one doubleheader versus a single opponent or two doubleheaders versus two opponents.

During two opponent weekends, Doubleheaders will be scheduled on Friday and Saturday. However, during split travel weekends or when travel distance between Friday and Saturday opponent is greater than 250 miles, doubleheaders will be scheduled on Friday and Sunday. Sunday games maybe moved to Saturday with mutual consent of both teams, administrators and conference office.

c. All Doubleheaders shall begin at 1:00pm local time. Game times may only be moved with mutual consent of both teams and conference office. Games times should allow for traveling team's destination to be reached by midnight.
[*Revised 5/30/19; 10/14/15; 5/27/15*]

d. A conference cycle schedule will be submitted by the Conference Office to the coaches and Joint Council, as part of its annual report. The schedule should be submitted a minimum of one year in advance of the start of each cycle. [*Revised 5/27/15*]

e. Any scheduled conference game(s) not completed due to inclement weather, field conditions or other reasons shall not count in the conference standings. [*Revised 5/27/15*]

f. Tiebreaker Procedures. No tiebreaker procedure shall be utilized for Conference games. [*Revised 1/25/11*]

g. Updated visitor information should be sent to conference institutions (e.g., directions, motels, restaurants, etc.) each year. This should also include pregame information with specified warm-up areas and available times.

3. Weather / Lost Game Policy

a. Inclement Weather. If the 'Real Feel' temperature at the facility (field) per accuweather.com is below 28 degrees, a Senior Level Administrator from the host institution must be consulted and will make the determination to play or delay the game. [*2/26/16*]

b. Weekend Series
   1. Weekend series games may be moved due to inclement weather or field conditions, based on the following parameters.
   2. Decisions to start or move games shall be at the discretion of the home team's administration with approval from the Conference Office.
   3. If a Saturday doubleheader is not able to be played, one or both games may be moved to Sunday unless the Sunday forecast or projected field conditions indicate that the game or games WILL NOT be able to be played on Sunday.
   4. Friday doubleheader no date changes or make-ups. During 2-opponent weekends Sunday available for rain for Saturday games only.
   5. Games may not be moved to Thursday or Monday.
   6. If games cannot be completed within the guidelines herein, those games are lost and may not be made up or rescheduled.

   [*Revised 5/30/19; 5/27/15*]

4. Halted Game Rule

The Halted Game Rule is in effect for all originally scheduled Saturday Conference Games. [*Revised 5/27/15*; *1/25/11*]

If an originally scheduled Saturday game is halted and is tied, it shall be continued on the following day prior to the start of any regularly scheduled game, regardless of the inning in which the game is tied.
[*Revised 5/27/15*; *1/25/11*]

5. Makeup Policy

Procedures / Interpretations

a. All halted games continued from the point of suspension maintain the originally designated home team, lineups and lineup cards.

b. Darkness is considered a field condition and could be cause for a halted game, prior to the completion of the fifth inning.

c. Games may be moved to another local (30-mile radius) softball field at the discretion of home team's administration (not the coach). Home team administration and umpires will determine playability of the home field.

6. Travel Squad

There is no travel squad limitation for Mid-American Conference competition. [*Revised 5/30/19; 6/1/16*]

7. Facilities/Equipment

a. Uniform – home team shall confirm uniform color with visiting team Tuesday prior to the series. If weather necessitates a change in the color of uniforms, coaches must make a prior mutual agreement.

[*Revised 5/27/15*]

b. Field and bullpen tarps are mandatory at all softball diamonds and shall be in place on nights before home conference softball games, when deemed necessary. Tarps must be in working condition. The host university shall make every effort to have a playable field for the game and have Diamond Dry, Turface, or any similar substance available. [*Revised 1/29/14*]

c. All member institutions are required to provide out-of-play fences parallel to the foul lines. Snow fences are not acceptable.

d. The official Mid-American Conference softball shall be the NCAA approved ball.

e. Equivalent heaters are required for dugouts for home and visiting teams if the game temperature is below 40 degrees. [*1/29/14*]

f. Both bullpen areas must be comparable, and dirt is preferred. If not comparable, both teams shall share the superior bullpen. [*10/17/14*]

8. Bat Testing Policy

It is required that bat testing take place at all regular season home games, conference and non-conference. Testing shall be conducted by an assigned and trained non-coaching staff institutional representative (as determined by each institution) and must take place in the presence of a representative from each team. Institutions are responsible for notifying the Conference Office of who the institutional representative will be.

Testing will occur once prior to the beginning of a series (or game if a single game) at a time and location determined by the institution that must be included in the pregame protocol.

The Conference Office will provide bat testing stickers to each institution that should be placed on the barrel of bats that pass testing, just above the grip.

Bats that fail testing will not receive a sticker and will be removed from play by the home institution representative and returned to the team at the conclusion of the completed series (or game is a single game).

[*Revised 1/24/18; 1/30/12*]

B. Scouting/Exchange of Information

1. Due to legislative action, Division I coaches in all sports are prohibited from live scouting of future opponents. [*Revised 7/1/13*]

2. The visiting team shall provide the home coach a roster with year in school, bats/throws, hometown, and uniform numbers. Also, statistics to date with season record should be sent no later than one week prior to the competition.

3. Member institutions may not supply scouting information on Mid-American Conference teams to anyone and may not supply information on any team representing our region in NCAA championship play. Information may be obtained from non-conference opponents.

4. To aid conference teams in NCAA appearances, any number of video requests may be made within the Conference after the completion of the conference tournament.

C. Statistics

1. Conference statistics, which are to be exchanged prior to play, should include:

a. Batting statistics: G/GS, BA, AB, R, H, 2B, 3B, HR, RBI, SB/SBA, BB,SO, HBP, Slug%, and OB%.

b. Fielding statistics: PO, A, E, DP, FLD%.

c. Pitching statistics: ERA, G/GS, W/L, PCT, Save, CG, Shutouts, IP, R, H, ER, SO, BB, IBB, HB, WP, 2B, 3B, HR, AB/AVG.

d. Catcher statistics: SBA/SB, Passed Balls.

e. Scores of previous games with winning pitchers.

2. NCAA Softball Committee Regional Poll selections require that each regional representative report on their respective teams weekly. Each university is responsible to report their scores, as instructed, to the appropriate regional representative.

D. Officials

1. Three umpires for all conference and non-conference home games shall be assigned and approved by the Commissioner or his designated representative. The host university shall be responsible for payment of these officials. *[Revised 10/14/15*]

Each official shall be paid $225 per game for conference games. Fee of $175 for non-conference and mid-week games. [*Revised 5/30/19; 6/1/16; 10/14/15; 5/27/15; 5/14/14*]

2. Overnight lodging shall be provided to umpires traveling from 50 miles or more to the host institution. [*Revised 10/14/15*]

3. If an umpire has traveled to a site for a weekend series, the umpire shall receive a full weekend fee, regardless of the number of games played.

Exception: If a game(s) is delayed to Sunday and an umpire is unable to stay and work that game(s), the fee shall be reduced by $175 for each Sunday game that the umpire is unable to work.

If an Umpire has traveled to a site for a weekday double header and both games are canceled due to rain, the umpire shall receive a game fee for one game. If the second game of a doubleheader is started, the umpire shall receive two game fees.
If an umpire has traveled to a site for a weekday single game, the umpire shall receive a full game fee regardless of whether the game is played.

If an umpire is contacted about a cancellation prior to departing for campus, no game fee is paid.

[*Revised 5/31/17; 5/27/15*]

E. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X)

1. Pitcher/Player of the Week

During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference media relations department shall select a Pitcher and Player of the Week based on nominations submitted by member institutions.

2. All-MAC Team

The 30-member All-MAC team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches on the Monday prior to the start of the tournament. Nomination forms will be sent to the coaches two weeks prior to the end of the regular season. Coaches can nominate up to eight players for the all-conference ballot but may only nominate a player at one position. All nominations must be emailed to the Conference Office by 10:00 a.m. the Friday prior to the last regularly-scheduled conference games (Statistics should be for the entire MAC season). [*Revised 1/24/10*]

The Conference Office will compile a ballot of all nominees (including only MAC statistics for the nominees through the end of the regular season). The Conference Office will send the ballot to coaches at the conclusion of last regular season game (pending receipt of all game stat files). In addition to the statistics listed in Section C of this code, the ballot should provide the following: offensive statistics for pitchers; positions and number of games played at each for utility players; space to assign point values for all selections (including item "c") as described in the voting procedures.

Initial All-MAC votes due the Monday prior to the championship at 2:00pm via e-mail exchange:
First Vote – Fill First and Second Team
Second Vote – Vote First Team At-Large from Second Team, then fill Second Team with next highest vote getters at each position
Third Vote – Vote Second Team At-Large

A 15-member first team (1 Utility Pitcher, 1 Utility Non-Pitcher, 8 position players, 2 pitchers, 3 at-large players) and 15-member second team (same positions as first team) will be selected by separate vote in the following order: first team position players, first team at-large players, second team position players, second team at-large players. *Note: Coaches shall utilize the NCAA criteria for the Utility positions when selecting this player.

Voting Procedures:

a. Coaches may not vote for their own players during first team or second team voting. [*Revised 1/24/10*]

b. Coaches must vote for all positions.

c. Coaches must cast a numerical vote for each position, assigning value as follows:

1st choice - 5 points
2nd choice - 3 points
3rd choice - 1 point

Exception: For the position of outfield, the values should be assigned as 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

d. Highest assigned value must be used for each position.

See Mid-American Conference Bylaw 10.04 for procedure to break ties in the voting.

3. All-Freshman Team

The 10-member All-Freshman team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches via written ballot prior to the start of the tournament. The All-Freshman team is not selected by position. Nomination forms will be sent to the coaches two weeks prior to the end of the regular season. Coaches can nominate an unlimited number of players for the all-freshman ballot. All nominations and supporting MAC-only statistics must be emailed to the Conference Office by 10:00 a.m. the Friday prior to the last regularly-scheduled conference games (Statistics should be for the entire MAC season). [*Revised 1/24/10*]

The Conference Office will compile a ballot of all nominees (including only Mid-American Conference statistics for the nominees through the end of the regular season), which should be available the Monday following the final weekend of regular season play by noon. In addition to the statistics listed in Section C of this code, the ballot should provide the following: offensive statistics for pitchers; positions and number of games played at each for utility players; space to assign votes.

Voting Procedures:

a. Coaches may not vote for their own players.

b. Coaches must vote for 10 players regardless of position.

4. Player, Pitcher, Freshman, Coach of the Year and Nan Harvey Award.

The MAC Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, Freshman of the Year, Coach of the Year, and Nan Harvey Award will be selected by the coaches in conjunction with the All-MAC team selection process. Based on nominations received, the Conference Office will generate a ballot, which will include narrative on each player provided by the coaches. Coaches may vote for their own players and must use all votes. Votes will be cast with a 5, 3, 1 value for each of these selections. In regard to the Nan Harvey Award, coaches are not required to submit a nomination and one vote will be cast from each institution for one award recipient.

5. Announcement

The announcement of these awards shall be made via press release on the Tuesday prior to the tournament. [*Revised 1/30/12*]

F. Coaches' Meeting (see appendix for meeting calendar)

The annual business meeting of the softball coaches shall be conducted on the last Monday of August in Cleveland, Ohio. The spring meeting held in conjunction with the tournament will be for the sole purpose of tournament issues.

G. Regular-Season Champion

1. To qualify as the Mid-American Conference Champion, a team must play at least 14 conference games. [*Revised 7/25/18*]

2. The team with the best overall conference winning percentage shall be declared the Mid-American Conference Regular Season Champion. A tie game shall count as a half-game won and a half-game lost. If two teams are tied for the championship, they shall be considered co-champions.

H. Conference Post-Season Tournament

1. Tournament Awards

As part of the awards listed in Mid-American Conference Bylaw X and the sport operating codes, the All-tournament team will be selected by a selection committee comprised of the Coordinator of Umpires, the Conference Office media relations representative and a minimum of two nonparticipating coaches immediately following the conclusion of the tournament. All individuals participating in the voting process must be in attendance at all games. Each participating coach will nominate up to five players for consideration. The selection committee will rank players from 1-10, with points assigned as follows: first-place ranking = 10 points, second-place ranking = 9 points, etc. The Conference Office representative will conduct the voting.

2. Tournament Dates

The tournament shall take place on the weekend prior to the NCAA Regional's and shall begin on a Wednesday. Sunday will be a rain day only.

3. Tournament Format

The top eight (8) teams as determined by conference winning percentage (MAC play only), will participate in the post-season, double elimination tournament. In case of a percentage tie, the Mid-American Conference tiebreaker procedure will be used. The team winning the Mid-American Conference Softball Tournament will be the conference representative to the NCAA Softball Championship.

4. Tournament Personnel

The following personnel shall be provided for the Conference softball tournament:

a. Tournament Director (Conference Office Liaison)

b. Eight (8) umpires [*Revised 5/14/14*]

5. Tournament Qualifications

a. An institution shall schedule 20 conference games to qualify for the tournament. A team must play one-half of the scheduled conference games to be eligible for the tournament. [*Revised 5/27/15*]

b. Any conference game(s) not completed (per NCAA rules) because of darkness, inclement weather or field conditions shall be cancelled and shall not be counted in the conference standings, unless made up according to Mid-American Conference policies.

c. Tie games shall be counted in the conference standings as one-half game won and one-half game lost.

d. If a team is on suspension, it shall not be eligible to participate in the conference tournament. If a suspended team is among the top-two finishers in the division in the regular-season standings, then all teams

within the division shall move up one place for the purpose of determining the participating teams in the conference tournament.

6. Tournament Site

The tournament will be hosted at a neutral site which will be Firestone Stadium in Akron, OH. [*Revised 1/29/17; 5/17/12; 1/25/11*]

7. Tournament Seeding

Teams will be seeded 1 though 8 based on conference winning percentage (MAC play only). Ties in the Conference standings shall be broken as follows:

Two Team Tiebreaker:

1. Head-to-head competition
2. Winning percentage* vs. ranked conference teams (top to bottom, versus common opponents, regardless of the number of times played)
3. Overall winning percentage vs. common Conference opponents
4. If tied teams have played each other, average of runs allowed; if tied teams have not played each other, average of runs allowed vs. all common opponents
5. Coin flip

Multiple (3 or more) Team Tiebreaker:

1. Combined head-to-head record among the tied teams**
2. If or when two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker goes into effect

[Note: If a three-team tie is reduced to two teams, the Two Team Tiebreaker goes into effect.]

* Winning percentage is used instead of record because of situations where teams do not play each other the same number of times. Therefore, a team that is 1-0 (1.000) would win the tiebreaker over a team that is 1-1 (.500).

** If the combined records of each tied team are different, the tiebreak is complete. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-1 and Team C is 1-2 then this is the order of the tiebreak.

Once only two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker is used. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-2 and Team C is 1-2 then Team A is ahead of Teams B and C and Teams B and C revert to the Two Team Tiebreaker.

8. Field Specifications

a. Outfield portable fence will sit at 210' in left and right field and 220' in center field, as permitted by NCAA Championship Rules.
b. Backstop, sideline and outfield fences must enclose the playing field.
c. The infield must be skinned; the outfield must be natural grass.
d. A minimum of 25 feet (maximum of 30 feet) from home plate to the backstop.
e. A minimum seating capacity of at least 500.
f. An athletics training facility must be available on site. If permanent facilities are not available, tents may be used to meet this requirement.
g. Adequate restrooms on site (portable or permanent).
h. An electronic scoreboard, public address system (including backup if possible) and telephone must be available.
i. A warm-up area should be provided for the two non-playing teams with either batting cages or an area to hit.
j. Adequate parking on site for teams, tournament personnel and umpires.

k. A covered interview area is recommended.
l. Field Cover. To avoid cancellations due to wet grounds, the host site shall provide a reliable rain cover for its entire infield. This cover shall be placed on the field the day before the tournament unless the condition of the field does not warrant this action.
m. Dugouts must be covered and enclosed from spectators (a temporary cover is permissible).
n. Both bullpen areas must be comparable, and dirt is preferred. If not comparable, both teams shall share the superior bullpen area.
o. Appropriate maintenance personnel must be on site during the tournament.
p. Diamond Dry, Turface or any similar substance must be available for the tournament.

9. Alternate Field

The use of an alternate field (if necessary) for championship competition shall be allowed ONLY if the alternate site meets the required field specifications and the site is within a 60-mile radius of the host site.

I. Tournament Rules

1. Travel Squad

The travel squad for the conference championship shall be 22 participants. Each institution's roster shall be submitted to the official scorer and head umpire at the coaches' meeting the night prior to the tournament. All players on these rosters are to have been certified eligible and must have their names on file in the Conference Office. Only these players shall be eligible to play in the tournament. [5/30/19; *1/29/15*]

2. Game Length

All tournament games shall consist of seven innings and shall be played to completion if delayed or interrupted for any reason. If a game is stopped before seven innings are completed, the game shall be continued and completed the next day from the point of interruption prior to the regularly-scheduled games.

3. Three Games Per Day Per Team Limit

Teams shall not be allowed to compete in more than three games per day. If a partial game is less than regulation, it shall be counted as a full game in terms of this limitation. If a partial game has at least five innings completed, the participating teams may play out the remainder of that game and three additional games on the following day.

4. Tiebreaker Procedures

No tiebreaker procedure shall be utilized for Tournament games. Games shall be played to completion. [*1/25/11*]

5. Inclement Weather

a. The Tournament Director shall have the authority to cancel a game and start a game. Umpires may only halt play once the game has started. Continuation of the game shall be under the absolute jurisdiction of the umpires and the Tournament Director. The coaches shall not influence or interfere with these decisions.

b. If possible, a game shall begin no later than one hour after its scheduled starting time.

c. In the event that the tournament is not started, the conference standings at the end of the regular season shall determine the Mid-American Conference's NCAA representative.

d. If the tournament is started, the following procedures shall be followed in determining the Mid-American Conference's representative to the NCAA Softball Championship.

0 games played	Highest Seed (No. 1 seed)
1 game played	Highest Seed (No. 1 seed)
2 games played	Highest Seed (No. 1 seed)
3 games played	Highest Seed (No. 1 seed)
4 games played	Highest Seed (without a loss)
5 games played	Highest Seed (without a loss)
6 games played	Highest Seed (without a loss)
7 games played	Highest Seed (without a loss)
8 games played	Highest Seed (without a loss)
9 games played	Highest Seed (without a loss)
10 games played	Highest Seed (without a loss)

6. Protests

There shall be a Protest Committee consisting of an off umpire, the Coordinator of Umpires, and the Tournament Director (who shall chair the committee). All protests will be decided by the Protest Committee and must be decided before play can continue. The procedure for protest will be as follows:

a. The protest must be made to the home-plate umpire.

b. The home-plate umpire shall confer with field umpires and, if necessary, shall take it to the Protest Committee.

c. The Protest Committee, after discussion (and consultation with the NCAA Softball Secretary Rules Editor, if available), either upholds or denies the protest at that time. Their ruling is final.

d. Protests must be made when the action happens. No protest can be made after a succeeding play or pitch, legal or illegal, is made.

e. A game-ending protest can be made before the umpires leave the field. The offended team has one minute to voice its protest intentions therefore the umpires should remain on the field until the time limit has passed.

7. Bat Testing Policy

In order for any bat to be utilized during the Mid-American Conference Tournament, the bat is required to pass mandatory tournament bat testing. Tournament bat testing will take place on Tuesday of Tournament week. A testing schedule will be developed by the Conference Office and teams are required to appear at their assigned testing time with all team bats to be used in the tournament.

Bats that pass testing will be designated with a sticker provided by the Conference Office. Bats that fail testing will be removed from play and held in the custody of the Conference Office until the conclusion of the tournament or until the team that owns the bat is eliminated, whichever occurs first. At that time, bats will be returned to the team for disposition. [*Revised 1/30/12*]

J. Tournament Schedule/Procedures

1. Schedule of Games

The suggested schedule of games shall be as follows. All tournament games shall consist of seven innings and shall be played to seven innings if delayed for any reason. If a game is halted before seven innings are played, the game shall be continued and completed the next day, prior to the regularly-scheduled games.

	GAME	TIME	OPPONENTS
Wednesday	1	10:30am	No. 4 Seed vs. No. 5 Seed
	2	1:00pm	No. 1 Seed vs. No. 8 Seed
	3	3:30pm	No. 2 Seed vs. No. 7 Seed
	4	6:00pm	No. 3 Seed vs. No. 6 Seed
Thursday	5	10:30am	Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser
	6	1:00pm	Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner
	7	3:30pm	Game 3 Winner vs. Game 4 Winner
	8	6:00pm	Game 3 Loser vs. Game 4 Loser
Friday	9	10:30am	Game 5 Winner vs. Game 7 Loser
	10	1:00pm	Game 8 Winner vs. Game 6 Loser
	11	3:30pm	Game 6 Winner vs. Game 7 Winner
	12	6:00pm	Game 9 Winner vs. Game 10 Winner
Saturday	13	10:30am	Game 12 Winner vs. Game 11 Loser
	14(Champ)	1:00pm	Game 13 Winner vs. Game 11 Winner
	15	3:30pm	Repeat Game #14 if necessary

[*Revised 10/17/14; 1/29/14, 1/30/12, 1/24/10*]

2. Determination of Home Team

The highest-seeded team will be the home team for all rounds of the tournament with the exception of the "if" game where the lower seeded team will be the home team. [*Revised 1/24/18*]

3. Practice Policies

All teams shall have an opportunity to practice on the official playing field one time prior to the opening of the tournament on Tuesday - 50 minutes infield practice, 50 minutes assigned practice field. The times for practice shall be assigned with regard to the distance that teams must travel to the site (closest team will have the earliest time, etc.). Academic considerations may alter this policy. In the event of wet grounds in the warm-up area, if mutually agreed upon by the participating teams, one team may warm-up in the outfield grassy area while the other team conducts on-field practice. In the event that the #1 and/or #2 Seed(s) decline the Tuesday practice opportunity, remaining scheduled practice times will be shifted later in the day. Practices are weather permitting.

a. Participating teams may use assigned practice field for warm-up beginning 2 hours before game time.
b. Teams will share infield time on game field beginning 30 minutes before game time. Teams must conclude infield time 15 minutes prior to the game.
c. The grounds crew shall condition the infield 15 minutes before game time.
d. The teams will be announced 5 minutes prior to the start of game.
e. The Tournament Director will time all practices and notify teams of altered start times.

[*Revised 1/30/12*]

4. **Starting Times**
   All games shall start at the scheduled time. If there is an extra-inning situation in the first game resulting in the succeeding game not being able to start at the scheduled time, at least 30 minutes must elapse before the next game starts. In the event of rain delays, all games shall begin at least 30 minutes following the conclusion of the previous game. Conference office Tournament Director has the ability to change the scheduled start time of a game for foreseen inclement weather. Start time shall not be before 9:00am.

5. **Use of Dugouts**
   The third base dugout will be the home team dugout and the first base dugout will be the visiting team dugout.

K. Tournament Equipment

1. **Ball**
   The softball designated for the NCAA College Women's World Series is the official ball of the tournament.

   a. The tournament director shall have a minimum of five dozen balls on hand to start the tournament.

   b. The games should start with five balls, at least two prepared by each team.

   c. The game balls can be picked up by a representative from each team 45 minutes prior to game time from the press box area.

2. **Team Uniforms**
   The visiting team shall wear a uniform of different color than the home team. The home team has the opportunity to choose the color it wishes to wear. (e.g., the home team wears white, the visitor must wear a contrasting color.)

L. Tournament Officials

1. The Coordinator of Umpires shall select eight (8) umpires for the tournament based upon the nominations of the coaches (two four-person crews with three on and one off). [*Revised 5/14/14*]

2. The rotation for umpires working each game shall be determined by the Coordinator of Umpires.

3. The umpires are to be on the playing field 15 minutes before game time.

4. The Coordinator of Umpires shall be in attendance at all games.

5. Officials shall be paid a fee of $1,000.00 for working the tournament, plus round-trip mileage and a $15 per diem. The Conference Office shall issue the checks. [*Revised 5/14/14; 1/30/12*]

Chapter XIV- Swimming and Diving (men and women)

A. Regular Season

1. Rules

All conference competition shall be governed by NCAA rules.

2. Scheduling/Procedures

a. Conference scheduling shall adhere to the approved two-year rotation and will be done at the annual coaches' meeting in the fall. Upon completion of the two-year rotation, scheduling will adhere to Mid-American Conference Bylaw 6.01, unless approved otherwise.

b. It is the discretion of the host institution to determine whether the meet is separate or combined.

c. The visiting team shall be given deck and pool access two hours prior to the meet.

d. The visiting team may request, in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled dual meet, pool practice time on the day prior to the meet. Times are subject to availability. The host institution is responsible for any associated costs. [*1/29/14*]

e. It is strongly recommended the host institution have solo usage of the facility from the start of warm-ups until the completion of the competition when hosting a regular season meet. *[10/15/14]*

3. Makeup Policy

Subject to administrator approval, postponed dates can be made up at a later date, providing that the coaches involved mutually agree.

4. Travel Squad

There is no limit to the number of participants on a travel squad for Mid-American Conference competition during the regular season.
[*Revised 10/11/18]*

B. Scouting/Exchange of Information

1. Due to legislative action, Division I coaches in all sports are prohibited from live scouting of future opponents. [*Revised* 7/1/13]

2. Each university shall post all meet results (on institutional website) from the prior week by midnight on the Monday following weekend competition.

C. Officials (see Officiating Manual)

The securing and payment of qualified and appropriate meet officials shall be the responsibility of the host university.

D. Coaches' Meeting (see appendix for meeting calendar)

The annual business meeting of the swimming and diving coaches shall be conducted the fourth Tuesday in September

E. Championship Guidelines

1. Championship Awards

As part of the championship awards outlined in Bylaw X and the sport operating codes, the following awards shall be presented at the championship. Individual event and relay awards shall be presented immediately following the event (see competition schedule for complete order of awards presentation).

a. Freshman of the Year Swimmer/Diver

The Freshman of Year Swimmer/Diver is awarded at the Mid-American Conference Championship based upon point totals, with bonus points awarded for a new Mid-American Conference record and NCAA qualifying standards achieved. Shall be limited to individuals in their first year of eligibility.

Bonus Points shall be awarded as follows:
10 points for each NCAA "A" standard achieved
5 points for each NCAA "B" standard achieved
5 points for a new Mid-American Conference Championship record

Note: Only individual swims are considered. Relay leadoffs are not considered. Points will be awarded for the best mark recorded during preliminaries or finals. Double points will not occur. The presentation of these awards shall occur at the conclusion of the meet by the recipient's respective coaches.

b. Most Outstanding Swimmer/Diver

The Most Outstanding Swimmer/Diver is awarded at the Mid-American Conference Championship based upon point totals, with bonus points awarded for a new Mid-American Conference record and NCAA qualifying standards achieved.

Bonus Points shall be awarded as follows:
10 points for each NCAA "A" standard achieved
5 points for each NCAA "B" standard achieved
5 points for a new Mid-American Conference Championship record

Note: Only individual swims are considered. Relay leadoffs are not considered. Points will be awarded for the best mark recorded during preliminaries or finals. Double points will not occur. The presentation of these awards shall occur at the conclusion of the meet by the recipient's respective coaches.

c. Coach of the Year/Diving Coach of the Year

The Coach of the Year and Diving Coach of the Year shall be voted upon by the head coaches and diving coaches at the conference championship. All coaches are eligible for these awards. The host university shall prepare a ballot and distribute it with the Mid-American Conference championship materials. Coaches may not vote for themselves and must list a first and second choice. The presentation of these awards shall occur at the conclusion of the meet.

d. Most Outstanding Senior Swimmer Awards

The women's award is selected by the head coaches. All graduating seniors are eligible for this award. Each institution has one nominee and one vote. No one may vote for a member of one's own team. The women's award is provided by Ohio University.

The men's award is selected by the seniors and head coaches participating in the championship. All seniors who have participated in the sport for four years at their current institution are eligible for this award. Honoree must be in attendance and in their last year of eligibility. Each senior and head coach have a vote. No one may vote for a teammate or member of one's own team. The men's award is provided by Miami University Alumni Association.

All seniors shall be introduced on Saturday evening during the opening ceremonies and the Most Outstanding Senior Swimmer will be announced at that time.

e. Traveling Relay Awards (men's)

The traveling relay awards are presented at the same time as the relay awards. These awards are presented by the head coach of the institution which won the event the previous year.

2. Championship Ceremonies

Opening ceremonies should be held at the beginning of each evening and include the National Anthem and a general welcome. Closing ceremonies should begin immediately after the 400 Freestyle Finals and proceed with the 3 Meter Diving, 400 Freestyle Relay, Team awards, Swimmer and Coach of the Year, Diver and Diving Coach of the Year, and Freshman Swimmer and Diver of the Year awards are presented at the conclusion of the championship by the Mid-American Conference and host institution.

3. Championship Dates and Format

Both Women's and Men's Championships shall be held over a three day period on Thursday-Saturday. The Women's Championship shall begin on the Thursday two weeks prior to the NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving Committee Selections. The Men's Championship shall begin the following Thursday. [*Revised 5/27/20; 5/14/14; 6/2/11; 10/25/09*]

4. Championship Location

The 2021 Women's Championship will be held at Eastern Michigan University.

The 2021 Men's Championship will be held at Miami University.

5. Championship Information Packets

a. Pre-Meet Packet

At least six weeks prior to the championship, the Conference Office, in conjunction with the host institution, will provide the coaches the following: schedule of meet, day-by-day event schedule, meet and pool information, motel and restaurant listing, campus maps, training information and entry blanks to be returned no later than one week prior to the championship (Tuesday).

b. Registration Packet

This packet is to be picked up at the coaches' meeting and should include: relay cards, scratch sheets, diving sheets, deck passes (one for everyone in the travel party), parking passes (3 per institution), list of presenters for event awards, team seating on deck diagram and conduct of student-athletes statement.

c. Officials' Packet

This packet shall include: one white MAC polo (optional), one parking pass, memento and schedule of events.

6. Championship Meet Committee

The meet committee for the men's and women's championships shall be comprised of the head referee and the head coach of each school represented at the meet. The championship director shall act as an ex-officio member and have no vote.

7. Championship Meeting

A coaches' dinner and registration meeting will be held on the day prior to competition for up to three coaches from each participating institution. Coaches will review the training and media information, relay cards, scratch cards and procedures, diving forms, and coaches award presentation order. In addition, coaches (in order of finish at the previous championship) will select team seating areas and be notified of their respective locker room areas.

8. Championship Personnel

The following are recommended for the management of the championship: championship director, five officials (see Section J), public address announcer, training staff, doctor on call, security, program and ticket sellers, head timer, lane timers (16 per evening session; 12 per morning session), two timing system operators, official scorer and scoreboard personnel, and sports information personnel. [*Revised 9/20/18*]

9. Championship Seeding

All seeding procedures will follow NCAA Rules. Seed times shall be the best times performed by the swimmer or relay team the season immediately preceding the championship, as verified by the coach. Times should be recorded to the 1/100th of a second. There shall be no changes in seed times on the entry blank after the entry deadline. Proof of times must be submitted for timed final events, including relays. Aggregate times will be accepted for relays so long as the aggregate time is faster than the relay time. Proof of time should accompany entries. In Women's Swimming,1650 times will be entered for seeding purposes.

10. Championship Expense Assistance (Men Only)

Each year, the Conference Office will provide the men's championship host institution with up to five thousand dollars ($5,000.00) to be used towards actual costs associated with the hosting of the men's championship. This amount will be funded by league affiliate membership fees and will continue so long as a minimum of three affiliate members remain. [*1/24/10*]

F. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X and Sport Operating Code Section E.1, above)

1. Swimmer and Diver of the Week

During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference media relations department shall select a Swimmer and Diver of the Week based on nominations submitted by member institutions.

2. All-MAC Team

The 30-member All-MAC team shall consist of the 15 individual event winners at the Mid-American Conference Championship, with the 15 remaining honorees selected from the remaining swimmers and divers based on total points (individual events only – "Bonus Points" do not apply). The first team shall be limited to 15 members (plus ties), with the remaining being named to the second team.

G. Rules

1. Championship Travel Squad & Travel Party

The men's and women's travel squads shall be limited to 24 participants, 18 scorers (swimmers count as one entry; divers count as 1/3 entry) and six substitute players. The six substitute players will only be permitted to compete in the preliminary sessions. The 18-scoring student-athletes must be declared by the initial scratch deadline. Student-athletes participating in platform diving must be counted in the previously-stated travel squad limitations. No exhibition diving will be permitted. (Note: The Mid-American Conference

Championships Committee will monitor the number of divers participating in the women's championship.) There is no travel party limit. [*Revised 5/30/19; 1/24/10; 1/23/12; 2/3/17*]

2. Championship Departure

Departure from campus will be at the discretion of each institution. Teams will not be allowed in the competition pool until Wednesday (practice day). [*Revised 5/27/20; 5/14/14*]

3. Meet Results

Each university shall post full meet results (institutional website) from the prior week by midnight on the Monday following weekend competition. The host coach is responsible for submitting meet results to the USA Swimming Data Base by the determined deadline.

4. Video Review

The use of video review at the Championship is permitted at the host discretion per NCAA Rules. (10/11/18)

5. Championship Rules

The official NCAA Swimming and Diving rule book shall govern all technical rules, entries, event order and starting times unless otherwise noted in the Mid-American Conference Championship Manual. Where both fail to address an issue, the championship committee shall rule on the issue. There shall only be finals in all relays.

6. Championship Deck Passes

The entry form shall serve as the limitation for issuance of deck passes. Deck passes are to be used by participants to get into locker room and onto the deck area. In addition to student-athletes, deck passes should be provided to the appropriate trainers, SID personnel, officials and others as necessary. Only those with deck passes shall be admitted onto the deck or in the locker room. The deck pass should serve as a memento for the participants and should be of minimal cost.

7. Championship Trainer

The head trainer shall be responsible for all decisions governing coverage at the championship and should be at the coaches' meeting. A certified trainer shall be present for all sessions and should be in the area of the boards during all diving events. Training information should be included in the coaches' meet packet. Rubdown areas are at the discretion of the host institution. Birth date and middle initial shall be included on all entry forms.

H. Schedule/Procedures

1. Schedule of Events

The men's and women's schedule of events will follow the NCAA Championship Format, with Preliminaries beginning at 10:30am local time and Finals beginning at 6:00pm local time. [*Revised 5/27/20; 1/24/18*]

2. Clearing the Pool

The competitive pool shall be cleared at the following times each day. Additional warm-up time will be limited to other warm-up areas or a designated section of the pool.

a. 10 minutes prior to the start of preliminaries

b. 15 minutes prior to the start of finals

3. Entry Procedures

All entries must be submitted electronically via entry file forwarded by the host institution to each member institution. Entry file must be returned by the specified time, which is to be no later than one week from the start of the championship.

4. Program and Heat Sheets

Heat sheets and programs are the responsibility of the host sports information department and should be sold during each evening session. Next day heat sheets should be provided on the evening prior to the competition. Complimentary programs and heat sheets should be provided to teams and officials as necessary.

5. Team Seating

Team seating shall be around the perimeter of the pool, with spectators seating limited to seating off the main deck. Seating areas will be selected during the coaches' pre-meet meeting by order of finish at the preceding championship.

6. Time Trials

Time trials shall be held, as needed, following either the last preliminary or the last finals event of each day. Coaches must complete a time trial form if they wish to schedule time trials. These forms shall be distributed to the coaches by the Meet Director.

7. Practice Times

The host facility should be open for team practice on Wednesday through Saturday. The Meet Director shall develop a practice and warm-up schedule and send it to the coaches.

8. Scratch Procedures

Scratches are due by 6:30 p.m. in the official scratch box. If none, coaches should sign one form so noted and place it in the official scratch box located on site. Scratches are to be made by the coach or official team representative prior to the official scratch deadline.

I. Facilities/Equipment

1. The men's and women's championships shall be held at separate facilities unless otherwise approved.

2. Minimum standards for hosting a championship are eight competitive lanes, 25 yard pool with adjacent diving area, facility and pool that conforms to NCAA minimum standards, judging and timing system with a horn start, slanted starting blocks, two one-meter boards, two three-meter boards, a separate warm-up area, balcony seating for spectators, deck seating for teams and locker room or changing area for teams.

3. Recommended for hosting a championship: backstroke ledges and starting platforms with wedges for each lane.

4. Equipment necessary shall include 25 stop watches for official timers, 10 clipboards, pencils, lock for scratch box, tables and chairs, risers, standards to rope off ends of lanes, and highly recommend a primary and secondary copier on site. Note: Towels will not be provided by the host institution.

5. Hospitality

Hospitality area shall be made available for the coaches and officials. Area should be available when the pool opens and stocked with coffee, doughnuts and fruit. Student-athletes shall not be permitted in this area.

6. Scoreboard

The scoreboard shall be placed on the deck so that the results and points can be seen from the spectator area. The individual responsible for scoring at the officials' table shall be responsible for updating the scoreboard.

7. Meet Results

The host SID shall be responsible for compiling and distributing the meet results. The results shall be compiled using the meet computer program available from the swimming/diving coach. The SID, along with the Championship Director, shall be responsible for opening the scratch box each evening and shall put together the heats for the next day's events.

8. Programs and Heat Sheets

All aspects of the program and heat sheet are the responsibility of the host SID. It is suggested that 900 programs be produced and distributed as follows: 250 (teams, officials, meet management); 75 (for sale Thursday morning); 125 (for sale Thursday evening); 100 (for sale Friday morning); 125 (for sale Friday evening); 100 (for sale Saturday morning); 125 (for sale Saturday evening).

9. Swim Meet Announcer

The announcer shall be one who is familiar with swimming events and shall be secured to work all seven swimming sessions.

10.Official University Photographer

A photographer shall be allowed on the deck and his/her name shall be left at the deck door for admittance to the deck. This individual is responsible for a photo of all awards presentations and shall make available pictures for purchase by coaches and student-athletes. Official media representative photographers shall be allowed on the deck if space permits and shall enter through the deck door upon showing valid credentials. All other photographers shall not be allowed on the deck but shall be required to shoot from the balcony area. Student photographers shall be required to obtain a pass from the SID office in the arena or they will be required to pay admission.

11. Parking Passes

Each institution shall be provided with three parking passes, unless otherwise requested. These shall be included in the registration packets distributed at the coaches' meeting. Each contracted official shall be provided with one parking pass.

J. Officials

1. The following officials shall be selected, secured and paid by the host institution. The availability of these officials shall be confirmed no less than 90 days prior to championship. The host institution shall select and train all other officials in accordance with NCAA men's and women's swimming rules.

a. Swimming Head Referee (this individual must be a CSCAA-certified official)
b. Starter
c. Diving Head Referee
d. Three Assistant Referees (one with diving knowledge)

2. Officials Fees

Fees for championship officials are as follows and are to be paid by the host institution:

Head Referee	$700.00 plus lodging and institutional mileage
Starter	$525.00 plus lodging and institutional mileage
Diving Referee	$450.00 plus lodging and institutional mileage
Administrative Referee	$600.00 plus lodging and institutional mileage
Assistant Referees (4)	$525.00 plus lodging and institutional mileage

[*Revised 10/11/18*]

3. Judging Panel

The judging panel for diving will be determined according to the following guidelines: if nine coaches are present, the panel will consist of nine coaches and no official, with the three high and three low scores thrown out; if eight coaches are present, the panel will consist of eight coaches and one official, with the three high and three low scores thrown out; if seven coaches are present, the panel will consist of the seven coaches and no official, with the two high and two low scores thrown out; if six coaches are present, the panel will consist of the six coaches and one official, with the two high and two low scores thrown out; if five coaches are present, the panel will consist of the five coaches and no officials, with the single highest and lowest scores thrown out; if four coaches are present, the panel will consist of the four coaches and one official, with the single highest and lowest scores thrown out. Two officials tables with a scorekeeper shall be utilized to score diving. Each table would score separately.

Note: In the event there is an even number of coaches present, rather than adding an official, a coach maybe removed. This decision is within the Head Diving Referee's discretion only.

4. Lane Timers

One timer shall be an experienced timer and be responsible for the overall conduct of the timers. He or she may be responsible for securing sufficient timers for all swimming sessions. There shall be at least two, if not three, timers per lane. Timers shall be volunteers but should have timed previously.

Chapter XVII - Men's/Women's Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field

A. Regular Season

1. Competition Rules

All conference competition shall be governed by NCAA rules. Scoring for all meets shall be in accordance with the provisions of the NCAA Track and Field Handbook.

a. **Regular Season.** For all member universities, the Mid-American Conference indoor and outdoor seasons shall conclude with the end of the NCAA

b. Division I Track and Field Championships.

c. **Scored Meet Participation.** Club, postgraduates, ineligible student-athletes and ineligible transfers are prohibited from competing during Mid-American Conference scored meets.

2. Scheduling/Procedures

a. Event Schedule. The event and time schedule shall follow recommended schedules in the NCAA Track and Field Rules Book. Member universities may agree to adjusted time schedules.

b. Event Participation. In all events except relay races, as many participants as there are scoring places may be allowed to compete for each team. In relays, a university may be represented by only one team (unless agreed to by opposing coaches).

c. Cancellation/Forfeiture. A contracted contest, which is not held on the scheduled date and is cancelled without the mutual agreement of the athletics directors of the competing universities, shall be recorded as a forfeit by the cancelling university.

3. Weekly Performance List

All marks shall be converted in accordance with NCAA policy (including track size and hand time) via TFFRS. The performance lists shall be available to view each week via the Mid-American Conference website.

B. Meet Officials

The securing and payment of qualified and appropriate meet officials shall be the responsibility of the host university.

C. Awards – Indoor and Outdoor

1. Student-Athlete of the Week

During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference TF/XC Executive Committee shall select a Track student-athlete and a Field student-athlete of the week based on nominations submitted by member institutions. The Conference Office will begin soliciting nominations the first weekend of December for Indoor, Outdoor nominations will start after the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. When reporting results to the Conference Office, all results should already be converted using the NCAA Manual for the conversions. Executive Committee members shall rank their top three nominees, in preference order. The Mid-American Conference media relations department will assign 3 points to each #1 rank, 2 points to each #2 rank, and one point to each #3 rank. The student-athlete with the most points will be awarded the Student-Athlete of the Week honor for their specialty.

2. Most Valuable Performer

The Championship Most Valuable Performer (MVP) award is awarded to the student-athlete who accumulates the most points at the conference championship. All individual and relay events shall count towards this award (relay points shall be divided 4 ways, with an equal number of points awarded to each participating team member).

3. Most Outstanding Track and Most Outstanding Field Performer

The award, which is based on the best performance at the championship, shall be selected by the coaches online the Monday following the championships. On Tuesday, announcements will go out for these awards. Coaches shall nominate individuals from their respective team and each coach shall have one vote. The award shall be presented to the individual receiving the most votes. In the event of a tie, coaches shall re-vote on the tied student-athletes.

4. Freshman of the Year

The Freshman of the Year Male and Female Track and Field student-athletes shall go to the highest point scoring freshman at the Mid-American Conference Championships. The award shall be presented at the conclusion of the championships.

5. Assistant Coach of the Year

The Track and Field Assistant Coach of the year for men and women will be selected by the coaches online the Monday following the championships. On Tuesday, announcements will go out for this award.

6. Coach of the Year

The Coach of the Year shall be selected by the coaches at the conclusion of the championship.

7. All-Conference Team

Indoor -- The 46-member All-MAC team shall consist of the first two finishers in each individual event and relays at the Mid-American Conference championships. The first team shall be limited to 23 members (including ties) and awarded to those individuals finishing first in each of the events, with the remaining honorees being named to the second team. Multiple event winners shall only be counted once. [*Revised 1/24/11*]

Outdoor -- The 54-member All-MAC team shall consist of the first two finishers in each individual event and relays at the Mid-American Conference championships. The first team shall be limited to 27 members (including ties) and awarded to those individuals finishing first in each of the events, with the remaining honorees being named to the second team. Multiple event winners shall only be counted once. [*Revised 1/24/11*]

D. Coaches' Meeting.

A business meeting of all head cross country/track and field coaches shall be conducted the first Monday in August each year, alternating via teleconference (even years) and in-person (odd years).

1. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be comprised of an athletic administrator as chairperson and three (3) head coaches, as selected by their peers/volunteer base and shall serve for staggered three-year terms. The three head coaches must be from different institutions and shall represent cross country, men's track and field and women's track and field.

The Cross Country/Track and Field executive committee shall serve in an advisory capacity for the coaches and the Conference Office regarding matters pertinent to Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field. This committee has the authority to act for the coaches' association on emergency items which may arise.

E. Conference Championship Guidelines

1. Championship Dates

Both the Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships are to be conducted two weeks prior NCAA competition. The Indoor championship will begin on the last Friday in February. The Outdoor championship will begin on Friday, two weeks prior to the NCAA Regional meets.

3. Championship Format

All teams will participate in the two-day for the Indoor and the two-day Outdoor Track and Field championship events.

4. Championship Games Committee

The Games Committee, as appointed by the Conference Office, in consultation with the league coaches at the conclusion of the Cross Country Championships, shall conduct the competition and oversee the responsibilities of all meet officials The Games Committee shall provide specialized assistance and guidance to the championship administrator and Conference Office representative when questions and problems arise during the conduct of the championship, which are not explicitly covered in either the Conference or NCAA policies.

The Games Committee shall consist of a representative cross-section of expert individuals. The committee shall consist of five (5) voting members as follows:

Games Committee Chair / Head Referee.
Running referee.
Jumps Event referee.
Throws referee.
Combined Event referee.
Meet Entries and Meet Set-Up Coordinator. *(non-voting)*

Nonvoting members shall include the Championship Administrator and Conference representative.

Payment-Indoor. Payment of the Games Committee shall be the responsibility of host institution as follows [*Adopted 1/25/2011*]:

$600 flat fee for the:	Games Committee Chair/ Head Referee
$500 flat fee/each for the:	Running Event referee
	Combined Event referee
	Jumps Event referee
	Throws Event referee
$200 flat fee:	Meet Entries and Meet Set-Up Coordinator

Payment-Outdoor. Payment of the Games Committee shall be the responsibility of host institution as follows [*Adopted 1/25/2011*]:

$850 flat fee for the:	Games Committee Chair/ Head Referee
$750 flat fee/each for the:	Running Event referee
	Combined Event referee
	Jumps Event referee
	Throws Event referee

$300 flat fee: Meet Entries and Meet Set-Up Coordinator

The host institution is also responsible for securing hotel rooms for the Games Committee.

5. Meet Officials

The securing and payment of appropriate number of meet officials shall be the responsibility of the host institution. The host institution is responsible for securing hotel rooms for the officials if needed.

Payment – Indoor and Outdoor. Payment of the Championship meet officials shall be the responsibility of the institution. $100 / day of competition (recommended, but not limited to) for the following meet officials: Starters (2), Clerks of Course (2), Head Judge – Throws (2, includes the Inspector of Implements), Head Judge – Horizontal Jumps (1), and Head Judge- Vertical Jumps (2)

Every effort shall be made to secure meet officials from the local or regional areas. Additional volunteers shall be secured to assist and assure adequate support staffing of the events.

6. Championship Coaches Meeting

All head coaches are required to attend a meeting prior to the Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships, the night prior to competition to discuss pertinent championship-related matters.

7. Team Seating

The Championship Administrator shall identify seating for student-athletes and coaches. Ideally, this area should be separate from the spectator section.

F. Rules

1. Student-Athlete Conduct

Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in disqualification at the time of infraction without warning by the meet referees. The head coach is to be notified about such disqualification.

2. Protest

There shall be a designated protest table/area for coaches to pick up and/or submit their protest forms during the championship. Protest forms shall be made available to the coaches via the coaches' packet or at designated protest table/area. All protests must be made in writing to the referee and shall be entered and managed as codified in the NCAA Track and Field Rule Book. Official pictures/video footage under protest may be viewed only by the fully automatic timing device official and the head referee. The games committee and the coach involved in the protest may view the pictures with the referee's consent. As part of the protest process, the decision of the referee may be appealed through the Games Committee in writing not later than 30 minutes after the decision of the referee has been announced. There is a $50.00 (cash only) protest fee. If the protest is upheld the protesting institution would receive the $50.00 fee back. If protest is not upheld the $50.00 fee would go to the conference office to be used towards the championship shared cost fund.

3. Ties

Ties in team and individual competition at the championship shall stand, with the exception of ties in the field events. Championship management shall refer to the NCAA Track and Field Rule Book for the method of separating ties in the field events. Duplicate awards will be ordered by the Conference Office to accommodate all ties. The Championship Administrator shall inform the Conference Office of any additional awards needed.

4. Travel Squad & Travel Party

For the Indoor and Outdoor track and field championships, each team shall be limited to thirty (30) student-athletes. There is no travel party limit.

5. Credentials – Coaches

For the Indoor and Outdoor track and field championships credentials shall be distributed as follows:

Combined Gender programs: Six (6) Head/Assistant Coaches and up to six (6) volunteer coaches (maximum)

Single Gender programs: Three (3) Head/Assistant Coaches and up to three (3) volunteer coaches (maximum)

Credentialed coaches are permitted in designated coaching boxes/areas where they have a student-athlete(s) competing.

G. Championship Qualifying Standards and Entry Procedures

Student-athletes may qualify for the Mid-American Conference Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships by either meeting the "automatic" performance standard and/or fall within the descending-order list to fill the field. *[Adopted 2/2012]*

1. Automatic Performance Standard.

Automatic performance standards shall be determined from the 5-year average, 8th best performance mark for the women and the 6th best performance mark for the men, in each event, from the final Conference ranking/performance list (through the Mid-American Conference Championships) and approved by the Track and Field coaches committee each year. Qualifying standards shall be on a two-year cycle.

2. Event Field Size

a. Women (Indoor and Outdoor). Event fields for the women's indoor and outdoor track and field championships will be limited to 20 student-athletes per event, unless the number of declared student-athletes exceeds 20. If the number of declared automatic qualifiers does not exceed 20 in an event, the field will be filled out to a total of 20 student-athletes per event based on the descending order list* of remaining declared student-athletes.

b. Men (Indoor). Event fields for the men's indoor track and field championship will be limited to 14 student-athletes per event, unless the number of declared automatic qualifiers exceeds 14. If the number of declared automatic qualifiers does not exceed 14 in an event, the field will be filled out to a total of 14 student-athletes per event based on the descending order list of the remaining declared student-athletes.

c. Men (Outdoor). Event fields for the men's outdoor track and field championship will be limited to 16 student-athletes per event, unless the number of declared automatic qualifiers exceeds 16. If the number of declared automatic qualifiers does not exceed 16 in an event, the field will be filled out to a total of 16 student-athletes per event based on the descending order list of the remaining declared student-athletes.

Note: In the event the number of automatic qualifiers exceeds the abovementioned field size limits, all declared student-athletes may be entered, and shall compete in that event.

3. **Tie-Breaker Procedure – Performance Marks** Any descending-order list ties, by mark, to be accepted, will be resolved by the examining of those tied, the second best valid qualifying meet performance submitted during the season, and so on until there is no basis for a mark comparison.

   For a tie not resolved after all available mark comparisons, acceptance will be awarded to the competitor who achieved the original tying mark later in the season.

   For a tie still not resolved, acceptance will be awarded to the competitor who achieved the second best valid qualifying meet performance later in the season, and so on until there is no basis for date comparison. As a last resort, the tie for the last qualifying position will be decided by the toss of a coin.

H. Conference Championship Entry Procedures / Schedule

1. Entry Procedures

a. Teams may submit entries beginning on Thursday, prior to the week of the championship week. Final declarations shall be submitted via Direct Athletics by 12:00 noon (local time of the host site) on Monday (Indoor and Outdoor), the week of the championship. Teams must notify Conference Office and the Games Committee chair, no later than 10:00 a.m. (local time of the host site) Tuesday morning, if a student-athlete may not be able to compete due to injury, illness or change in eligibility status. Declarations will be forwarded to the head coaches by the Conference Office via email and will be made available for teams to view on the Mid-American Conference website after the deadline on Tuesday. Coaches shall be notified as soon as the information is available for review.

b. The Games Committee Chair in consultation with the Conference Office and Championship Administrator shall be responsible for setting up the meet. Heats and flights will be drawn in accordance with NCAA rules unless otherwise noted in the Mid-American Conference Championship Manual. Performances shall be listed on the official Mid-American Conference weekly listing. Those not listed shall be noted as no performance.

c. The final entries will be put in order by event, with the best performance first, etc. Like performances will be drawn by lot and returned to the proper place in order. All hand times will be converted to automated times by adding 0.24 for all events. All performances shall be converted by using the NCAA qualifying standards. All field entries must be in metric. First-round heats shall be seeded according to the Mid-American Conference performance lists.

e. Each team's Official Travel Party roster (limit 30), MUST be submitted directly to the Conference Office via fax or email at this time as well.

f. After the declaration has closed, a copy of the final declaration and heating will be made available for review by the Mid-American Conference coaches.

g. All marks in the 100m, 200m, 110H; Long Jump and Triple Jump must include the wind readings, and no marks over 4.0 mps are eligible for NCAA and Conference rankings, or seed times for the Mid-American Conference championships.

Coaches shall have documented evidence of performance from official meet results if challenged. Times from relay leg splits shall not be considered for seeding purposes.

h. Entries are limited to three (3) participants per event. Each university is limited to only one relay team per relay event.

3. Scratch Procedures

Student-athletes 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 the infraction stand. If a runner scratches from an event, that student-athlete is scratched from the entire championship. However, a student-athlete barred for scratching or dropped out because of an injury or illness may return to the competition if the meet physician substantiates the ailment and subsequent recovery. This must be reported to the Referee.

4. Honest Effort Rule Clarification

The honest effort rules as prescribed by the NCAA Track and Field Rules manual shall be in effect, unless otherwise modified per Mid-American Conference regulations. Note: The removal of a student-athlete from the list of competitors without scratching the student-athlete from the entire meet is permissible, when a physician certifies the student-athlete is physically fit to compete in certain events, but not others. The physician's certification must occur after declarations have been made, prior to the start of the event.

5. Multiple Competitors

If a competitor in the field events is competing in another event, permission may be granted to take preliminary trials out of the official order. In the finals, competitors must compete in order. A competitor missing his or her turn forfeits that turn.

6. Order of Events

In Indoor and Outdoor track and field, the order of contesting men's and women's events shall reverse each year. Each year the order of the men's and women's field events shall switch dates and times -- in even years for Indoor and in odd years for Outdoor. The schedule may vary due to facility restrictions. As the NCAA Indoor Championship adds events, the same shall be added to the Mid-American Conference Championship.

7. Event Schedule – Indoor

The Indoor track and field championships shall be a two-day meet. Preliminary rounds shall be run on Friday, with some finals on Friday. Remaining finals should be run on Saturday. A time schedule shall be provided by the host university and should be in accordance with the same format each year. All changes to this schedule must be approved by Games Committee, in conjunction with the Track and Field executive committee and the Conference liaison.

Combined Events. The event order shall be in accordance with the NCAA Order of Events. The Heptathlon / Pentathlon shall be conducted as follows with there being set times for the 800 Hep/Pent., 1,000 Dec (Indoor) and 1,500 Dec (Outdoor):

	Day One	**Day Two**
Heptathlon:	60-Meter Dash	60-Meter High Hurdles
	Long Jump	Pole Vault
	Shot Put	1,000 Meters
	High Jump	

Pentathlon:	60-Meter Hurdles
	High Jump
	Shot Put
	Long Jump
	800 Meters

8. Event Schedule – Outdoor

The Outdoor track and field championships shall be a two-day meet. A time schedule shall be provided by the host university and should be in accordance with the same format each year. All changes to this schedule must be approved by the Games Committee, in conjunction with the Track and Field executive committee and the Conference liaison.

Combined Events. The event order shall be in accordance with the NCAA Order of Events. The Heptathlon / Pentathlon shall be conducted as follows with there being set times for the 800 Hep/Pent., 1,000 Dec (Indoor) and 1,500 Dec (Outdoor):

	Day One	**Day Two**
Heptathlon:	100 Meters Hurdles	Long Jump
	High Jump	Javelin
	Shot Put	800 Meters
	200 Meter	
Decathlon:	100 Meters	110-Meter Hurdles
	Long Jump	Discus
	High Jump	Pole Vault
	Shot Put	Javelin
	400 Meters	1,500 Meters

The time interval between events will be determined by the Games Committee. A minimum of 30 minutes is permitted each competitor between events.

9. In-Field Area

Coaches will not be permitted on the in-field of the track during the Mid-American Conference Indoor/Outdoor Track and Field championships, except during multi-event competition and in designated coach's boxes, unless otherwise noted.

10. Championship Meet Set-Up: Event Heats, Flights and Qualifying Procedures

Qualifying procedures shall follow the rules prescribed by the NCAA Track and Field rules manual unless otherwise noted in the Conference regulations.

Wind Direction (Outdoor). Every effort shall be made by the host institution to conduct the following event with the wind (based on facility restrictions): combined events, 200-meter, high hurdles, 100-meter hurdles, 100-meter, horizontal jumps and the pole vault. The direction of all other running events and field events will be determined by the Games Committee at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of competition and once determined, will stand for that event.

11. Heat and Lane Assignments

Heat and lane assignments will be established using the NCAA Track and Field Guide. If heats or sections scratch down with less than the number required

to advance to the next round, they shall be redrawn. In the preliminary trials, the heats will fall as drawn without consideration for teammates in the same heat.

12. Qualifying

Whenever possible, not less than two (2) qualifiers shall advance from each heat when qualifying by place. When qualifying by time, all places will be timed.

13. Direct Final Events

In races with direct finals (mile, 3000, 3000 steeplechase, 5,000 and 10,000), hip number and starting position assignments shall be made according to seed marks. The top twelve (12) seed marks shall be guaranteed a front-line starting position but may be separated into different alleys. [*Adopted 8/9/2010*]

14. Results

During the competition, meet results shall be posted after each event and in a place or places where results may easily be viewed by the coaches, student-athletes and spectators. Adequate staff shall be provided in the press area to allow for expedient preparation of the championship results. Copies of the results shall be made available to the coaches and any media as soon as possible after the championship.

15. Scoring

Per NCAA rules, the championship shall be scored the following:
Indoor: Women 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 Men 10-8-6-4-2-1
Outdoor: Women 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 Men 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1

Scoring shall be the same for individual and relay events.

H. Facilities/Equipment

1. Facilities

a. The running track, competitive area and competitive equipment at the championship site shall meet NCAA specifications.

b. In the head coaches' preliminary information packet, the Championship Administrator shall include the lengths of the long jump runway, the triple jump runway, the high jump runway (from both sides), and the pole vault runway.

c. The facility shall be available for practice by 3 pm on the Thursday prior to the start of the championship.

d. Provide access to a varsity weight room facility shall be made available for participating teams.

e. The following equipment shall be provided by the host university:

<u>Facility and Championship Provisions</u>

1. At least two fully automatic timing (FAT) systems, independent of one another.

An Additional [third] camera (1) must be dedicated to the running events as an "official" camera at the championship to back up calls made by umpires. [This camera cannot be used to DQ an individual] [*Approved 8/2012]*

2. Two (2) pits (preferred), standards and cross bars for pole vault and high jump that meet NCAA specifications.

3. Field event performance indicator boards

4. Race equipment for all teams and all lanes (i.e., starting blocks, hurdles)

5. Three-level awards platform (prefer 8)

6. Measuring instrument for determining high jump and pole vault heights, as well as a stepladder for or measuring instrument that can measure from the runway

7. Visual lap counter

8. Scoreboard to display the scores of all universities

9. Visible clock to display race times (may be portable)

10. Timing lights or stop watches for field events

11. Minimum of two (2) wind gauges (Outdoor)

12. Digital video system for horizontal jump boards.

Judges and Officials' Equipment

1. Sufficient stop watches

2. Two 100-meter, 50-meter and 30-meter measuring tapes (must show feet and metric)

3. Fifteen (15) Flags for umpires and field event judges

4. Adequate platforms (judges' stand, timers' stand, FAT timers, starter's platform)

5. Protest table with accompanying official

6. Headquarters area for championship referee

7. Site for weigh-ins and essential equipment to conduct weighing and checking of implements for the shot put

8. Ten (10) for Indoor; Twenty (20) for outdoor -- Clipboards for officials

9. Three (3) starting pistols and shells, unless provided by starter

10. Walkie-talkies for championship officials

2. Timing Systems

a. Fully automatic timing (FAT) will provide the official results for all track events. A backup fully automatic timing system must be utilized during the Championship. Times shall be recorded officially to the 1/100th of a second. There shall be one fully automatic timing camera. (Note: Equipment may be borrowed if the host university does not own one).

b. Official pictures under protest may be viewed only by the fully automatic timing device official and the head referee. The games committee and the coach involved in the protest may view the pictures with the referee's consent.

c. If there are multiple equipment failures, the manual timing and judging will then be official.

i. When FAT is used, the results must be recorded in 1/100 seconds.

ii. When manual timing is used, times must be rounded to the slower 1/10 of a second. It is recommended that manual timing be accomplished with watches which record only the 1/10 second (1/100 manual watches are not recommended).

iii. Final results must indicate the method of timing and should indicate the wind velocity after each recorded race. These results should indicate wind velocity in miles per hour or in meters.

iv. If manual time is used for one heat (against time), it must be used for all heats in that event. If there is a tie with the manual times and there are electronic times (FAT) for those involved, it shall be used to determine the student-athlete to advance in the competition.

v. The host university shall be required to have two-inch black squares at the intersections of the lane lines and finish lines to aid in the use of the electronic timing system.

3. Inclement Weather Policy – Outdoor

In the event of severe weather, participants and spectators will take shelter in their vehicles depending on the type of emergency. Participants and spectators should follow directions of Championship Staff.

The following policy shall be adhered to should inclement weather delay or interrupt competition.

a. With the possibility of any severe weather an online lightning detection and weather monitoring system will be used. Once lightning enters the 30-mile radius of competition, preparations to protect the student-athletes and spectators will take place. Once lightning enters within an eight-mile radius of our site, competition must stop, and student-athletes and spectators will be moved to safe areas. We will not begin any activity until 30 minutes have passed since the last lightning strike inside the warning ring.

b. In the event, inclement weather is possible the games committee can proactively move the time schedule up or back on any day of competition. Appropriate time should be given for student-athlete warmup in the event of any schedule changes. If delays occur during competition, the games committee and head trainer should proactively make this decision as to not stop running events mid race or at a point as to not separate heats in the same event.

c. In the event of predicted inclement weather on the first day of competition (Friday), the Games Committee will make the initial decision

to delay the start of competition by two (2) hours. After a two-hour delay, a decision is made whether to delay again or move the entire (or remainder) meet to Saturday. If moved to Saturday, the meet schedule will be adjusted to complete the championships.

d. If weather presents no problems on Friday, BUT is predicted to be inclement on Saturday, the Games Committee will make the decision to delay the start of competition by two (2) hours. After a two-hour delay, a decision shall be made by the Games Committee on how to move forward with the championships.

e. If weather conditions persist and has prevented one or more of the Championship Days to be contested, as a last resort, a condensed meet will be conducted with finals against time and field events contested based on a schedule created by the Games Committee. A situation necessitating the cancellation of the meet will be the sole responsibility of the Games Committee and the Conference office. Every effort will be made to complete the Championship.

4. Uniforms

Student-athletes shall wear school-issued team uniforms. If a student-athlete violates this rule, the referee shall give one warning to both the head coach and the student-athlete. If the correction is not made, the championship referee shall disqualify the student-athlete in violation and the student-athlete will be disqualified from all remaining events. Any points scored by the student-athlete prior to his or her disqualification shall stand. The following numbering system has been assigned to each team.

Team	Women's Numbers	Men's Numbers
Akron	1 - 50	1001-1050
Ball State	51 - 100	NA
Bowling Green	101 - 150	NA
Buffalo	151 - 200	1051-1100
Central Michigan	201 - 250	NA
Eastern Michigan	251 - 300	1101-1150
Kent	301 - 350	1151-1200
Miami	351 - 400	1201-1250 (Outdoor)
Northern Illinois	401 - 450	NA
Ohio	451 - 500	NA
Toledo	501 - 550	NA
Western Michigan	551 - 600	NA

I. Officials

1. The Championship Administrator and host coach shall be responsible for securing a sufficient number of qualified officials to adequately staff the championship. These officials shall include a head starter, assistant starter, two (2) Clerk of Course, two (2) finish line judges, (1-2) runners (volunteers to run the meet results), four (4) umpires, a field judge for each event and separate combined event crews (one for men and one for women). It is recommended that a minimum of four additional assistants be secured for each measured field event, and four (4) additional assistants be secured for the high jump and pole vault. (Duties of the event management staff are outlined in the NCAA Track and Field Rule Book.)

a. The host university is responsible for the quality and appropriate training of officials. Coaches and eligible or ineligible members of the host's track & field teams who serve as meet volunteers at the championship shall be prohibited from holding positions of authority (e.g., determine marks or places). It is recommended that a training meeting be held prior to the first day of competition.

b. The host university is responsible for providing a list of the meet officials (starters, clerk of course, finish judges, head umpires, and field judges).

c. The host university shall be responsible for compensating any officials it deems appropriate (i.e., starter, referee) in accordance with the Conference regulations where applicable.

d. All volunteers shall report 60 minutes prior to the start of the championship to the head official of their respective event for final instructions.

e. Any questions or concerns regarding the officials shall be directed to the Games Committee, not the coaches. The referee's decisions will be final. If there is a protest, the referee's decision may be appealed to the Games Committee, which may overrule the referee's decision.

Chapter XVIII - Volleyball

A. Core Sport Recommendations

1. Scheduling

a. That each Institution attempt to abide by the tiered scheduling recommendations provided by the conference office each year.
b. The Conference Office will produce and distribute a Scheduling Packet to assist teams with strategic scheduling (tiered scheduling model).
c. The Conference Office will also create a Scheduling Calendar (included in the Scheduling Packet) which will outline a timeline associated with strategic planning initiatives (tiered scheduling model).
d. Coaches will provide a home non-conference schedule to the conference office that includes a note on each game about how they got that game (return, $, etc.) as future schedules are collected within the strategic scheduling timeline. Include as a topic at the annual head coaches meeting.
e. The conference office will annually collect, organize and share data on home and away match guarantees, travel costs, etc. in effort to identify a baseline of "what it costs" to host home matches and tournaments. Future consideration will be given to the development of home match minimums or guarantee pools. [*Revised 5/30/19*]

2. Staffing

f. That each Institution sign Head Coaches to multi-year contracts. Contracts need not be guaranteed. Number of years is at the discretion of the Institution.
g. That each Institution staff two (2) full-time Assistant Coaches.
h. That each Institution provide one full-time (1) certified athletic trainer to women's volleyball that also travels with the team.
i. Institutions are encouraged to provide staff support levels which reflects competitive success and enhance the student-athlete experience. [*Revised 5/30/19*]

3. Scholarships

j. That all Mid-American Conference Volleyball Programs operate at full scholarship levels.
k. That any In-State vs. Out-of-State Scholarship requirements be allocated at a percentage equivalent to all Mid-American Conference Priority Sports.

4. Marketing

l. Institutions are encouraged to produce all eight (8) home conference volleyball matches for ESPN digital platforms. If any home conference matches are unable to be produced due to conflicts (e.g., home football), institutions are encouraged to produce a non-conference home match as a substitution.
m. The conference office will continue existing promotional efforts behind Thursday Night Volleyball Matches and will add weekly previews of upcoming Thursday Night Matches. In addition, the conference office will create an annual pre-season Volleyball video and will engage head coaches in the process/production.
n. That each Institution submit a women's volleyball marketing plan to the Conference Office prior to each season, to be shared with the full membership as a best practice.
o. Institutions are encouraged to provide in game entertainment at home volleyball matches that will enhance the game day atmosphere (e.g., pep band, DJ, or other similar enhancements). [*Revised 5/30/19*]

B. Regular Season

1. Rules

a. All conference competition shall be governed by NCAA rules.

b. The host university shall provide sixty (60) complimentary reserved tickets for the visiting team. [*Revised 1/29/14*]

2. Scheduling/Procedures

a. Conference play shall consist of a 16-match league schedule over an eight-week period. Scheduling shall be done by the Conference Office. Standard days of competition will be Friday and Saturday, with the exception of weekends in which a team faces its travel partner. In weekends in which a team faces its travel partner, standard days of competition will be Thursday and Saturday, however, competition may be scheduled for Friday and Saturday upon mutual agreement.

b. Member institutions may schedule only NCAA Division I opponents for official 3-out-of-5 matches. All tournaments in which Mid-American Conference teams participate must be hosted by an NCAA Division I team (excluding exempted events).

c. Once scheduled, dates for conference matches may not be changed, except for unavoidable circumstances. Any change in a playing date must be mutually agreed to by both institutions and forwarded to the Conference Office for review and approval.

d. Changes in match times, once set, must be communicated to the opposing team's head coach and sports information director, and the Conference Office.

e. No Saturday Mid-American Conference matches may begin prior to 4:00 p.m. or after 8:00 p.m. local time. Institutions seeking to schedule Saturday matches outside of this timeframe must request a waiver from the Conference Office indicating a conflict that requires another match time. [*Revised 1/25/17*]

f. On Court Promotions: On-court promotions may occur between sets 1 & 2, 3 & 4, and 4 & 5 until 30 seconds remain on the clock. On-court promotions may occur during the 5-minute intermission between sets 2 and 3 in all conference matches until the 1-minute mark at which time teams will return to the court. Promotions will be held on either the entire court or the home team court only, at the discretion of the host event management.

The 5-minute intermission clock will be stopped for a maximum of 30 seconds in a televised or live streamed match when a head coach is stopped for an interview.

Practice balls and carts must be available on the court with 1-minute remaining at the 5-minute intermission.

[*Revised 7/16/18; 5/31/18*]

g. Bands: Home Team Bands may not be seated directly behind or next to the visiting team bench. A buffer zone must exist between bands and team benches (e.g., court, etc.). [*6/2/11*]

h. Team Introductions: Introductions shall be limited to the starters for conference matches.

i. Team Practices: The visiting team's coach shall request in writing, one month prior to the scheduled match, a minimum one-hour block of time for practice. On match day, both home and visiting practices will be closed.

For Friday matches, the visiting team practice will be scheduled on the main competition court beginning at 9am and ending at 3pm on the day of the match and either 5:00 p.m. - 5:30p.m. or 5:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. based upon a 7:00 p.m. start.

For Saturday matches, the visiting team practice will be scheduled on the main competition court beginning at 10am and ending at 3pm on the day of the match and either 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. based upon a 7:00 p.m. start. [*Revised 1/29/13*]

Standardized items for practice include 50 balls, properly inflated, of the same brand and type as being used in the match to the best of the institution's ability and a minimum of 3 ball carts.

Each team will be allowed 1/2 hour for a closed team pass and serve practice between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. (based on a 7:00 p.m. start). The home team will have the right to select the order of practice.

Floor conditions and lighting for all practices, including match warm-up, shall reflect floor conditions and lighting to be used during actual match conditions. (i.e., Basketball Hoops may not be raised) [*Revised 1/29/14*]

j. Athletic trainer(s) should make contact with cohorts at host/incoming institutions to discuss specific needs for both the event and any visitor practices, particularly if there is a special need. Should a visiting team be practicing at the site of a contest, a host (student or staff) should be on site.

3. Travel Squad

There is no travel squad limitation for Mid-American Conference competition. [*Revised 10/14/19; 6/1/16*]

4. Facilities/Equipment

The host university may select any ball approved by the NCAA/NAGWS for regular-season matches. The Mid-American Conference recommends Molten Volleyballs for league play. Each school shall exchange facility contacts via e-mail by August 1 to make practice arrangements.

5. Match Protocol

The following match protocol shall be adhered to for all conference matches.

Time Allotted	Actual Time	Visible Clock	Protocol
:41	6:00 - 6:41	:60 - :19	Court available for shared warm-up
	6:30	:30	Coin toss
:04	6:41 - 6:45	:19 - :15	Visiting team court
:04	6:45 - 6:49	:15 - :11	Home team court
:05	6:49 - 6:54	:11 - :06	Visiting team court
:05	6:54 - 6:59	:06 - :01	Home team court
:01	6:59 - 7:00	:01 - :00	Team huddle / Announcements
:03	7:00 - 7:03	:00	National Anthem
:03	7:03 - 7:06	:00	Prematch Promotions & Team Introductions
	7:06	:00	Match Begins [*Revised 1/29/14*]

6. Time Outs

All timeouts during conference Regular Season and Mid-American Conference Tournament matches shall be 75-seconds in length unless 90 seconds are requested by media. [*Revised 1/24/18; 1/27/16; 1/24/10*]

C. Divisional Champions / Regular-Season Champion

1. The divisional championship shall be decided on overall conference winning percentage. If two or more teams are tied for the championship, they shall be considered co-champions.

2. The team with the best overall conference winning percentage shall be declared the Mid-American Conference Champion. If two or more teams are tied for the championship, they shall be considered co-champions.

D. Scouting/Exchange of Information

1. Due to legislative action, Division I coaches in all sports are prohibited from live scouting of future opponents. [*Revised 7/1/13*]

2. Mid-American Conference Volleyball will operate under an open exchange policy through VolleyMetrics. All provisions herein apply to both Conference and Non-Conference matches.

3. All Member Institutions will make all match tape available (both Conference and Non-Conference) to all member Institutions at all times.

4. Teams are prohibited from downloading until their own matches are appropriately and fully uploaded.

5. Uploading

Home Non-Conference Matches will be uploaded by VolleyMetrics at the conclusion of the match. The home team must upload scoresheets, individual set box scores, match box score (final totals), and match play-by-play immediately after the conclusion of the match (same day).

Visiting Non-Conference Matches completed Thursday through Sunday are to be uploaded (video and scoresheet) by 1:00 PM EST the following Monday. Visiting non-conference matches completed Monday through Wednesday are to be uploaded (video and scoresheet) by 1:00 PM EST the following day (e.g. a Wednesday match must be uploaded by 1:00 PM EST Thursday). The visiting team must upload scoresheets, individual set box scores, match box score (final

totals), and match play-by-play immediately after the conclusion of the match (same day).

a. Exception. In the event that Monday is a National Holiday, uploading of matches shall be completed by 1:00 PM EST the next day (Tuesday) (e.g. Labor Day).

Home Conference Matches will be uploaded by VolleyMetrics at the conclusion of the match. The home team must upload scoresheets, individual set box scores, match box score (final totals), and match play-by-play immediately after the conclusion of the match (same day). Additionally, the home team must record a backup video that must be uploaded to VolleyMetrics by 2:00 PM EST the following day in the event that the primary video (managed by VolleyMetrics) fails. The visiting team is not required to tape or post video.

6. Downloading

All Conference Matches will be available for download as soon as posted.

[*Revised 1/24/18; 1/25/17; 8/5/15; 8/28/14*]

7. Tape Exchange Video Guidelines

a. Each match locker shall contain the following:

1. Match Videotape
2. ScoreSheets
3. Individual Set Box Scores
4. Match Box Score (Final Totals)
5. Match play-by-play

d. Match Videotape shall be posted in MP4 Format and shall be kept in a digital format throughout the video upload process, from camera to posting. [*Revised 8/5/15; 8/28/14; 1/23/12*]

8. Institutions are to videotape from an end line view (home team end line if possible) with players' numbers clearly visible (zoom in as much as possible) and with the opposite end line visible through the net. Best efforts should be made to ensure the net is in the center of the screen and that the near end line and top of the set are visible. [*Revised 8/5/15*]

9. Uploaded videotape must include all sets of a match and should not include sound. Additionally, matches are to be unedited, without pause for timeouts, and all screen items are to be removed. [*Revised 8/5/15; 1/25/11*]

10. Releasing scouting information on member institutions to non-conference institutions is prohibited at any time.

Exception: Conference Matches may be released to non-conference opponents after the conclusion of the Mid-American Conference Tournament, so long as permission is granted by the Mid-American Conference opponent. [*1/25/11*]

E. Officials (see Officiating Manual)

1. Two officials for all conference and home non-conference matches (including tournaments) shall be assigned and approved by the Commissioner or his designated representative. The host university shall be responsible for payment of these officials. Officials shall receive $320 per match (conference and non-conference). For additional matches worked on the same day, the fee shall be

$220 per additional same-day match. [*Revised 5/1/20; 10/14/15; 1/29/13; 2/10/10*]

2. Game operations personnel of the host university are responsible for supplying two-line judges, a PAVO trained scorer (annual training) and a scoreboard operator. The three-ball system will be used. It is required that line judges wear the uniform as designated by PAVO/NCAA.

3. All Line Judges will be PAVO Line Judge certified for all matches and may not be undergraduate students or affiliated with the institution's volleyball program. Line Judges shall receive a minimum of $80 per match. [*Revised 10/15/19; 1/25/17; 1/28/15; 10/1/11*]

[Note: For purposes of this rule the term "affiliated" shall apply to any person that is a staff member within the department of athletics.]

4. Scorers shall be certified, trained and approved by an official selected by the supervisor of officials at the earliest opportunity prior to the start of the Mid-American Conference season. Certified scorers shall receive a minimum of $50 per match.

5. Officials should be on site one hour prior to the match and on court 45 minutes prior to the match. The first referee shall lead a debriefing following each match that shall include both referees, the scorer, assistant and line judges in a non-public area.

6. Each university shall submit area hotel listings to the coordinator of officials, who will in turn submit this information to referees assigned to the respective university. Officials are to make their own reservations. Each university will annually designate a contact person should the official be unavailable to secure a room.

[Note: The membership will not be expected to attempt to secure rooms due to the lack of advance planning by referees.]

7. Officials Services
One meal and beverages are to be provided to all Match Officials, including Line Judges. [*5/19/11*]

F. Protest Procedure

1. Conference Matches
Protests must be made prior to the whistle for the next serve. A protest of the last point of a set must be lodged within the first 60-seconds of the timed interval between sets, if there is another set to be played. A protest of the final point of the match must be lodged before the referees leave the playing area.

a. Officials must accept protests unless there is no question that the decision is based on judgment. If there is any doubt, officials should accept the protest.

b. A protest is normally entered by the captain. If the coach wants to enter the protest, this is also allowed.

c. After the protest is entered, a call must be made to Marcia Alterman (316-721-2866). The final resolution of the protest will be made at this time. If the protest is upheld, the match will recommence at the point of the protest with the appropriate call. If it is not possible to contact Marcia

Alterman, the match will be played to completion. If a protest is upheld after the completion of a match, the Conference Office will determine whether to replay the match. If the protesting team loses the set in which the protest was lodged but still wins the match, and the NCAA rules interpreter upholds the protest, the sets won and lost will be adjusted as if that set had not been played. [*Revised 1/28/15*]

d. The first official should contact Marcia Alterman as soon as possible after the match and explain the circumstances of the protest.

2. Non-Conference Matches

Points 1 through 3 above should be followed.

After the protest is entered, the match is completed. If the coach still wants to follow the protest procedure, a copy of the score sheet with the write-up of the protest must be sent to Anne Pufahl, NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor (email: rules.director@pavo.org). The decision to replay a match in which a protest is upheld falls to the two schools that are involved. No protests are allowed over scoring errors.

G. Instant Replay (CRS)

1. Regular Season

The use of instant replay (CRS) is required for regular season match play. No minimum standards shall be required however institutions should reference the Mid-American Conference Volleyball Instant Replay Best Practices Guide. [*Revised 5/31/18; 1/25/17*]

2. Conference Championship

The use of instant replay (CRS) is required at the conference championship. [*1/25/17*]

H. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X)

1. Pre-Season All-MAC Team

A 12-member Pre-Season All-MAC Team (6 members from the East Division & 6 members from the West Division) will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department prior to the beginning of the season. [*Revised 5/30/19; 1/25/17*]

2. Players of the Week

During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference Head Coaches (all 12) shall select an Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week, and a Setter of the Week from both the East Division and West Division (six award winners per week) based on nominations submitted by member institutions. 6/2 Setter pairings will be eligible for Setter of the Week honors. Ballots will be sent to Head Coaches by the Conference Office no later than 12noonEST each Monday, and Ballots (with votes) will be due back to the Conference Office Monday afternoon at 3pmEST. [*Revised 1/24/18; 1/29/13*]

3. All-MAC Team

The 6-member All-MAC 1st Team and 6-member All-MAC 2nd Team selection will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches. To qualify for All-MAC consideration, a player must compete in a minimum of 50% of a team's sets. Coaches shall nominate players from their team, in rank order. Nominations (unlimited number) must be submitted to the Conference Office by the Tuesday preceding the final matches of the season. The Conference Office will generate and fax a ballot (including complete conference-only statistics, through the end of the

season, for each nominee) to the coaches. Non-conference matches will not be included on the All-MAC Ballot. [*Revised 5/30/19; 5/27/15*]

The ballot shall be sent to the coaches on the Sunday preceding tournament week and coaches shall return their ballots by 9am on Tuesday of tournament week. Each coach must vote for twenty-four players and coaches may not vote for their own players. The top twelve vote-getters (including ties) will be named to the first team and the next six will be named to the honorable mention team. In the event of a tie, each student-athlete will receive that respective award. [Note: Final vote tabulations will be distributed to the coaches after collected and tallied but prior to the public release.] [*Revised 5/30/19; 1/24/18; 1/25/11*]

4. All-Freshman Team

The All-Freshman Team will consist of at least six (6) persons and will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference Media Relations department and selected by the coaches.

a. Initial Selection Process

Any Freshman named to the All-MAC 1st or Honorable Mention Team will automatically be placed on the All-Freshman Team. If more than six (6) Freshman are named to the All-MAC 1st and Honorable Mention Teams, then All-Freshman Team slots will be added to ensure that any Freshman on the All-MAC Team also appears on the All-Freshman Team. (I.E., if seven Freshman appear on the All-MAC 1st and Honorable Mention Teams, then the All-Freshman Team will consist of those seven Freshmen)

If less than six (6) Freshman appear on the All-MAC 1st and Honorable Mention Teams, then the remaining All-Freshman Team slots (up to six total team members, maximum excluding ties) will be filled by selecting the highest remaining vote getters from the All-Freshman Team Ballot (separate Ballot, described below).

b. Separate All-Freshman Ballot (back-up)

Mid-American Conference Coaches shall nominate players from their team, in rank order. Nominations (unlimited number) must be submitted to the Conference Office by the Tuesday preceding the final matches of the season. The Conference Office will generate and fax a ballot (including complete statistics, through the end of the season, for each nominee) to the coaches.

The ballot shall be faxed to the coaches by on Sunday of tournament week and coaches shall return their ballots by 9am on Tuesday of tournament week. Each coach must vote for 6 players and coaches may not vote for their own players. This Ballot will be used to fill slots unfilled by All-MAC voting (Section 4.a., above).
[*Revised 5/30/19; 1/29/13*]

5. Freshman of the Year

The Freshman receiving the highest number of votes and qualifies for the All-MAC Team will be named Freshman of the Year. If no freshman is named to the All-MAC Team, then the Freshman of the Year will be the freshman receiving the highest number of votes on the All-Freshman Ballot. [*Revised 1/29/13*]

6. Player and Setter of the Year

The Player of the Year, and Setter of the Year shall be the top vote getters when the All-MAC teams are chosen. 6/2 Setter pairings will be eligible for the Setter of the Year award. [*Revised 1/24/18; 1/25/11*]

7. Coach and Defensive Player of the Year

The Coach of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year shall be selected on a separate ballot. Ballots for Defensive Player of the Year and Coach of the Year are to be received by the Conference Office by 9am the Tuesday of the Mid-American Conference Tournament week. [*Revised 1/25/17; 1/25/11*]

8. Announcements

The All-MAC team, All-Freshman team, Freshman of the Year, Setter of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, and Player of the Year shall be announced on Wednesday of the Mid-American Conference Tournament week. Coach of the Year, shall be announced on Wednesday following Mid-American Conference Tournament week. [*Revised 1/25/11*]

I. Coaches' Meeting (see appendix for meeting calendar)

The annual business meeting of the volleyball coaches shall be conducted the first or second Wednesday of January.

J. Championship Guidelines

1. Tournament Site

The Host for all rounds shall be the Institution that wins the Mid-American Conference Regular Season Championship (#1 Seed). Should that Institution be unable to host due to facility conflicts, the Host shall be the team seeded #2. [*Revised 5/15/20; 4/10/14; 1/29/13; 3/29/11*]

2. Tournament Format

The top four (4) teams as determined by conference winning percentage (MAC play only), regardless of division, will participate in the two-day tournament. The team winning the Mid-American Conference Women's Volleyball Tournament will be the conference representative to the NCAA Women's Volleyball Championship. [*Revised 5/15/20; 4/10/14; 3/29/11*]

3. Tournament Dates

The tournament shall be held over a two-day period the week/weekend prior to Thanksgiving. The Conference Office will work with all institutions to create a schedule of events based on facility availability. However, matches must take place between Thursday and Monday. Preferred days of competition are as follows:

1) Friday-Saturday
2) Saturday-Sunday
3) Thursday-Friday
4) Sunday-Monday

[*Revised 5/15/20; 4/10/14*]

4. Tournament Seeding

Teams will be seeded 1 through 4 based on conference winning percentage (MAC play only), regardless of division. Ties in the conference standings shall be broken as follows:

Two Team Tiebreaker:

1. Head-to-Head Winning Percentage
2. Head-to-Head Set Winning Percentage (i.e., sets won vs. sets lost) among the tied teams
3. Division Winning Percentage
4. Winning percentage vs. ranked conference teams (top to bottom, regardless of division; versus common opponents regardless of the number of times played)
5. Conference set winning percentage (i.e., sets won vs. sets lost) of tied teams in Mid-American Conference competition
6. Coin flip

[*Revised 1/25/17*]

Multiple (3 or more) Team Tiebreaker:

1. Total won-lost record of matches played among the tied teams (winning percentage)
2. Total Set Winning Percentage (i.e., sets won vs. sets lost) among the tied teams
3. Division Winning Percentage
4. Winning percentage vs. ranked conference teams (top to bottom, regardless of division; versus common opponents regardless of the number of times played)
5. Conference set winning percentage (i.e., sets won vs. sets lost) of tied teams in Mid-American Conference competition
6. Coin flip

[Note: If a three-team tie is reduced to two teams, the Two Team Tiebreaker goes into effect.]

* Winning percentage is used instead of record because of situations where teams do not play each other the same number of times. Therefore, a team that is 1-0 (1.000) would win the tiebreaker over a team that is 1-1 (.500).

** If the combined records of each tied team are different, the tiebreak is complete. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-1 and Team C is 1-2 then this is the order of the tiebreak.

Once only two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker is used. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-2 and Team C is 1-2 then Team A is ahead of Teams B and C and Teams B and C revert to the Two Team Tiebreaker.

5. Minimum Number of Games (Incomplete Season)

Refer to MAC Championships Manual, Section Z. [*7/2/20*]

6. Tournament Awards

As part of the championship awards listed in Mid-American Conference Bylaw X and the sport operating codes, a seven-player, all-tournament team will be selected with one of the seven being named MVP of the tournament. The coaches from the two teams losing in the semifinals will select one player from their team after the semifinal matches. The coaches whose teams advance to the finals will select two of their players for the all-tournament team following the

final match. The winning coach will also select the tournament's Most Valuable Player (final/7th member of the All-Tournament Team). [*Revised 1/25/17*]

K. Rules

1. Travel Squad/Party

The travel squad for the conference championship shall be 16 participants. There is no travel party limit. [*Revised 10/14/19*]

L. Schedule/Procedures

1. Schedule of Matches

The Conference Office will work with each institution to create a schedule of events based on venue availability. The preferred schedule of events is as follows, although days and times are subject to change. See Section J.3. for additional details.

Friday

Semifinal #1 -	No. 1 Seed vs. No. 4 Seed, 5:00pm
Semifinal #2 -	No. 2 Seed vs. No. 3 Seed, 7:30pm

Saturday

Championship -	Semifinal Winners, 5:00pm

[*Revised 5/15/20; 1/27/16; 4/10/14; 1/29/13; 3/29/11*]

2. Participant Passes

Members of each official travel party will be provided with participant passes, which will allow them entrance into the arena for all tournament matches. Twenty-two (22) such passes will be given to each team prior to the beginning of competition and are nontransferable. These passes will be distributed to participating teams at the coaches' meeting prior to the start of the tournament.

3. Post-Match Press Conferences

After a 10-minute cooling off period (10 minutes after a competing team first enters its locker room), a post-match press conference will be held at a designated area for all certified members of the media. Locker rooms will not be open to the public or media.

4. Practice Times

a. Practices shall be assigned by the Conference Office in consultation with the host institution, based on facility availability. Practices may take place the day prior to semifinals based on facility availability. Practice times will be provided to all institutions on the pre-tournament operations conference call, based on matchup. All practices will be scheduled with equal opportunity (i.e., if one team must practice off site so must its opponent). [*Revised 5/15/20; 1/25/17*]

b. For all practices, the higher seeded team will have the choice of taking either the first or second pre-match practice time slot. [*Revised 4/10/14*]

5. Operations Conference Call

A mandatory tournament operations conference call is scheduled for the Monday of Tournament Week at 9:00am and will last approximately 90 minutes. The individuals that must take part in the call include:

a. Head Volleyball Coach (or representative)
b. Sports Information Contact
c. Band Director (if there is a band presence)
d. Cheerleader/or Dance Sponsor (if there is a cheerleader presence)

e. TV Network or Streaming Representative
f. Mid-American Conference Coordinator of Volleyball Officials
g. Tournament Operations Staff
h. Medical Services Contract

[*Revised 3/29/11*]

6. Home/Visitor Team Designation

The higher seed team will be designated the home team.

7. Benches

Only players in uniforms and persons issued bench credentials shall be permitted on team benches. One hour before the start of the match, the home team will identify their team bench for the first set of the match.

8. Uniforms

For each tournament match, the higher seed of the two competing teams, shall wear light uniforms and the lower seed team shall wear dark uniforms. Teams should have both light and dark uniforms available for the tournament.

9. Pre-Match Protocol

The NCAA pre-match protocol shall be followed for the tournament (start visible countdown clock one hour prior to match time):

Time Allotted	Actual	Visible Time	Clock Protocol
:41	6:30 - 7:11	:60 - :19	Court available/shared warm-up
	7:00	:30	Coin toss
:04	7:11 - 7:15	:19 - :15	Visiting team court
:04	7:15 - 7:19	:15 - :11	Home team court
:05	7:19 - 7:24	:11 - :06	Visiting team court
:05	7:24 - 7:29	:06 - :01	Home team court
:01	7:29 - 7:30	:01 - :00	Team huddle / Announcements
	7:30	:00	Match begins with National Anthem and team introductions

10. Team Introductions

All players for each team shall be on the end line to be introduced. Teams shall be introduced in a like manner. Non-Starters and Starters listed on the Travel Squad will be introduced at every match.

M.Facilities/Equipment

1. Ball

The official ball for the tournament shall be provided by Molten.

2. Banners and Noisemakers

Banners deemed objectionable by tournament management will be removed. The use of artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or public-address systems by fans or cheerleaders is prohibited during the tournament matches.

3. Benches

Only players in uniform and persons issued bench credentials shall be permitted on team benches. The higher seeded team will be designated the home team. One hour before the start of the match, the home team will identify their team bench for the first set of the match.

4. Locker Rooms

Locker rooms will be assigned to teams by the Tournament Director. Each locker room will have refreshments. Team names will be posted on the appropriate locker room doors.

N. Officials

1. Three officials shall be assigned to the Championship. [*Revised 5/27/15; 11/1/13, 3/29/11*]

2. The Coordinator of Officials shall assign officials and line judges for all matches. Officials shall be secured as far in advance as possible. Officials shall be on site one hour prior to the tournament and on the court 45 minutes prior to each match.

3. The Coordinator of Officials, or her designee, shall be in attendance at the tournament.

4. Officials shall be paid $315 per match worked during the Tournament. Alternate Officials shall be paid $50 per match. In addition, each official shall receive round-trip mileage or airfare reimbursement, a $15 per diem and complimentary lodging. [*Revised 1/29/16, 1/30/12, 7/6/10*]

5. Line Judges shall be paid $75 per match worked and shall receive round-trip mileage or airfare reimbursement and complimentary lodging. [*Revised 1/25/17; 5/27/15; 1/30/12*]

Chapter XVI- Women's Tennis

[*revised 6/1/2020]*

A. Regular Season

1. Rules

a. All conference competition shall be governed by ITA rules. [*Revised 1/28/15; 1/15/15; 10/17/14*]

2. Scheduling/Procedures

a. Conference play shall consist of an 8-match league schedule over a four and a half-week period. Scheduling shall be done by the Conference Office. Standard days of competition will be Friday and Sunday, with the exception of weekends in which a team faces only one opponent. In weekends in which a team faces one opponent, that match will be scheduled for Saturday. The starting time for all matches is 1:00 p.m., unless agreed otherwise by the coaches (indoor court time may alter start times). [*10/11/18; ER 9/17/19*]

b. Once scheduled, Mid-American Conference Women's matches shall not be moved or rescheduled to accommodate Mid-American Conference Men's match scheduling. Men's matches shall be scheduled to begin a minimum of four (4) hours before or after any scheduled Women's match time. [*1/29/14*]

c. The host university shall be responsible for securing, and payment of, indoor court space.

d. **Regular Season Line-ups**: Each week team line-ups must be presented to the Conference Office in rank order for both singles and doubles by Tuesday 5:00 p.m. EST. Conference Office will distribute line-up to opposing coaches for that week by Tuesday evening as soon as possible. By 9:00a.m. EST Wednesday, coaches will email coach of opposing team and Conference Office with an approval or denial of the line-up. [*10/11/18*]

If a line-up is denied a challenge may be made to the Committee (remaining coaches not involved in the challenge). A teleconference will be scheduled for Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. EST with the Committee for the challenge to be presented. In case of a challenge, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The coach issuing the challenge will present the rationale for the challenge to the Committee.
2. The coach whose line-up has been challenged will present justification for the line-up to this Committee.
3. The Committee, after reviewing the statements, may question either coach.
4. In closed session at the conclusion of the call, the Committee will discuss the issue and make the decision(s). Teams will be notified of final decisions via e-mail from the Conference Office. [*Adopted 1/24/18*]

3. Travel Squad

There is no travel squad limitation for Mid-American Conference competition. [*Revised 5/30/19*]

4. Facilities/Equipment

a. Governed by ITA rules.

b. A minimum of three new yellow tennis balls will be provided for each match. For doubles matches, a minimum of four new yellow tennis balls will be provided for each match. The balls will be changed at the end of the second set. Host institutions will provide balls for all scheduled matches.

c. The host institution is responsible for music during warm-up. If the host does not provide music, there will be no music.

d. For indoor matches, spectator seating is permitted at the ends of the indoor facility between the service lines and against the walls. This spectator seating area must be set up prior to the beginning of the match. [[*Revised 1/24/10*]

B. Regular-Season Champion

The team with the best overall conference winning percentage shall be declared the Mid-American Conference Champion. If two or more teams are tied for the championship, they shall be considered co-champions.

C. Officials (see Officiating Manual)

The securing and payment of a minimum of two USTA-certified officials to arbitrate disputes shall be the responsibility of the host university. It is recommended that three officials be utilized, if possible. [*Revised 9/7/11*]

D. Awards

1. Player of the Week

During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference head coaches shall select a Singles Player of the Week and a Doubles Team of the Week based on nominations submitted by member institutions. Each institution may submit one nominee for the Singles Player of the Week and one nominee for the Doubles Team of the Week. Nominees will be placed on a ballot by the Mid-American Conference Media Relations department that will be distributed to all head coaches for voting. Coaches shall rank their top two nominees, in order of preference. The Mid-American Conference Media Relations department will then assign two points to each #1 Rank and one point to each #2 Rank. Winners will accumulate the most points. Coaches may vote for their own players. [*Revised 1/29/14*]

2. All-MAC Team

The 12-member All-MAC team will be coordinated by the Mid-American Conference media relations department and selected by the coaches based on seasonal performances. Coaches may nominate up to four players from their team. The nominations are due to the Conference Office by Monday following the completion of MAC play. The Mid-American Conference media relations department will distribute ballots to the coaches by 5 p.m. that day.

Each coach must vote for 12 players on the ballot, in rank order (1=best, 12=last). Coaches may not vote for their own players. Ballots are due from each coach by Noon on Tuesday of the championship week. The top six vote-getters (including ties) will be named to the first team, with the remaining honorees being named to the second team. See Mid-American Conference Bylaw 10.04 for procedure to break ties in the voting. [*Revised 5/19/11*]

3. Newcomer of the Year

The Newcomer of the Year award is limited to student-athletes in their first year of collegiate participation. [*Revised 1/25/17*]

4. Player and Coach of the Year

The Player of the Year and Coach of the Year will also be selected by the coaches in conjunction with the All-MAC team selection process. Based on nominations received, the Conference Office will generate a ballot to be distributed to the coaches. Coaches may nominate their players but may not vote for their own players. Coaches are to rank the top-two candidates in each award, with the top choice receiving two points and the second choice receiving one point. [*Revised 5/19/11*]

5. Sportsmanship Award

The Leann Grimes Davidge Sportsmanship Award shall be selected by the participants prior to the championship. This award is presented to the women's tennis player who has displayed outstanding sportsmanship in Mid-American Conference competition. The Conference Office shall prepare a ballot to be distributed to the coaches. Each coach shall cast one vote based on discussions with their players. [*Revised 5/19/11*]

E. Coaches' Meeting

The annual business meeting of the women's tennis coaches shall be conducted the first Wednesday in September.

F. Automatic Qualifier Seeding

Seeds shall be determined on Mid-American Conference dual-match play. All teams will be seeded with all places played out. In the event of a tie, the following tiebreaker procedure shall be followed. [*Revised 6/30/2020*]

Two Team Tiebreaker:

1. Head-to-head competition
2. Winning percentage* vs. ranked conference teams (top to bottom, regardless of division; versus common opponents, regardless of the number of times played)
3. Team points against tied teams
4. Total team points against all conference opponents
5. Total sets won
6. Total games won
6. ITA rankings

Multiple (3 or more) Team Tiebreaker:

1. Combined head-to-head record among the tied teams**
2. If or when two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker goes into effect

[Note: If a three-team tie is reduced to two teams, the Two Team Tiebreaker goes into effect.]

* Winning percentage is used instead of record because of situations where teams do not play each other the same number of times. Therefore, a team that is 1-0 (1.000) would win the tiebreaker over a team that is 1-1 (.500).

** If the combined records of each tied team are different, the tiebreak is complete. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-1 and Team C is 1-2 then this is the order of the tiebreak.

Once only two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker is used. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-2 and Team C is 1-2 then Team A is ahead of Teams B and C and Teams B and C revert to the Two Team Tiebreaker.

G. Minimum Number of Games (Incomplete Season)

Refer to MAC Championships Manual, Section Z. [*7/2/20*]

Chapter XIX - Wrestling

A. Regular Season

1. Rules

a. All conference competition shall be governed by NCAA rules.

b. Weight classes shall be the same for dual and championship meets as defined by NCAA rules.

2. Scheduling/Procedures

Each member university shall compete annually with each other member university within their East/West division (head-to-head, dual meets). [*Revised 5/27/2020; 10/9/19*]

3. Travel Squad

There is no travel squad limitation for Mid-American Conference competition. [*Revised 5/30/19; 1/29/14*]

4. Replay

Mat side replay will be utilized at all home conference dual meets per NCAA Regulations. [*1/29/13*]

5. Scales

Scales are required at all competition sites by at least one (1) hour prior to any competition. [*1/29/16*]

B. Divisional Champions

The team with the best conference divisional winning percentage shall be declared the Mid-American Conference East and West Division Champions. If two or more teams are tied for the divisional championship, they shall be considered co-champions. The Mid-American Conference East and West Division Champions trophies will be presented at the awards ceremony following the Conference Tournament.

C. Officials

A Referee shall be assigned by the Mid-American Conference Coordinator of Officials. All assignments shall be made via Blue Zebra.

Assistant Referees may be requested by the host institution but are not required.

The payment of meet officials shall be the responsibility of the host university. Officials shall be paid as follows for both non-conference and conference dual meets:

Referee: $285 (Dual Meet) plus $15 per day per diem, mileage (round trip at institutional rate) or airfare reimbursement and lodging (if needed) $150 fee for an additional same day match.

Assistant Referee (if requested): $150 Flat Fee

[*Revised 5/27/20; 10/9/19, 1/30/12, 10/18/11*]

D. Awards (see MAC Bylaw X)

1. Wrestler of the Week

During the course of the season, the Mid-American Conference media relations department shall select an East and a West Wrestler of the Week based on nominations submitted by member institutions.

[*Revised 10/9/19*]

2. All-MAC Team

The 20-member All-MAC team shall be selected following the conclusion of the conference championship. The individual weight class winners at the conference championship will be named to the first team (maximum of 10 honorees) and the individual weight class runners-up will be named to the honorable mention team (maximum of 10 honorees). All-MAC Awards will be shipped or distributed to campuses and will not be presented during the post-championship awards ceremony. See Mid-American Conference Bylaw 10.04 for procedures to break ties in the voting. [*Revised 3/8/10*]

3. Wrestler, Freshman and Coach of the Year

The Wrestler of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Coach of the Year (regular season) shall be coordinated by the Conference Office representative and selected by the coaches at the conclusion of the NCAA Championships. An announcement will be made thereafter. A ballot will be prepared and distributed by the Conference Office consisting of three lines for write-in votes. Coaches will rank three individuals, with points assigned as follows: 1st ranking - 3 points; 2nd ranking - 2 points; 3rd ranking - 1 point. Coaches may vote for their own wrestlers. In the event of a tie in the voting, co-Wrestlers of the Year will be named. [*Revised 1/24/10*]

E. Coaches' Meeting (see appendix for meeting calendar)

The annual business meeting of the wrestling coaches shall be conducted the fourth Wednesday in September.

F. Championship Guidelines

1. Championship Awards

As part of the championship awards listed in Mid-American Conference Bylaw X and the sport operating codes, the announcement of the All-MAC Team and Tournament Most Outstanding Wrestler shall occur following the conclusion of the championship. During the post-championship awards ceremony, award recipients shall be in appropriate team uniform (official uniform or team warm-up).

The Tournament Most Outstanding Wrestler shall be coordinated by the Conference Office representative and selected by the coaches immediately following the conclusion of the conference championship. A ballot will be prepared by the Conference Office consisting of three lines for write-in votes. Coaches will rank three individuals, with points assigned as follows: 1st ranking - 3 points; 2nd ranking - 2 points; 3rd ranking - 1 point. Coaches may vote for their own wrestlers. In the event of a tie in the voting, co-recipients will be named.

2. Championship Committee

The six-member Championship Committee shall be appointed by the Championship Director. Committee members shall include the Championship Director, Conference Liaison, Head Referee, and the head coach from the prior, present and next Championship Host institution (three head coaches). The primary purpose of the Championship Committee is to handle protest and complaints during the championship.

3. Championship Date and Format

The championship tournament shall be held over a two-day period on the Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday two weeks prior to the NCAA finals. NCAA qualifiers from the championship will be selected in accordance with NCAA requirements. *[Revised 5/30/19, 1/29/13, 7/11/11]*

4. Championship Hosts
Rider (2021), Ohio (2022), George Mason (2023), SIUE (2024)

5. Championship Personnel
The host institution may determine what organizing committees will be necessary for the conduct of the championship. The following personnel are required for the conduct of the championship:

a. Eight championship referees (assigned by Mid-American Conference Coordinator of Officials)

b. Three bench officials per mat (Head Timer, Assistant Timer, Scorer and one alternate)

c. One mat attendant per mat (clock, run errands, etc.)

d. A minimum of one trainer per mat

e. Head Table Personnel:
1. Championship Director
2. Conference Liaison
3. Official scorer
4. Several runners to take match cards to and from the head table to mat scoring table, etc.
5. The official scorer will be a paid position.

G. Rules

1. Physical Examinations
All competing student-athletes must pass the physical examination prior to participation in the championship. The examination shall be held in conjunction with the weigh-in at a location determined by the host institution.

2. Protests
All protests shall be handled by the Championship Committee, in accordance with NCAA rules. Decisions of the meet officials are final.

3. Trainers
The student trainer and/or ATC will accompany the team to the championship. The present and future ATC of the host institution will be present at the championship.

4. Travel Squad
The travel squad for the conference championship shall be 20 participants.

H. Schedule/Procedures

1. Entry Procedures

a. An official team entry form shall be provided to the conference office.

b. It is the responsibility of each institution to assure that only eligible student-athletes compete in conference championships.

c. Final entries in each weight division must be presented at the time of registration prior to weigh-ins.

d. Only one student-athlete per institution may be entered in each weight division.

e. A wrestler may only compete in one weight division at the championship.

f. Teams are required to ensure that starters are appropriately designated on the NWCA website, prior to the championship.

2. Practice Facilities

Practice facilities shall be made available to the competing teams the day prior to the championship. Preferred practice times are 2pm to 9pm, however teams will be permitted access to mats as soon as they are down and available.

3. Seeding

a. Championship Seeding shall take place via teleconference at 10:00am EST on the Tuesday prior to the Championship, in accordance with the NCAA Rule Book and Mid-American Conference policies.

b. The Conference Office Sport Administrator shall conduct the seeding teleconference. All conference institutions shall be represented by the head coach or his designee.

c. Championship referees shall not participate on the seeding teleconference.

e. Championship Seeds will be released Tuesday afternoon. Final Brackets will not be released until after the pre-tournament coaches meeting, Friday evening.
[Revised 10/25/12]

4. Weigh-In Procedure

Weigh-Ins shall be conducted in accordance with the NCAA Rule Book.

5. Scoring

Scoring shall be according to NCAA rules. In each weight division, scoring shall be 16-12-19-9-7-6-4-3 points for places one through eight, respectively. *[Revised 10/27/16; 10/25/12]*

I. Facilities/Equipment

1. Banners and Noisemakers

Banners deemed objectionable by tournament management will be removed. The use of artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or public-address systems by fans or cheerleaders is prohibited during the tournament.

J. Officials

1. Twelve (12) referees shall be provided for the championship, with one appointed as the head referee. These referees shall be assigned by the Mid-American Conference Coordinator of Officials based upon the recommendation of the coaches. *[Revised 5/30/19; 5/14/14; 10/16/12; 7/11/11; 8/4/10]*

2. Payment of the officials shall be the responsibility of the host institution. Officials shall be paid a fee of $600.00 ($750.00 for the designated Head Referee) for the weekend plus travel (the cheaper of round-trip mileage at institutional rates or airfare) and lodging.

3. There shall be a meeting of the championship officials prior to the first day of competition, for the purpose of reviewing championship procedures.

Championships Manual

Chapter I – Preface

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Mid-American Conference, the Conference Office shall administer Conference championships in the following men's and women's conference-sponsored sports: Cross Country, Volleyball, Football, Indoor Track & Field, Swimming & Diving, Wrestling, Basketball, Gymnastics, Golf, and Outdoor Track & Field.

This manual is provided as an overview of the men's and women's championships program of the Mid-American Conference. This material, in conjunction with the Mid-American Conference Championship Host Operations Manual(s), is designed to assist the appropriate Conference Office personnel, member institutions and Championship hosts in understanding the functions of the Conference championships program. The purpose of these regulations is to establish proper and consistent administration of Conference championships.

The policies and procedures contained in this manual shall be implemented for all championships (where applicable). These policies are to govern each sport and must be exclusively followed in the conduct of Mid-American Conference championships. These policies may not be altered at the site of a Conference championship. If there is no stated Conference policy relative to a specific item or question covered in this manual, a practice shall not be permissible unless that practice or policy has been approved by the appropriate conference body.

Chapter II – Championship Philosophy

The Mid-American Conference will provide a quality student-athlete experience in a competitive format that affords the best opportunities for NCAA post-season advancement, while simultaneously rewarding regular season success. Further, MAC Championships will provide opportunities to showcase campus facilities and afford neutral site championship experiences where appropriate. Moreover, all Mid-American Conference Championships shall be conducted in a fiscally responsible manner.

Chapter III - Championship Corporate Policies

A. Sponsorship Rights

1. All Corporate Rights to Mid-American Conference Championship events are under the exclusive management and control of Mid-American Conference Properties, jointly managed by JMI Sports and the Mid-American Conference. Any sponsorship or promotion of Mid-American Conference Championship events must be approved by Mid-American Conference Properties.
2. Host venues agree that there exist no exclusive site agreements prohibiting the placement of temporary corporate and/or promotional signage for Mid-American Conference Championship Events.
3. Host venues agree that the placement of temporary corporate and/or promotional signage for any designated Mid-American Conference Corporate Partner at Mid-American Conference Championship events not be prohibited. Additionally, promotional rights for designated Mid-American Conference Corporate Partners at Mid-American Conference Championship events shall not be prohibited by the host venue.
4. Corporate rights shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
   a. Event signage (on field or in arena)
   b. Program advertisements
   c. Ticket backs
   d. Public address, scoreboard and video board messages
   e. Promotional rights
   f. Product rights (excluding food concessions)

g. All on-site Mid-American Conference activities including, but not limited to, such areas as team locker rooms, official's locker rooms, media room, hospitality suites, sidelines, banquets and receptions.
h. Championship Outreach Clinics
i. Outer mutually agreed upon opportunities

5. Existing permanent signage at host venues shall not be covered. Existing temporary signage shall be removed.

B. Local Host Programs

With the advance written approval of the Mid-American Conference and Mid-American Conference Properties, local host groups may administer a local sales and marketing plan for Mid-American Conference Championship events. Such plan must be approved no later than 45 days prior to the Championship Event. Product trade-out agreements shall be considered a component of a local sales and marketing plan. Other elements typically include the following:

a. Non-competing product categories from Official Mid-American Conference Corporate Partners
b. Tournament program advertising (provided artwork is available at time of press)
c. Ticket backs
d. Public address and scoreboard messaging
e. Promotional rights
f. Product rights
g. Non-TV view or off-field signage
h. Championship event advertising (print, radio, TV, outdoor)

C. Merchandise Rights

The Mid-American Conference retains the exclusive event merchandising rights for Mid-American Conference Championship events. Those rights are licensed to the Mid-American Conference's Official Merchandise Concessionaire, J2 Licensing.

Host venues agree not to sell, nor authorize outside vendors to sell, general souvenir or event-specific merchandise on-site. Additionally, host venues agree not to distribute promotional premium items or any catalogs without prior written permission from the Mid-American Conference. On-site territory is to be defined at each venue, but at a minimum shall include surrounding parking and stadium access areas in addition to the primary venue.

Host venues interested in selling institutional merchandise in addition to Mid-American Conference Championship merchandise may do so only by purchasing all Mid-American Conference Championship merchandise direct from the Mid-American Conference at reduced cost. Hosts must commit to the entire inventory and may not reduce inventory in any way. Hosts are permitted to increase inventory and/or adjust inventory sizing as desired. Hosts interested in electing this option must obtain written approval from the Mid-American Conference.

Host venues agree to provide the following for merchandise concessions:

a. An appropriate number of sales locations
b. Sufficient security for merchandise inventory
c. Dry sales locations
d. Sufficient vending labor
e. Adequate storage, electricity and phone lines

A. Championship Host Commitment

Hosting a Conference championship requires a commitment on the part of the host institution to ensure that each participating student-athlete is allowed to perform at his or her peak. Full cooperation in achieving this goal is expected. Each host shall bear in mind that participating in a Conference championship is the culmination of the competitive season for most student-athletes. A Mid-American Conference championship represents the ultimate competition among one's peers.

B. Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act, which went into effect on January 26, 1992, requires that public establishments offer equal access and services to people who are physically and mentally disabled. The Mid-American Conference will rely on host organizations to comply with the Act at the various host facilities. The host is responsible for ensuring that its facility will be in compliance as of the dates of the Championship and to advise the Conference Office if it will not be in compliance.

C. Administration

1. **Mid-American Conference Championships**

   Conference championships shall be conducted in the name of the Mid-American Conference, which is a nonprofit organization. Championships shall be conducted at member institutions, unless otherwise approved.

2. **Administration**

   The administration and conduct of Mid-American Conference championships shall be under the direction and supervision of the Commissioner's office, with the assistance of institutional personnel of the member institutions.

3. **Championship Sports**

   Conference championships shall be conducted in the following sports:

Men's Championships (8)	Women's Championships (8)
Basketball	Basketball
Cross Country	Cross Country
Football	Golf
Golf	Gymnastics
Swimming & Diving	Swimming & Diving
Track & Field – Indoor	Track & Field - Indoor
Track & Field – Outdoor	Track & Field - Outdoor
Wrestling	Volleyball

4. **Participation**

   For all sports, if an institution sponsors a sport at the varsity level, it must compete in the championship for that sport as outlined in the respective championship guidelines.

5. **Regulations**

   Regulations for conduct of all Conference championships shall be those policies set forth in the Mid-American Conference Championships Manual, the NCAA Manual, and the Conference rules and agreements. Governing rules shall be those of the NCAA, Mid-American Conference, and the appropriate governing body for a particular sport.

C. Championship Sites

1. **Site Selections**

Unless noted otherwise, Mid-American Conference championships will be held at the following sites for the 2020-21 season:

Date	Sport	Location	Host
Oct. 31	Men's & Women's Cross Country	Ypsilanti, MI	EMU
Nov. 19-22	Volleyball	Campus Sites	highest seed
Dec. 4/5	Football Championship	Detroit, MI *Ford Field*	MAC
Feb. 18-20	Women's Swimming & Diving	Ypsilanti, MI	EMU
Feb. 25-27	Men's Swimming & Diving	Oxford, OH	Miami
Feb. 26-27	M/W Indoor Track & Field	Mt Pleasant, MI	CMU
March 6-7	Wrestling	Trenton, NJ	Rider
March 10-13	Basketball Tournament	Cleveland, OH *Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse*	MAC
March 20	Gymnastics	Kalamazoo, MI	WMU
April 24-25	Women's Golf	Silver Lake, OH *Silver Lake Country Club*	Akron
Apr. 30-1	Men's Golf	Fort Wayne, IN *Sycamore Hills Golf Club*	Miami
May 14-15	M/W Outdoor Track & Field	TBA	TBA

2. **Rotational Host Sites**
   The following Championships will be held at the Campus of each Member Institution sponsoring that sport on a rotational basis: Cross Country, Indoor Track & Field, Women's Swimming & Diving, Men's Swimming & Diving, Wrestling, Gymnastics, Women's Golf, Men's Golf, and Outdoor Track & Field.

   A Conference member institution may not host the same predetermined rotational host site championship for two consecutive years unless otherwise approved. Once an institution has hosted a sport's championship, it is ineligible to host until all remaining institutions have had an opportunity to host.

3. **High Seed Host Sites**
   The following Championships will be held at the Campus of the team seeded #1 in the Championship: Volleyball.

4. Institutions unable to host a championship should notify the Mid-American Conference Office by January 1 of the preceding academic year. The institution scheduled for the following year shall then have the next opportunity to host in that year.

D. Future Sites
Mid-American Conference institutions shall rotate hosts in the sports listed below. Each sport has a rotation listed. These hosts are subject to change.

Sport	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
M/W Cross Country	EMU	Ohio	WMU
Volleyball	High Seed	High Seed	High Seed
M/W Indoor Track & Field	CMU	KSU	BGSU
Women's Swimming & Diving	EMU	BGSU	Ohio
Men's Swimming & Diving	Miami	SIU	Miami
Wrestling	Rider	Ohio	George Mason
Gymnastics	WMU	EMU	Kent State
Golf (men)	Miami	NIU	Ohio
Golf (women)	Akron	Toledo	WMU
M/W Outdoor Track & Field	TBD	Akron	CMU

E. Awards

1. **Ceremony**
   Unless otherwise indicated, there shall be an awards ceremony immediately following the completion of the championship. All championship-related awards shall be presented at the ceremony by Conference Office personnel. See Mid-American Conference Bylaws for a complete listing of the regular-season/championship awards available for each sport.

2. **Awards Provided**
   The purpose of the Conference post-season championships award system is to recognize and honor competitive excellence at the Conference level in all Conference-sponsored sports. All trophies and awards shall be ordered and paid for by the Conference Office and shipped or delivered to the host institution. The host institution of a Mid-American Conference championship is not permitted to fund and/or present any additional awards.

3. **All-Tournament Teams and Conference Honors**
   All-Tournament teams and Conference honors (e.g., Player of the Year, Coach of the Year, Freshman of the Year) shall be announced by the Conference Office in the weekly press release. However, these individuals shall be recognized at the conclusion of the championship or alternate event as designated by each sport's Sport Operating Code. See respective sport operating codes for selection procedures.

4. **Protocol**
   In awards ceremonies, every effort shall be made for an individual to come forward and accept the award. If this is not possible, another team member or the coach of the team receiving the award may be sent.

F. Bands

1. **Complimentary Admissions**
   Institutions sending a band to a Conference event will receive a maximum of 30 complimentary admissions for band members. Bands will sit in areas designated by the championship director. Whenever possible, bands will be placed in the area nearest its institution's team.

2. **Official Band Designation**
   Bands in attendance will be limited to those officially-designated bands of the participating institutions. No band (or any component thereof) shall play during live competition situations.

3. **Notification**
   Institutions shall notify the host of its intention to bring its band to a Conference championship a minimum of three days prior to the start of the event.

G. Cheerleaders, Mascots, and Dance Teams

1. **Travel Squads**
   A maximum of 12 cheerleaders, one mascot, and 15 dance team members shall be admitted free for visiting teams to championship events. The cheerleading and dance team coaches shall be admitted free of charge to their team's contest(s).

2. **Purpose**
   The purpose of cheerleaders is to create fan support and enthusiasm. Cheerleaders shall follow the guidelines set forth in the Mid-American Conference Handbook.

3. **Injuries**
   All injuries sustained to a cheerleader, dancer, or a mascot at a practice, contest, or any activity where they are representing the institution at a championship must be reported and diagnosed by an athletic trainer.

H. Banners

All sites should be neutral in look and décor. The Conference Office will provide a comprehensive signage kit to be utilized by the Host. Any temporary facility signage or conflicting Conference corporate sponsor signage must be removed by the Host.

1. **Televised Events**
   At televised championships, no banner other than approved television, radio, corporate sponsor and Conference banners may be posted.

2. **Radio/Television Stations**
   Only one television or radio banner per station is permitted.

3. **Approval**
   All banners must be approved by the Mid-American Conference championship representative.

4. **Championship Banners**
   The Mid-American Conference will provide championship and corporate sponsorship banners at all Conference championships. Banners must be set prior to the beginning of any team practices. The host institution is responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged banners.

I. Personnel

Event personnel shall be assigned by the host institution. Required personnel include, but are not limited to the following:

1. **Championship Director**
   a. Selection
      Each championship host shall appoint a Championship Director to manage, organize, and coordinate all aspects of the championship. He/she may not be the athletics director or head coach of the sport for which the championship is being conducted.

   b. Duties
      The duties of the Championship Director include:
      i. Serve as administrator and supervisor for all facets of the championship in conjunction with the Conference Office sport liaison.

      ii. Appoint and coordinate a local management committee of key institutional personnel (sports information, athletic training, event

management, promotion, concessions, facility management) to aid in managing the event;

iii. Study the following sections of the Mid-American Conference Handbook and cultivate a detailed knowledge of its regulations. These sections include:
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Sport Operating Codes
- Championship Manual
- Awards and Honors
- Sport Regulations for that Sport

iv. Prepare a Participant Guide under the direction of the Conference Office. A template Guide will be provided to the Championship Director for completion and return to the Conference Office. The Conference Office will send a completed Guide to all conference coaches and sport administrators no less than 30 days prior to the event. The contents of this Guide will be reviewed with the Conference Office sport liaison prior to distribution. (For specific Guide contents, refer to the Mid-American Conference Championship Manual General Regulations);

v. Appoint any championship committees specified for on-site rules interpretations;

vi. If requested by the Conference Office, inventory championship awards upon their arrival and inform the Conference Office of any problems concerning their timely receipt or condition upon arrival. After the championship, assist the Conference Office in determining if any additional awards need to be ordered to accommodate ties in the final results;

vii. Copy Conference Office sport liaison on all correspondence regarding the championship;

viii. In concert with the Conference Office, conduct whatever administrative procedures are necessary to properly nominate, select, and present any conference honors;

ix. Assure that the competition area/practice area is prepared appropriately prior to the championship;

x. Supervise the implementation of all policies set forth in this manual; and

xi. Arrange for personnel including, but not limited to, scorer's table, ushers, maintenance, ticketing, sports medicine, athletic communications, merchandise sales, marketing, and minor officials.

2. **Public Address Announcer**

The host is responsible for acquiring a professional announcer with experience announcing the sport. He/she is responsible to the Conference Liaison and must remain neutral at all times. The announcer shall adhere to Mid-American Conference policies and procedures. If possible, the announcer should be assisted prior to the competition by a host institution designee who shall provide

typed information on statistics and pronunciations. The Conference Liaison will work with the host institution to provide a script for all competition that will include approved announcements. No announcements may be made or added without prior approval by the Conference Liaison.

3. **Photographer**
The host institution must provide an official photographer at the championship and its awards ceremony and submit photographs to the Conference Office if requested.

4. **Medical and Training Services**
a. Training Room
The host institution shall coordinate all athletic training facilities for the championship and shall provide qualified athletic trainers to administer care to student-athletes. The training room shall be open at least two hours before competition and one hour before practice times.

b. Modalities
Ice, whirlpools, hydro collator packs, ultrasound and muscle stimulation modalities shall be made available to all visiting athletic trainers.

c. Day of Competition
On the day of competition, the host training room shall provide sufficient staff, a Team Physician, water and cups (in any locker rooms and at the competition), ice bags, ice cups, and wraps.

d. Traveling Without a Trainer
Teams are requested to provide a written request for treatment of a student-athlete if a team is traveling without a certified athletic trainer.

5. **Media Services**
a. Host SID
The host Sports Information Director shall provide **ALL** necessary items and facilities for the media covering the championship and shall work with the Conference Office.

b. Press Conferences
Where appropriate, the host SID shall arrange for pre-championship and post-championship press conferences featuring selected coaches and student-athletes.

c. Advance Publicity
The host institution is encouraged to provide advance publicity and promotion for the championship. The following methods are recommended:
i. Early press releases relating to the planning and progress of the championship;

ii. Invitations sent out to high school coaches within the area;

iii. Public service spots in local papers, on local radio, and television stations;

iv. Inclusion of the championship date on all institutional calendars and releases; and

v. Advance mention of the championship at other events throughout the season.

6. **Sports Information**
   The sports information department of the host institution shall have the following responsibilities:
   a. Arrange for the press needs of all teams.
      Note: All contracts for radio and television rights for conference tournament games are administered by the MAC Office only.

   b. Issue and monitor the use of credentials of all media personnel at the championship.

   c. Provide press room facilities, if needed.

   d. Provide the official scorer and statistical crew, if needed.

   e. Coordinate the distribution of championship results and statistics to all appropriate local, regional and national media outlets.

   f. Any additional responsibilities as deemed necessary (e.g., circulate/tabulate the ballots for the all-tournament team; supervise all press box operations, such as coordination of media, statistical compilation, public address announcements and scoreboard operation; provide heat sheets for coaches and spectators, etc.).

J. Facilities

All sites must feature appropriate facilities and staff for competition, practice, seating, media work space, dressing rooms, hospitality, parking (VIP, media, public) and concession areas.

1. **Dressing Facilities**
   Where applicable, dressing facilities shall be provided for championship teams and officials. Dressing rooms shall be provided with towels and drinking supplies.

2. **Hospitality**
   a. Hospitality Areas
      A hospitality area for coaches, administrators, media, referees and officials shall be available at the site of competition.

   b. Officials
      A separate hospitality room for championship referees and officials is preferable. [*Revised 10/17/14*]

3. **Scoreboards**
   A visible scoreboard showing team scores (and individual scores, if applicable) shall be utilized at each championship site so that participants and spectators may follow the progress of the event.

4. **Press Box**
   The Host Venue shall include a press box, or other enclosed structure, with a working public address system, music/audio system, and scoreboard operations. [*10/17/14*]

K. Championship Headquarters

1. **Team Hotels**
   The host institution may designate a single hotel as its championship team headquarters. Every effort shall be made to obtain a reduced rate for

participating teams. Teams are strongly encouraged to utilize the championship headquarters for their hotel accommodations. If the host does not wish to designate a single hotel as its championship headquarters, then all participating teams shall obtain their own hotel accommodations.

2. **Team Accommodations**
Unless otherwise notified, each participating team shall be responsible for reserving and paying for its team accommodations.

3. **Officials and Staff Accommodations**
The host institution shall designate a hotel for all championship officials and staff. This hotel must be separate from the team hotel(s). Officials and Staff reservations shall be made by the host institution.

L. Participant Guide

1. **Sent from Conference Office**
No less than 30 days prior to a predetermined site championship, the Conference Office shall provide all member institutions with a Participant Guide. Within 7-10 days of the championship, the Conference Office shall distribute any revisions, appropriate forms, ballots, etc. No less than three days prior to a championship at a No. 1 seed, the Conference Office shall provide (by fax if necessary) all member institutions with a Participant Guide. Template Participant Guides shall be provided by the Conference Office to the host institution for completion and return to the Conference Office.

2. **Contents**
It is suggested that the contents of the Participant Guide include, but not be limited to:
   a. Directory of host management staff and phone numbers

   b. Championship Information
      1. Location
      2. Team accommodations and reservation procedures
      3. Any hospitality provided
      4. Map of the area and pertinent directions
      5. Meal arrangements (any planned banquets)

   c. Championship Site
      1. Description of facility and equipment to be provided
      2. Team parking
      3. Entrances for athletes, spectators, and officials
      4. Locker rooms and provisions
      5. Medical and training services, training room information
      6. Other services available (e.g., stringing, proof of performance cards)

   d. Coaches Meetings
      1. Pre-championship meeting
      2. Time, date, and site
      3. Any meals or hospitality available

   e. Championship Format
      1. Complete schedule of events (e.g., warm-up, practice)
      2. Competition format — bracket, event schedule
      3. Official sport rules to be followed
      4. Benches, dugouts, and uniforms assignments

5. Names of officials (if available)
6. Entry procedures

f. Spectator Information
1. Parking
2. Ticket costs and packages
3. No complimentary tickets

g. Media Arrangements
1. Host sports information director, phone and fax numbers
2. Press seating
3. Any credential procedures
4. Media services to be provided
5. Photography guidelines
6. Any radio or television broadcast rights

h. Championship Awards
1. Awards to be presented at championship
2. Selection procedures (if any) at championship site
3. Presentation protocol

M. Championship Program

1. **Contents**

Each host is required to prepare an official championship program for spectators.

a. This program should include (as applicable):
- Team Rosters
- Information on each competing team (quick facts, championship outlook)
- Schedule of events
- Results from last year's conference championship
- All-time championship team results
- Season-best performances
- Conference, NCAA and national records
- Any sport-specific material deemed appropriate (e.g., heat sheets)
- A Mid-American Conference Properties Salute ad will be supplied by the Conference Office.

b. All championship programs shall be printed with a color front and back. Black and white interior pages are permissible.

c. All championship programs shall be designed with a neutral, championship look.

d. All championship program pictures shall have a minimum resolution of 300 DPI.

e. All Draft Programs shall be delivered to the Conference Office Media Liaison for review. The Conference Office Media Liaison shall send the Draft Program to the Sports Information Directors (SID's) at each competing campus for review and approval of institutional pages and information. The Conference Office Media Liaison shall then approve all other aspects of the Championship Program and return the Draft Program and any edits to the Host SID. Finally, the Host SID and Host Championship Director shall each approve prior to printing.

[*Revised 10/17/14*]

2. **Advertising**

All program advertising shall meet the highest standards of good taste and shall exclude those advertisements that do not appear to be in the best interests of the member institutions of the Mid-American Conference. Institutions should contact Mid-American Conference Properties for approval.

N. Media Services

1. **Credentials – Travel Party**

Credentials shall be provided by the host institution for members of the travel party, officials, staff, administrators, and other institutional personnel as required by Conference policy.

a. Travel Party Limits
There is no travel party limit for all Mid-American Conference Olympic Sports, unless otherwise specified by each Sport Operating Code.

b. Family Members
All family members must be included on an institutional purchase/pass list. No credentials will be issued to family members of coaches or institutional personnel.

c. Non-Participating Student-Athletes
Any student-athletes not listed on the Travel Squad may be included within the Travel Party.

d. Travel Party Verifications
All Travel Party Lists must be signed and approved by the institutional sport administrator.

[*Revised 10/16/19; 10/17/14*]

2. **Interviews**

All head coaches and players must be available to speak with the media after all contests, following a 10-minute cooling-off period. The visiting coach will be interviewed first; however, if time becomes excessive, it is the host SID's decision as to what format will be used for postgame interviews.

3. **Results**

The host sports information office shall be responsible for tabulating and distributing the official results from all rounds of the championship event.

a. E-Mail / Faxing Results
Each day of competition, the Conference Office and each participating institution's sports information office shall send electronically or via fax, results of the championship.

b. Conference Office Copy
At the conclusion of the championship, the Conference representative shall be provided with the following items from the championship:
- One copy of the official results (all days)
- One championship program
- A summary of all promotional efforts
- Reports of any incidents

Note: If for some reason a Conference representative is not at a championship, the above items shall be sent to the Conference Office immediately following the completion of the championship.

O. On-Line Streaming

All Mid-American Conference Campus-Hosted Championships shall be streamed on line by the host institution via the conference website, so long as the championship venue/facility is capable of supporting on line streaming. [*10/17/14*]

P. Coaches' Meeting

1. There shall be a coaches' meeting, co-chaired by the Conference Office Sport Liaison and the Championship Director, the night preceding (or morning of) each conference championship. The purpose of this meeting is to review the final details regarding the championship (e.g., seeding, contest schedule, practice schedule, tee and pin placements, etc.). All necessary materials/schedules shall be distributed at this meeting.

2. If pertinent, the contest officials shall be in attendance at the coaches' meeting.

Q. Equipment

The host institution shall furnish all facilities, equipment and other essentials, which shall meet all applicable rules for hosting a championship.

R. Financial Regulations

1. The host institution will pay all expenses associated with administering a Conference championship. The host institution will retain all revenue (e.g., gate receipts, concession, program, and local sponsorship) generated during a championship.

2. The host institution shall submit a budget to the Conference Office based on the budget form established by the Conference Office. If a championship is held at a predetermined campus site, the host institution must submit a budget 90 days in advance of the event. If a championship is held at a campus site based on seeding, the contending host institutions must submit a budget 10 days in advance of the championship.

3. The budget should include all projected expenses (officials, game management personnel, programs, posters, advertising, banquet, gifts, etc.) as well as projected revenues (ticket sales, program sales, advertising, sponsorships, etc.).

4. Within 90 days of the conclusion of the championship, the host institution shall submit a profit/loss statement to the Conference Office.

5. **Guarantees**

   No guarantees will be provided for any championship event. Each team shall pay its own travel expenses, unless otherwise noted.

6. **Championship Shared Costs**

   All Mid-American Conference Olympic Sport Championships will operate under a Championship Shared Cost Model wherein each institution will be invoiced an advance assessment for each sport sponsored by the institution. Collected assessments will be redistributed to the Championship Host for each sport that year. This fund is intended to assist with known and required costs of hosting and operating a Conference Championship and is not intended to cover all costs or expenses.

   The Championship Shared Cost fund with increase each year based on a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) plus any increased officials' fees. [*Revised 1/29/17; 10/17/14*]

S. Merchandise (see Chapter III, Section C, above)

1. **Sold at Championship**
   All merchandise items to be sold at a championship shall be coordinated through the Conference Office and the conference's merchandising agent. The Mid-American Conference official concessionaire has the option of staffing the championship or asking the host institution to staff the event.

2. **Contact Before Championship**
   Prior to the championship, a representative from the merchandising agent will contact the Championship Director to review the specific details.

T. National Anthem

The National Anthem shall be played or sung at an appropriate point at each championship.

U. Officials

1. **Securing Officials**
   Unless indicated otherwise, the host institution is responsible for securing and payment of qualified and appropriate contest officials, making the necessary housing arrangements and assuring that officials are familiar with conference policies. Officials will be assigned by the Mid-American Conference Coordinator of Officials, if applicable. The host management shall inform the officials of the following championship information:
   - Date(s) of the championship
   - Starting times of contest(s)
   - Remuneration
   - Lodging information
   - Dressing quarters

2. **Protest of Officials**
   Decisions of the officials are final, except in sports where a games committee has final authority. Protests arising from the decisions of the officials or any inadvertent misinterpretation of the rules will not be considered by the Conference Office.

V. Playing Conditions and Rules

1. **Inclement Weather**
   In the event of inclement weather, the Championship Director of the host institution and Conference representative shall have the authority to postpone the starting time and/or date of the championship, unless otherwise noted in the Mid-American Conference Championship manual. Once underway, a championship shall be under the absolute jurisdiction of officials, umpires, etc.

2. **Rules and Regulations**
   NCAA rules shall govern all championships, unless the sport is governed by another body (e.g., USGA, USA Gymnastics, ITA, ASA) or as noted in the Mid-American Conference Championship Manual.

W. Practice Times

Prior to the beginning of a championship, the appropriate facility shall be made available to the participating teams for a period to be determined by the Championship Director. Practice times shall be assigned by the Championship Director in consultation with the Conference Office. Teams travelling from the furthest distance shall be provided with the latest practice times. Each team shall be offered and equal amount of practice time.

X. Spectator Control

1. **Institutional Responsibility**
   Crowd control is a cooperative effort among the Conference Office, the institution's administration, coaches, players, student body and fans. Each institution should appeal to students, cheerleaders, bands and others to stress sportsmanship and respect for the visiting team. The responsibility of spectator control is vested with the athletics director of the host institution where the championship is being held. The athletics director shall be responsible for adequate policing, announcements over the public-address system, and other measures necessary to prevent any exhibition of unsporting conduct.

2. **Crowd Control Statement (to be read at all championships).**
   "The Mid-American Conference and [institution] promotes good sportsmanship by its student-athletes, coaches, and fans. 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, players, coaches, or team representatives will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from this facility. Also, the throwing of any objects onto the playing floor is prohibited."

Y. Emergency/Evacuation Plans

The host institution shall prepare an emergency/evacuation plan to be reviewed by the Conference Office.

Z. Championship Qualification & Seeding

1. Tiebreaker Policy

The following tiebreaker procedure will apply to all sports, unless noted otherwise within the individual sport operating codes/championship guidelines. All ties will be broken in the order in which they occur, from top to bottom, in the standings. When comparing tied teams against positions lower in the standings, which are also tied, those lower-tied positions will be considered as a single position for purposes of comparison. (Example: Team A and Team B, who tied for second place, would compare against Team X and Team Y, who tied for 6th as follows: Team A would compare its combined record against both X and Y against Team B's combined record against both X and Y.)

Two Team Tiebreaker:
1. Head-to-head competition
2. Winning percentage* vs. ranked conference teams (top to bottom, regardless of division; vs. common opponents, regardless of the number of times played)
3. Sport specific component (if applicable)
4. RPI Ranking (final regular season)

Multiple (3 or more) Team Tiebreaker:
1. Combined head-to-head record among the tied teams**
2. If or when two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker goes into effect

[Note: If a three-team tie is reduced to two teams, the two-team tie-breaker goes into effect.]

* Winning percentage is used instead of record because of situations where teams do not play each other the same number of times. Therefore, a team that is 1-0 (1.000) would win the tiebreaker over a team that is 1-1 (.500).

** If the combined records of each tied team are different, the tiebreak is complete. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-1 and Team C is 1-2 then this is the order of the tiebreak.

Once only two teams remain tied, the Two Team Tiebreaker is used. Example: If Team A is 2-1, Team B is 1-2 and Team C is 1-2 then Team A is ahead of Teams B and C and Teams B and C revert to the Two Team Tiebreaker.

2. **Minimum Number of Games (Incomplete Season)**
In the event that the conference season is not completed, all teams must complete at least 75% of scheduled conference competitions (sport breakdown examples provided below) in order to recognize a conference Champion. The team with the best conference winning percentage will receive the conference's automatic qualification to the NCAA Tournament.

If not all teams complete at least 75% of scheduled conference competitions, no conference Champion will be recognized. The team with the best conference winning percentage will receive the conference's automatic qualification to the NCAA Tournament.

Field Hockey – 5 Games
Men's Soccer – 4 Games
Women's Soccer – 9 Games
Volleyball – 12 Matches
Women's Lacrosse – 4 Games
Women's Tennis – 6 Matches
Men's Tennis – 4 Matches
Softball – 23 Games
Baseball – 23 Games

AA. Ticket Policies

1. **Ticket Prices**
The host institution shall determine championship ticket prices, sales distribution, and refund policies at campus sites. It shall also be responsible for the printing of such tickets.

2. Credentials are distributed at the discretion of the host institution. Other than the administrators named above, no complimentary admissions shall be issued for any portion of a championship unless otherwise notified.
    a. If tickets are sold, there will be no complimentary admissions at conference championships for nonparticipants.
    b. Championship event management, Conference representatives, media, corporate sponsors and official traveling parties are exempt from this restriction.

BB. Tobacco Products

Per NCAA and Mid-American Conference regulations, the use of tobacco products is prohibited by all game personnel (e.g., coaches, trainers, managers and game officials) in all sports during practice and competition. A student-athlete who uses tobacco products during practice or competition in any sport shall be disqualified for the remainder of that practice or competition.

CC. Videotape

All videotaping of a championship must be coordinated through the Championship Director of the host institution. The cost of all such filming is the responsibility of the requesting institution.

Appendix

Conference Councils and Committees

Executive Council

(reports to Joint Committee and Council of Presidents)

Member (term expires)	University
David Sayler (6/30/23), AD chair	Miami University
Debra Boughton (6/30/21), SA chair	Northern Illinois University
Matt Juravich (6/30/23), FAR chair	University of Akron

This council shall have the primary responsibilities of ensuring the Mid-American Conference governance structure operates in an effective/efficient manner, serving as an integrating and coordinating council to assure all other committees are fulfilling their functions. It shall serve as the liaison between the Joint Committee and the Council of Presidents.

The Council shall appoint all committee members and sport chairs and shall be encouraged to rotate membership on committees among member institutions insofar as practical. The Executive Council shall appoint committee chairs, preferably from among members who have served previously on the committee to assure continuity.

The Council shall act independently of the Joint Committee between meetings to direct emergency issues to the appropriate Administrative Committee for further resolution. The Council shall review all sport group minutes and either endorse/not endorse action items as presented or direct them to the appropriate Subcommittee for further examination. All action taken between meetings by the Executive Council is subject to the review of the Joint Committee and Council of Presidents, with ratification required on those matters within their purview.

The Executive Council shall be comprised of the chair from each of the three bodies (Athletic Directors, Senior Administrators, and Faculty Representatives). The Commissioner shall serve as an ex-officio member of this council.

Infractions Committee

(reports to Joint Committee and Council of Presidents)

This committee shall determine whether specific violations have occurred in NCAA and/or Mid-American Conference rules. The committee shall determine whether the violations were inadvertent or willful; whether the violations involved individuals (who are either specific student-athletes or institutional staff members), or a member institution, or both individuals and a member institution; determine penalties and corrective action; determine whether the violations were self-reported; and determine whether the action taken should be public or private.

Specific procedural information relative to this committee can be found in the Appendix section of the Mid-American Conference Handbook under “Infractions Committee Policies and Procedures”.

The Infractions Committee shall be comprised of six Faculty Athletics Representatives, three Athletic Directors and three Senior Administrators (one representative from each member institution). The Executive Committee is tasked with disposing of routine violation cases between formal meetings and consists of a representative from each Mid-American Conference governance group.

The Infractions Committee Chair (denoted by asterisk) is responsible for managing the Committee meeting, held in conjunction with the Joint Council meetings twice a year.

Additionally, it is the Chair's responsibility to report to the Joint Council any Committee notes of concern, corrective action consistencies, rules education needs, etc.

Infractions Committee Rotation Chart

Academic Year		2021-22	2023-24
	2020-21	2022-23	2024-25
Akron	Juravich	AD	SA
Ohio	Vander Ven / Sindelar	AD	SA
EMU	Sidlow	AD	SA
Bowling Green	Trautman / Schneider	FAR	AD
Kent State	Wilson	FAR	AD
Miami	Scott	FAR	AD
Western Michigan	Smith	FAR	FAR
Toledo	Andrews*	FAR	FAR
Ball State	Lee	FAR	FAR
Northern Illinois	Frazier	SA	FAR
Central Michigan	Alford	SA	FAR
Buffalo	Alnutt	SA	FAR

* Chair of the Infractions Committee

Infractions Committee Policies and Procedures

A. The Infractions Committee's charge has six principle aspects:
   1. To determine whether specific violations have occurred.
   2. To determine whether the violations were inadvertent or were willful.
   3. To determine whether the violations involved individuals (who are either specific student-athletes or institutional staff members), or a member institution, or both individuals and a member institution.
   4. To determine penalties and corrective action.
   5. To determine whether the violations were self-reported.
   6. To determine whether the action taken should be public or private.

B. In distinguishing between violations involving individuals in contrast to those involving a member institution, the Infractions Committee shall be guided by the following general criteria:
   1. The violations shall be regarded as an individual violation if the person or persons involved acted independently in violating the rules and regulations of the conference.
   2. Violations that involve the failure of a member institution to exercise reasonable control over its student-athletes or institutional staff members, whether deliberate or through negligence, shall be regarded as institutional violations.
   3. In case doubt exists as to whether a violation is institutional or individual, it shall be considered institutional.

C. The Infractions Committee is authorized to hold formal hearings. When individuals or institutions, which are considered in violation, receive copies of the investigative report, the Infractions Committee should inquire whether the individual or institution desires a formal hearing or not. The Infractions Committee must hold formal hearings when so requested. Written notice of a formal hearing shall be sent to the individual or institution allegedly involved in the violation. Notice shall be sent at least 20 calendar days in advance of the hearing.

D. The Infractions Committee shall specify the procedures to be followed in a hearing. The procedural steps should be appropriate to the magnitude of the alleged violation and should be cognizant of the rights of the individuals involved in an alleged violation. The institution, as well as individuals involved in an alleged violation shall be identified to the Infractions Committee. The Infractions Committee representative of the institution involved in an alleged violation shall be excused from service on the committee with respect to the consideration and disposition of that case.

E. The decisions of the Infractions Committee shall be in the form of a report. The report shall summarize the Infractions Committee's determinations regarding the alleged violations considered. If the Infractions Committee determines violations have occurred, the report also shall address whether the violations were inadvertent or willful and whether the violations are individual or institutional, or both, in nature. Finally, the report shall include penalties and other corrective action.

F. The Infractions Committee shall have jurisdiction over assessment of penalties and corrective action with respect to individuals.

G. The Infractions Committee shall have the authority to require a member institution to declare a student-athlete ineligible for intercollegiate athletic competition.

H. The Infractions Committee shall have direct authority to assess penalties against institutional staff members. A member institution, however, shall be responsible for the action of its staff members in abiding by conference rules. If a staff member is deemed responsible for violations of conference rules, the Infractions Committee shall recommend to the member institution involved that appropriate disciplinary action against the offending staff member or members be taken.

I. In the event that emergency action need be taken, which by the nature of its case and possible effect preclude the timetable of due process contained herein, the commissioner shall have the authority to so act temporarily, pending implementation of the regular determinative and assessment phases of these investigative and enforcement policies. Allegation of serious misconduct requiring immediate suspension of institutional staff members or student-athletes from competition is an example of a situation in which the commissioner may so act.

J. Institutional self-disclosure of violations is encouraged by the conference. Compliance cases which are self-disclosed and for which the NCAA Committee on Infractions issued a private reprimand, or a lesser penalty may be reviewed by the Infractions Committee.

K. Institutional staff members and student-athletes shall be considered to have engaged in unethical conduct if they refuse to furnish information relative to an investigation of a possible violation of an NCAA or conference regulation when requested to do so by an official representative of the conference. [NCAA Bylaw 10.1]

L. Member institutions shall have the right to give written notice of appeal of the Infractions Committee's findings, the penalty, or both, to the Council of Presidents. To be considered by the Council of Presidents, the notice of appeal shall be received by the commissioner not later than 15 calendar days, from the date the member institution received the Committee's report.

M. If the notice of appeal is not received within the 15-day period, or if the member institution determines not to appeal, the action of the Infractions Committee will be announced promptly by the Committee through the Conference Office. The Committee shall forward a report of the case to the Council of Presidents at the time of the public announcement.

N. If appropriate notice of appeal is received, no public announcement will be made until conclusion of the case by the Council of Presidents.

Infractions Committee Appropriate Corrective Actions

A primary purpose of the Mid-American Conference Infractions Committee is to maintain consistency in the handling and corrective actions to violations across all member institutions. When reporting any violation, the number of previous violations of the specific bylaw(s) must be included in the description for the individual (s) involved.

The below list is meant to standardize corrective actions for infractions reported. This list should be utilized as the standard for any infraction reported. Institutions may present mitigating factors to request relief from any corrective action or implement heightened corrective actions if the institution deems appropriate.

A. Corrective Actions:
1. Appropriate letter to the violation personnel. If an assistant, then the supervising personnel must be copied on the letter. If the supervisor should have known of the activity, conducted education, or stopped the activity, then the supervisor must receive his/her own letter. It is recommended that the Athletics Director be the signing party for all athletics department staff and student-athlete violations, while the President or designee be the signing party for the Athletics Director and all across-campus department violations.
2. Student-athlete ineligibility, when violation involves eligibility and extra benefits.
3. Two-for one prohibition for recruiting and countable athletically related activities (CARA) violations.
4. Rules education to individual involved and all staff/team members.
5. Suspension from practices/competitions when appropriate (repeated, known and purposeful violations).

B. Order of Letters:
1. Letter of education- for inadvertent, minimal, minor violations.
2. Letter of admonishment- for repeated or purposeful violations.
3. Letter of reprimand- for repeated, known and purposeful violations.

Student-Athlete Well-Being Committee

This committee shall have the primary responsibilities of ensuring that the Mid-American Conference continue to focus on the student-athlete well-being as a core value of the Conference. The Committee will be comprised of administrators and regular practitioners that are concerned with student-athlete well-being on institutional campuses. There will be 12 members on this Committee, one individual from each full member institution. The committee shall proactively evaluate the student-athlete experience and well-being.

Member	University
Anne Jorgensen	University of Akron
Lindsey Blom	Ball State University
Chet Hesson	Bowling Green State University
Kellie Peiper/D'Ann Keller	University at Buffalo
Brooke Bechtel	Central Michigan University
Gretchen Buskirk (*chair*)	Eastern Michigan University
Joel Nielsen	Kent State University
Jennie Gilbert	Miami University
Phil Voorhis	Northern Illinois University
Thomas Vander Ven	Ohio University
Kelly Andrews/Emily Loew	University of Toledo
	Western Michigan University

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee will have the primary responsibilities of overseeing the Diversity & Inclusion Internship Program, Mentoring Program, and Awards Program, as well as ensuring that the Mid-American Conference continue to focus on the commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, & Equity as a core value of the Conference. The Committee will be

comprised of administrators that are concerned with Diversity & Inclusion on institutional campuses. There will be 12 members on this committee, one individual from each full member institution.

Member	University
Candace Smith	University of Akron
Karin Lee	Ball State University
Chet Hesson	Bowling Green State University
D'Ann Keller	University at Buffalo
Rachel Blunt	Central Michigan University
Kellynn Wilson	Eastern Michigan University
Amy Densevich	Kent State University
Breanna Robinson	Miami University
Courtney Vinson *(chair)*	Northern Illinois University
Thomas Vander Ven	Ohio University
Kelly Andrews	University of Toledo
Keanah Smith/Amy Washington	Western Michigan University

Mid-American Conference Hall of Fame & Committee

On an annual basis, the Mid-American Conference Hall of Fame (HOF) Selection Committee will induct a minimum of four (4) members into the MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE Hall of Fame. Induction classes will be identified by March 1st in preparation for an announcement and induction ceremony during the Mid-American Conference Spring Joint Council Meetings.

Nomination Criteria

1. Each Mid-American Conference full member university will nominate one (1) individual and the Conference Office will have the opportunity to nominate one (1) individual for a total of 13 nominees on an annual basis.
2. Each nominee from a university must have participated in athletics or worked in the athletic department at his/her respective university during a time when the university was a member of the Mid-American Conference. The nominee does not have to be a Mid-American Conference graduate but must have competed in athletics or worked at the university while a member of the Mid-American Conference. Each university's nominee can either be a former student-athlete, coach or administrator—this is strictly a university decision.
3. The one nominee from the Mid-American Conference could be an individual from any current full or affiliate member or former full or affiliate MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE member. In addition, this Mid-American Conference nominee could be a former student-athlete, coach, assistant coach, administrator or Conference Office administrator, official or referee/umpire. This Mid-American Conference nominee is designed to also provide the opportunity for former student-athletes from universities no longer a member of the Mid-American Conference to be recognized for their athletic accomplishments.
4. The nomination criteria are designed to ensure universities consider a long-term view of their former student-athletes, and not just recent student-athletes. Therefore, ten (10) years must have passed from the time the individual participated in athletics or worked in the athletic department at his/her university. Should the nominee be a retiring coach or administrator, then a one-year waiting period is applied. The Mid-American Conference nominee is also under the 10-year stipulation.
5. Two schools will be exempt of the ten (10) year stipulation—Buffalo and Northern Illinois—and these two universities will be under a five (5) year stipulation, due to the limitations of their full-time membership status with the Mid-American Conference.
6. The nominee from each school must be signed by the school's Athletics Director and Selection Committee Representative. The Mid-American Conference nominee must be signed by the Commissioner and Selection Committee Representative.

Selection Committee

To ensure Mid-American Conference membership is involved and engaged in the Hall of Fame process, each full member will have one individual represented on the Selection Committee. This individual is recommended to bring a well-balanced understanding of the

athletic achievements and historical accomplishments for all of the sports and gender in which that university competes.

1. The Selection Committee will constitute one representative from each full member of the Mid-American Conference and one individual selected by the Conference Office for a total number of thirteen (13) Selection Committee members.
2. The Selection Committee representative for each university will strictly be a university decision—either a current or retired coach/administrator/student-athlete, or a current or retired member of the local media, who covered the university and conference on a consistent basis over a significant period of time.
3. The Conference Office will also provide one Selection Committee member, either a current or retired conference representative.
4. No member of the HOF committee can also serve on the Selection Committee at the same time.
5. Each member of the Selection Committee will be asked to serve a minimum of three (3) years to a maximum of five (5) years. The concept is to introduce new members over a three-year period (four-to-five new members on a rotation every three years) and avoid the same Selection Committee members making the decisions to inductees into the HOF over a lengthy period of time.
6. Any Selection Committee member change would be replaced by another individual from the same university. Only one Selection Committee member is allowed from each university.

Member	**University**
Ken McDonald	University of Akron
Pat Quinn	Ball State University
Denise Van De Walle	Bowling Green State University
Jon Fuller	University at Buffalo
Rob Wyman	Central Michigan University
Greg Steiner	Eastern Michigan University
TBA	Kent State University
Dave Meyer	Miami University
Donna Turner	Northern Illinois University
Amy Dean	Ohio University
Paul Helgren	University of Toledo
TBA	Western Michigan University
Bob Gennarelli	MAC

Voting Process

Each nominee for the HOF will be submitted along with an official two-page nomination form to be distributed to each Selection Committee member. This two-page nomination will be submitted with the nomination from each university and Conference Office and provide background on each nominee's athletic, academic and community achievements and how it reflected in a positive manner for the university and/or conference.

Each of the 13 nominees will be placed on the ballot in alphabetical order by university. Each Selection Committee member cannot vote for their own university's nominee. The Mid-American Conference Selection Committee member cannot vote for the Conference Office nominee. Any Selection Committee member can vote for the nominee that was submitted by the Conference Office, even if there is a connection to a specific Selection Committee member's university.

First Ballot Voting:

Each Selection Committee Member will have a total of six votes. Each nominee will need a minimum of nine votes for selection to the HOF.

After the first voting ballot there must be a minimum of four (4) nominees selected to the HOF. If there are less than four nominees that receive the necessary nine votes, then a second voting ballot process will be administered.

Second Ballot Voting (if necessary):
In the second voting ballot process, the nominees that received the necessary nine votes for induction to the HOF will be removed from the second ballot and only the remaining nominees will be listed in alphabetical order by institution. In the second voting ballot process, each Selection Committee member will have a total of five (5) votes and once again each nominee remaining would need to receive a minimum of nine (9) votes to be selected to the HOF. The nominees from the first ballot selected to the HOF and the nominees from the second ballot selected to the HOF must meet the range of a minimum total of four (4) HOF inductees.

Third Ballot Voting (if necessary):
In the event that after the first and second voting ballot process, there are still less than four total HOF inductees, then a third and final voting ballot process will be administered. The remaining nominees eligible for the third ballot must have received a minimum of six votes in the second ballot and will be listed in alphabetical order by institution. In the third voting ballot process, each Selection Committee member would have one vote fewer than the number of nominees remaining on the third and final ballot. Each nominee on the third voting ballot would still need to meet the requirement of nine votes for inclusion of the HOF. Via the first, second and third ballot voting process, the HOF should receive the minimum of four (4) members to be inducted into the HOF.

Budget and Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance Committee shall consist of the Commissioner and five members appointed by the Commissioner. The members shall be from different institutions. Three of the appointed members shall be an Institutional President. Two of the appointed members shall be an Athletics Director.

The Committee shall work to analyze, develop and implement programs to increase Mid-American Conference revenues, and shall act as an advisory panel to the Commissioner on matters related to finances as deemed necessary by the Commissioner.

Members shall be selected and rotated as necessary. Current Committee Membership is as follows:

Member	**University**
Geoffrey Mearns {Chair[	Ball State University
Dr. M. Duane Nellis	Ohio University
Dr. James Smith	Eastern Michigan University
Joel Nielsen, AD	Kent State University
Kathy Beauregard, AD	Western Michigan University

Council of Student-Athletes (COSA)

The Council of Student-Athletes (COSA) is the Mid-American Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee shall consist of 25 current student-athlete members. Each institution shall appoint two-member student-athletes to represent the institution on the Committee. One member shall be the national COSA representative; as such one institution will have three student-athletes on the Committee.

COSA will be responsible for discerning initiatives for the benefit of student-athlete welfare and experience. In addition, the Chair, who will be the national COSA representative, will be the primary liaison to all other conference committees. The Chair will be supported by two additional members, voted on by the full Committee, as the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee Members	**University**
Ethan Good, M. Basketball (*Chair*)	Bowling Green State University
Emma Sampson, W. Swimming	University of Toledo
Isaac Vance, Football	Kent State University
Anika Weekes, W. Basketball	Central Michigan University

Mid-American Conference Representatives on NCAA Committees

NCAA Governance

Board of Governors: Dr. Satish Tripathi (University at Buffalo)
Board of Governors to Promote Cultural Diversity & Equity: Dr. Satish Tripathi (University at Buffalo)
Board of Governors Finance and Audit Committee: Dr. Satish Tripathi (University at Buffalo)
Board of Governors Finance and Audit Committee Investment Subcommittee: Dr. Satish Tripathi (University at Buffalo)
Board of Directors: Dr. Satish Tripathi (University at Buffalo)
Ethan Good (Bowling Green State University)
Division I Finance Committee: Dr. Satish Tripathi (University at Buffalo)
Presidential Forum: Dr. Geoff Mearns (Ball State University)
Committee on Infractions: Carol Cartwright (Bowling Green State University)
Gary L. Miller (University of Akron)
Mary C. Schutten (Central Michigan University)
Council: Jon Steinbrecher (Mid-American Conference) *Vice Chair*
Council Coordination Committee: Jon Steinbrecher (Mid-American Conference)
Student-Athlete Advisory Committee: Ethan Good (Bowling Green State University) *Chair*
Football Oversight Committee: Mark Alnutt (University at Buffalo)
Competition Oversight Committee: Beth Goetz (Ball State University)
Legislative Committee: Larry Williams (University of Akron)
Men's Basketball Oversight Committee: Lindsey Blom (Ball State University)
Division I Women's Basketball Competition Committee: Hanna Hall (University at Buffalo)
Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Advancement Committee: Heather Lutz (University of Toledo)
Degree Completion Award Committee: Erin Kido (Eastern Michigan University)

Sport Committees

Division I Men's Basketball Committee: Michael O'Brien (University of Toledo)
Division I Women's Basketball Committee: Beth Goetz (Ball State University)
Division I Baseball Committee: Bob Moosbrugger (Bowling Green State University)
Division I Softball Committee: Keanah Smith (Western Michigan University)
Division I Women's Soccer Committee: Debra Boughton (Northern Illinois University)
Division I Field Hockey Committee: Jennifer Gilbert (Miami University)
Division I Women's Volleyball Committee: Karin Lee (Ball State University)
Women's Gymnastics Committee: Erin Kido (Eastern Michigan University)
M & W Swimming & Diving Committee: Holly Bonewit-Cron (Miami University)
Olympic Sport Liaison Committee: Korinth Patterson (Mid-American Conference)

Sports Governance Program

It is the intent of this program to provide a more consistent and effective administration and management of conference sports programs, and to clarify roles and lines of communication for coaches, the Chair of each coaches' group, and the Conference Office staff liaison. It should be noted that attendance at coaches' annual business meetings is limited to one representative per program per institution.

A. Coaches Associations

a. Coaches Associations for each sport shall be comprised of all employed head coaches from each member institution. Each institution shall have one vote.

b. The Coaches Association shall meet, either in-person or by conference call, for an annual business meeting before the season or shortly after the season has concluded. The Administrative Chair shall chair the meeting.

i. The Administrative Chair and Conference Sport Liaison shall develop the agenda with assistance from the respective sport's coaches. The Conference Sport Liaison shall request agenda items approximately eight (8) weeks prior to the meeting and mail the agenda (with any accompanying attachments) approximately two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

ii. The usual order of business shall be:
1. Call to order (Chair) & Roll call (Conference Sport Liaison)
2. Approval of last minutes
3. Regular season agenda items
4. Championship agenda items
5. Mid-American Conference or National legislative changes
6. Discussion of future sites
7. Officiating matters
8. Other agenda items
9. Adjournment

iii. Amendments or changes to current policy shall be approved by a majority vote of the Coaches Association members and are subject to the final approval of the Joint Committee or Council of Presidents before becoming effective.

iv. Following review by the Executive Council, the Conference Office shall advance the recommendations from the Coaches Association business meetings to the appropriate Subcommittee for review. Coaches Associations are expected to make recommendations regarding revisions or amendments to existing NCAA or Mid-American Conference policies for:
1. Regular season, conference championship, and NCAA competition
2. Sport regulations
3. Officiating for regular-season and conference championships events
4. Efficient administration of the Conference Office as it relates to the sport
5. Compliance with NCAA and Mid-American Conference policies
6. Sport specific awards
7. Other matters as forwarded by the Council of Presidents, the Joint Committee, appropriate Administrative Committee, the Commissioner, the Conference Sport Liaison, or any member of the Coaches Association.

v. The Conference Sport Liaison will attend the meeting and shall review the minutes prior to their distribution to the members of the Coaches Association and Joint Committee.

vi. The annual business meetings are not to be confused with a championship coaches meeting; at which specific details of the championship are reviewed with the participating coaches.

B. Executive Committees

a. Each sport shall have its own Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity for the coaches and Conference Office regarding that specific sport and have the authority to act for the Coaches Association on emergency items, which may arise between regularly-scheduled Coaches Association meetings.
   i. The Executive Committee shall be composed of one athletic administrator as chairperson and three head coaches. The three coaches must be from different institutions.
   ii. Each coach on the committee has one vote and decisions shall be made by simple majority. The Chair serves in an ex-officio role and does not vote.
   iii. Coaches shall be elected by their peers and shall serve for staggered three-year terms, commencing on July 1.

b. When necessary, the Executive Committee shall meet either in person or by conference call. The Conference Office shall advance the recommendations from the Executive Committee to the agenda for either the appropriate Administrative Committee or the Joint Committee's next meeting.

C. Administrative Chair

a. The Administrative Chair shall be an athletics director or senior administrator (SWA/SMA) from any member institution and shall be appointed by the Executive Council.

b. The Chair (and Conference Sport Liaison) shall chair the Coaches Association meetings and any meetings of the Executive Committee and shall review the minutes prior to their distribution to the Coaches Association members and the Joint Committee.

c. The Chair shall copy the Commissioner and Conference Sport Liaison on all correspondence of the Coaches Association and the Executive Committee.

d. The Chair shall oversee the operation of the sport within the guidelines and policies of the Mid-American Conference and the NCAA.

e. The Chair shall attend the conference championship, where possible, and if requested, be prepared to provide a summary of the overall operation of the event at the next meeting of the Championships Committee.

f. The Chair shall review with the Coaches Association any potential "official equipment" or corporate sponsorship proposals developed and presented by the Conference Office.
   i. The Director of Corporate Development will forward to the Chair any proposal which is being explored.
   ii. The Chair is responsible for notifying the members of the Coaches Association of pending proposals.
   iii. The Coaches Association, or the Executive Committee if necessary, shall discuss and review the proposal and report the decision and rationale for the decision to the Conference Office within 14 days.

Sport Administrative Chairs

Men's Sports

Sport	Administrative Chair	University	Staff Liaison
Baseball	Kelly Andrews	Toledo	Jeff Bacon
Basketball	Mike O'Brien	Toledo	Ricky Stokes
Cross Country	Stacy Kosciak	Bowling Green	Korinth Patterson
Track & Field	D'Ann Keller	Buffalo	Korinth Patterson
Football	Mark Alnutt	Buffalo	Bob Gennarelli Kerri Krawczak
Golf	Amy Densevich	Kent State	Jeff Bacon
Soccer	Keanah Smith	Western Michigan	Jeff Bacon
Swimming	Jen Gilbert	Miami	Logan Brooks
Tennis	Karin Lee	Ball State	Logan Brooks
Wrestling	Amy Dean	Ohio	Korinth Patterson

Women's Sports

Sport	Administrative Chair	University	Staff Liaison
Basketball	Kathy Beauregard Deb Boughton	Western Michigan Northern Illinois	Ricky Stokes
Cross Country	Stacy Kosciak	Bowling Green	Korinth Patterson
Track & Field	D'Ann Keller	Buffalo	Korinth Patterson
Field Hockey	Jen Gilbert	Miami	Korinth Patterson
Golf	Rachel Blunt	Central Michigan	Korinth Patterson
Gymnastics	Erin Kido	Eastern Michigan	Kristin Williams
Lacrosse	Amy Densevich	Kent State	Jeff Bacon
Soccer	Debra Boughton	Northern Illinois	Korinth Patterson
Softball	Keanah Smith	Western Michigan	Korinth Patterson
Swimming	Mary Lu Gribschaw	Akron	Korinth Patterson
Tennis	Karin Lee	Ball State	Kristin Williams
Volleyball	Scott Wetherbee Kelly Andrews	Eastern Michigan Toledo	Jeff Bacon

Conference Policies and Certifications

Missed Class Time Policy

Institutions participating in home athletic contests on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday (i.e., "mid-week"), that begin at 6:00pm local time or later, are required to ensure that all student-athletes attend and remain in all scheduled classes starting prior to 12:00 noon local time the day of the contest. Home contests are those competitions that take place at the standard home facility. [*Adopted: 8/26/11; Revised 1/27/16*].

Concussion Plan Certification

Each institution must certify in writing that a formal and written concussion management plan, which is in compliance with NCAA requirements, is in place. Additionally, each institution must certify that staff, coaches and student-athletes receive education regarding the institution's concussion management plan.

In addition to the Mid-American Conference Concussion Certification, each institution is responsible for submitting institutional protocols to the DI NCAA Concussion Safety Protocol Review process annually.

Mental Health Protocol Certification

Each institution must certify in writing that a formal education and a written management plan is in place regarding student-athlete mental health at the end of each academic year.

Sportsmanship Affidavits

Each institution is required to certify that all student-athletes, staff and coaches have reviewed and acknowledge the Mid-American Conference Sportsmanship Letter prior to competition in each sport program.
The process to be used in reviewing the document is as follows:

- One copy of the original should be made by the institution for each team in all Mid-American Conference sports;
- The head coach for each sport and one administrator should review the document with the student-athletes on each of the squads;
- Following the review, each squad member should sign his/her respective team letter and all letters should be filed in the department of athletics;
- After reviewing the document with the respective squads, the Athletics Director and head coach shall sign the Institutional Certification statement; and
- Forward it to the Conference Office prior to the first contest of the season.

Financial Policies

The following descriptions provide a summary of the major financial policies currently approved by the membership of the Mid-American Conference. Further information or details may be referenced in specific sport operating code sections.

Membership Dues & Assessments

A. Membership Dues

Membership dues are reviewed annually and approved by the Mid-American Conference's governing body. Full membership dues are currently established at $100,000 and are invoiced in July for that academic year. Affiliate membership dues are invoiced in September of each year and are determined based on the affiliate membership agreement approved and in place for that sport.

B. Vendor Contracts

The conference has entered into contracts with outside vendors to provide services or equipment directly to member institutions. These contracts assure the uniform application of conference-mandated sports services.

C. Olympic Sport Championship Shared Cost Model

All Mid-American Conference Olympic Sport Championships operate under a Championship Shared Cost Model wherein each institution will be invoiced an advance assessment for each sport sponsored by the institution. Collected assessments will be redistributed to the Championship Host for each sport that year. This fund is intended to assist with known and required costs of hosting and operating a Mid-American Conference Championship and is not intended to cover all costs or expenses.

D. Officiating Assessments

As part of its member services, the Mid-American Conference contracts with individuals or is a member of an officiating consortium to facilitate assignment of officials for member's athletic competitions. Officiating coordinator costs related to non-core sports are covered by the affiliate membership fees for those sports.

Payments for game day football and M/W basketball officials will be paid from the league office. However, these costs remain the responsibility of each member institution and institutions will be invoiced in advance of the applicable season for their share of these officials' costs.

E. Football Bowl Assessments

Mid-American Conference Institutions will be assessed $130,000 for the purpose of funding the conference's primary and secondary bowl agreements. This assessment will be invoiced to football members in 2 equal installments.

F. Conference Basketball Tournament

Mid-American Conference Institutions will each be invoiced $28,500 as an equal share of the contractual Tournament ticket guarantee. Ticket revenues from institutional sales of tickets from the guarantee block will be shared in a manner approved by the Athletics Directors.

Membership Distributions

A. NCAA Basketball Tournament

Revenue from the NCAA basketball tournament is distributed in mid-June of each year to the membership. The NCAA Tournament shares are allocated between AQ units earned and extra performance units earned during the six-year reporting period.

1. A $50,000 stipend is awarded to NCAA Men's Tournament participants.
2. Remaining revenue from all units earned will be distributed equally 13 ways, with the Conference Office receiving one full share.
3. Amounts received from the NCAA from any supplemental men's basketball tournament distributions will be distributed in accordance with the recommendation of the Commissioner and approval of the membership.

B. Event Streaming

Each Mid-American Conference institution will receive a distribution to subsidize the production costs for streaming 35 contractually-required events for distribution on the ESPN+/ESPN3 platforms. The amount of the distribution will be based on the average league-wide production costs.

C. Surplus Funds

The Council of Presidents will determine the amount, timing, and purpose for any distribution of surplus funds generated by the Conference. All sources of revenue not previously earmarked for distribution according to other formulas heretofore described will be included in this general member distribution. Those revenues include television, college football playoff, marketing rights and championships.

Football Bowl Reimbursement Policy

For all bowl games a participating Mid-American Conference institution receives:

1. $350,000 reimbursement;
2. Retains revenue from all tickets sold;
3. Conference assigns and pays for charter aircrafts;
4. If applicable, ground transportation costs incurred instead of air charter will be reimbursed subject to review and approval of the Commissioner

Above policy does not apply to 5-7 institutions participating in a bowl game. The participating institution is only eligible to receive funds provided by the bowl. (Revised 2/20/17)

Football Bowl Charter Airfare Policy

The Mid-American Conference will contract and assign charter aircrafts to be used for postseason bowl travel for the conference's primary bowl agreements. The Conference Office will be responsible for assignment and payment for these charters.

NCAA Student Assistance Fund Administrative Procedures

A. Intent and Principles

The Student Assistance Fund (formerly SAF/SAOF) is intended to provide direct benefits to student-athletes or their families as determined by the Conference Office. As a guiding principle, the fund shall be used to assist student-athletes in meeting financial needs that arise in conjunction with participation in intercollegiate athletics, enrollment in an academic curriculum or that recognize academic achievement. Accordingly, receipt of Student Assistance Fund monies shall not be included in determining the permissible amount of financial aid that a member institution may award to a student-athlete. Further, inasmuch

as the fund is design to provide direct benefits to student-athletes, the fund is not intended to be used to replace existing budget items.

The financial administration for the NCAA Student Assistance Fund for student-athletes will be supervised by each member institution. The Financial Aid Office or a designated athletics staff member at each member institution will manage and operate the distribution of these funds as well as complete the appropriate NCAA reports.

B. Procedures

1. The Conference Office submits NCAA allocation check to the athletic department of each member institution in September, along with a copy of the application form for student-athlete requests.
2. The athletic department deposits the check with its respective Financial Aid office, along with information describing the program, those eligible and any changes to the NCAA legislation.
3. The Financial Aid office, in conjunction with the Conference Office, monitors the fund and provides guidance with interpretations. Institutions are required to audit the program at the end of the fiscal year.
4. At the conclusion of each year, the Financial Aid office/athletics administrator designee will submit an audit report to the NCAA prior to July 12th.
5. The Conference Office will verify and submit a final audit report to the NCAA.

C. Eligibility for the Fund

All student-athletes, including international, are eligible to receive assistance regardless of whether they are grant-in-aid recipients, have demonstrated need or have either exhausted eligibility or no longer participate due to medical reasons.

D. Prohibited Uses for the Fund

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 15.01.6.1, member institutions and conferences shall not use monies received from the fund for the following:

1. Salaries and Benefits.
2. Grants-in-aid (other than summer school) for student-athletes with remaining eligibility.
3. Capital improvements.
4. Stipends.

E. Examples of Permissible Uses for the Fund (list is not exhaustive):

Educational Expenses

1. Summer school
2. Fifth/Sixth year aid
3. Postgraduate scholarship
4. Internship fees
5. Graduate school exam fees
6. Professional program testing
7. Educational supplies

Personal Expenses

1. Clothing allowance
2. Psychological screening
3. Passports and fees

Misfortune Expenses

1. Medical expenses not covered by insurance
2. Emergency travel home
3. Travel expenses for funerals

Institutional Academic/Programming Enhancements

1. Academic achievement or graduation awards
2. Academic support service

Drug Education and Life Skills Grant Application

Any Mid-American Conference member initiation is eligible for the Drug Education and Life Skills grant. Institutions may apply for a maximum of $2,500 each academic year. Deadline to request funds for the 2020-21 academic year is May 1, 2021.

To receive funds from the NCAA/Mid-American Conference Drug Education and Life Skills Grant allocation, each institution must submit a brief, yet comprehensive narrative about the proposed program. This narrative should include the purpose, goals and objectives, while also citing any special circumstances or informational points about the program.

In addition to the narrative, a projected budget covering the categories of expenditures shown below in the proposed budget report must be completed.

Media Policies

Press Box Admission Policy

A. In all Mid-American Conference press boxes, the SID of the host institution shall have jurisdiction over admission of working news media.

B. Priority shall be given to working members of newspaper, radio, television, one working scout per outside institution, and two working cameramen per outside institution. The working scouts, however, shall be accommodated only on an “if room” basis.

C. The host SID has the right to refuse admission if the request for space is not made at least a week in advance.

Radio Policy

Radio broadcasts of football and basketball games and any other revenue-producing sports at each member institution shall be under the control of the host institution. Rights of each team shall be as follows:

A. All revenue and full control of radio rights shall be retained by the host institution.

B. The visiting institution shall be allowed to designate one official station and/or network which shall be granted free broadcasting rights on a reciprocal basis. The official visiting radio station using the Mid-American Conference reciprocal line shall be accorded equal broadcasting facilities and proximity to the field or court as the official station of the host institution.

1. Any revenue derived from this official outlet or network shall be collected by the visiting institution unless there is a market overlap.
2. In all network operations, it shall be the responsibility of the official (originating) station to supply feeder stations with a weekly structural format to facilitate “commercial breaks” and make it practical for interested stations in the home or visiting market area to pick up a broadcast feed.
3. One station or network banner may be displayed in the area provided by the host institution.

Football Media Policies

Mid-American Conference Pool Reporter Policy

The pool reporter will be assigned by the home sports information director prior to the start of the football season.

The pool reporter will be one member of the media who covers that institution on a regular basis. Sports Information Directors (SIDs) will notify Ken Mather of the Mid-American Conference office at the start of each season as to the identity of the pool reporter.
If the designated pool reporter is not in attendance for any reason, the host SID should designate a replacement for that game. The pool reporter must be accompanied by the Home SID or a member of the media relations staff as designated by the Home SID.

1. There will be only one (1) pool reporter;
2. The referee must agree to the Conference;
3. What can be discussed:
    a. Rule Interpretation
    b. Game Procedure
4. What cannot be discussed:
    a. Judgment Call
5. Following a 10-minute cooling off period, game management (Athletics Director or other designee) will accompany the SID and pool reporter to the officials' locker room for a clarification of the rule.
6. The pool reporter is to remain outside of the Referees Locker Room.
7. The Referee may be accompanied by another official. Both the SID and reporter will tape record the interview. Upon conclusion of the interview, a typed transcript of the interview will be made available to all media.
8. No one except the officials, the pool reporter, SID and game management may be present during the interview/process.
9. The Athletics Director (and/or game management designee) has the discretion to defer implementing this process if the safety of an official, player or fan would be endangered as a result of this interview opportunity. If this interview process is not available, all media questions shall be referred to the Conference Office.

Each summer the Conference Office will host a Football Media Day event, which will require the participation of each head football coach and two student-athletes. The selection of the two (2) student-athletes will be coordinated by the Conference Office as each institution will select one (1) student-athlete, while the Conference Office will select one (1) student-athlete.

All head football coaches are required to participate in a weekly football coach's media conference call hosted by the Conference Office. The conference call will be hosted each Monday during the regular season and require each head football coach's participation each week during the regular season.

The Conference Office will host a Football Championship Game media conference call the Monday prior to the Championship Game. The head football coach and a minimum of two (2) student-athletes from each institution in the Football Championship Game are required to participate. The participating student-athletes are required to be starters that will participate in the Championship Game.

The Conference Office will host a Football Championship Game press conference one (1) day prior to the Championship Game at the host site. The head football coach and minimum of two (2) student-athletes from each institution in the Football Championship Game are required to participate in the press conference. The participating student-athletes are required to be starters that will participate in the Championship Game.

The Conference Office will host a postgame press conference immediately following the Football Championship Game. Each head football coach and a minimum of two (2)

student-athletes from each institution are required to participate in the press conference. The participating student-athletes are required to be either starters or players that made a significant contribution to his team during the Championship Game.

Each Mid-American Conference football program that receives an invitation to a bowl game is required to participate in the bowl games media press conferences and events including the following: bowl invitation conference call; on-site pre-bowl press conference; bowl arrival press conference; all media related press conferences including sponsor and community press conferences on site the week of the bowl game; bowl game post-game press conference.

Sport Programming & Development

Mid-American Conference New Head Coach & Administrator Orientation

The new Mid-American Conference Head Coach & Administrator Orientation Program has been developed to assist new Mid-American Conference Head Coaches & Sport Administrators with the transition to their new roles and/or to the Mid-American Conference.

Orientation is a one (1) day seminar that will take place annually, during the end of July for Olympic Sport Coaches and Administrators. New Football and Men's and Women's Basketball coaches are required to attend a session during their spring in-person meeting. The exact date is to be determined on an annual basis. All Head Coaches hired during the preceding twelve (12) month period are required to attend. Institutions are responsible for travel and lodging costs (if necessary).

Diversity & Inclusion Program

The Mid-American Conference Diversity & Inclusion Program was developed in 2016 under the direction and guidance of the Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents and Mid-American Conference Council of Directors of Athletics. The goals of the Program are to develop a pool of diverse candidates for collegiate job opportunities, provide educational opportunities for a diverse group of Mid-American Conference athletics administrators and coaches, and promote diversity and inclusion in hiring within the Mid-American Conference.

Statement on Diversity & Inclusion

The Conference has adopted the following Statement on Diversity & Inclusion and requests that each member institution adopt this Statement if one does not already exist on campus. Institutions are free to edit and amend this Statement as appropriate.

> Mid-American Conference Statement on Diversity & Inclusion
>
> As a core value, the Mid-American Conference believes in and is committed to diversity, inclusion and gender equity among its student-athletes, coaches, staff and administrators. We seek to establish and maintain an inclusive culture that fosters equitable participation for student-athletes and career opportunities for coaches and administrators from diverse backgrounds. Diversity and inclusion improve the learning environment for all student-athletes and enhance excellence within the Conference.
>
> The Mid-American Conference will provide or enable programming, education and outreach which sustains foundations of a diverse and inclusive culture across dimensions of diversity including but not limited to age, race, sex, class, national origin, creed, educational background, disability, gender expression, gender identity, geographical location, income, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation and work experiences.

Diversity & Inclusion Internship Program

A conference-wide Internship Program has been established. Each full member institution is asked to offer one (1) year-long internship (preferred) or two (2) semester-long internships per year. Internship day-to-day responsibilities and requirements may be determined by each institution and may be broad based (i.e. provide an experience in multiple departments) or may be focused in one particular area. Interns will participate in monthly conference calls, hosted by the Conference Office, with interns from all MAC institutions, to engage in diversity, leadership, and career development opportunities. This program is intended to provide opportunities to a diverse group of student-athletes or undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career in collegiate athletics.

Target Interns

Diversity & Inclusion Internships are open to all applicants, however undergraduate and graduate student-athletes or students pursuing a degree or graduate degree in areas that translate to a career in collegiate athletics administration (e.g. Sport Management, Sport Administration, Marketing, Communications, Business, Law, etc.) are preferred.

Focus

To assist the Mid-American Conference with the hiring and training of the next generation of collegiate administrators and leaders with the priorities of:

(1) Providing opportunities in collegiate athletics administration to a diverse group
(2) Promoting diversity in collegiate athletics administration
(3) Increasing the representation of underrepresented classes
(4) Developing leaders

Job Responsibilities

Job responsibilities may be determined by each institution. Responsibilities may be broad based (i.e., provide an experience in several departments) or may be focused in one particular area.

It is not permissible for a student-athlete to serve as an intern to his or her coach or coaching staff.

Interns should work with the institution's Council of Student-Athletes representatives in planning and preparing for the MAC Diversity & Inclusion Week and MAC Mental Health Awareness Week.

Interns will be required to participate on monthly conference calls.

Hours & Compensation

Diversity & Inclusion Internships compensation and/or course credit may be determined by institutional discretion. Details may vary by institution. Hours should be reflective of campus policy, however 20 hours per week is recommended.

Application and Selection Process

An interview and selection process may be determined by each institution.

Institutional Requirements (Annual Calendar)

Diversity & Inclusion Internships will be offered for either the full 2020-21 academic year (preferred) or the Fall and Spring Semesters of 2020-21. Institutions may decide which format they will offer.

September 15th - Each institution is required to identify a year-long intern or fall semester intern and provide that individual's name and contact information, along with the Internship Job Description, to **Logan Brooks (lbrooks@mac-**

sports.com) at the Conference Office by September 15th of each year. An example Job Description is attached as *"Attachment A".*

December 1st - If offering two (2) semester-long internships: Each institution is required to identify a spring semester intern and provide that individual's name and contact information to **Logan Brooks (lbrooks@mac-sports.com)** at the Conference Office by December 1st of each year.

July 15th - Each institution is required to submit a progress report to **Logan Brooks (lbrooks@mac-sports.com)** at the Conference Office by July 15th of each year. This report should include a summary of Internship offerings (participants, areas of responsibility, achievements, future goals, etc.) and notes or recommendations for improvement in future offerings.

Diversity & Inclusion Mentoring Program

A conference-wide Mentoring Program has been established, in which each member institution shall identify 1-2 mentor and mentee pairings to participate in a 1-year program intended to provide mentoring and educational opportunities to a diverse group of young MAC administrators.

Program Outline

The MAC Diversity & Inclusion Mentoring Program asks each MAC Institution to identify a senior staff member or athletic department head (Mentor) and pair that individual with a young administrator (Mentee) from a diverse pool. The Mentor and Mentee will engage in an academic year-long program that includes regularly scheduled meetings, conference calls with Mentors and Mentees from all MAC institutions, and an end of year experience at the MAC Spring Joint Council Meetings and Honors Banquet.

Participants

Each institution is required to pair at least one Mentor and Mentee. Institutions may pair up to two Mentors and Mentees, provided that one Mentee is male and one Mentee is female. Mentors must be a member of the institution's senior staff or be the head of his or her department. Mentees must be within his or her first five (5) years of experience working in college athletics or in a new role within the athletics department. Institutions are encouraged to identify and consider a diverse group of applicants.

Identification/Selection of Mentors and Mentees

Institutions are asked to identify and submit the names and contact information of Mentors and Mentees to the Conference Office by September 15th of each academic year. Institutions are free to determine the preferred method for identifying Mentors and Mentees. It is recommended that institutions identify individuals interested in participating in the program, as they will be required to participate in a series of programming throughout the year including attendance at the annual MAC Spring Joint Council Meetings in Cleveland.

Institutions may identify a senior staff member, or members, interested in serving as a Mentor and allow those individuals to identify an appropriate Mentee; institutions may ask administrators to apply for the Mentee program, select Mentees through an interview or assessment process, and then identify and assign an appropriate Mentor; any process deemed appropriate by the institution will be accepted so long as a diverse group of Mentee applicants are considered.

Programming

Mentors and Mentees will participate in a series of programming throughout the academic year including an on-campus mentee plan, a series of monthly conference calls with other Mentors and Mentees, and attendance at the MAC Spring Joint Council Meetings.

Campus Mentee Plan

Mentors on each campus are expected to design an individual plan for communication and growth with their Mentee throughout the academic year. Examples include:

- Weekly or bi-weekly Mentor/Mentee Meetings
- Development of a project that the Mentor and Mentee can work on together
- An invitation to the Mentee to shadow a Senior Staff Meeting(s)
- Mentee inclusion in one or more senior staff-level events

Each Mentor's plan must be submitted to the Conference Office by September 15th.

Conference Calls

Monthly calls with all institutional Mentors and Mentees will be hosted by the Conference Office during the academic year. These calls will focus on leadership and career development and provide an opportunity for the sharing of best practices, campus challenges, and professional development. Calls may feature a guest speaker and Mentees will be expected to participate and engage in conversation on every call.

MAC Spring Joint Council Meetings

All Mentees will be expected to attend the MAC Spring Joint Council Meetings in Cleveland around the end of May/beginning of June. The Spring Meeting Program will take place over a two-day period and will include:

- Day 1, Morning: Opening session for all Mentees
- Day 1, Mid-Day: Lunch (provided)
- Day 1, Afternoon: Meeting Shadowing: Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives
- Day 1, Afternoon: Meeting Shadowing: Council of Senior Administrators
- Day 1, Afternoon: Meeting Shadowing: Council of Directors of Athletics
- Day 1, Evening: Invitation to the Commissioner's Reception (Light Dinner provided)
- Day 2, Morning: Breakfast (provided)
- Day 2, Morning: Council of Mentees Mock Governance Session
- Day 2, Mid-Day: Lunch (provided)
- Day 2, Afternoon: Meeting Shadowing: MAC Joint Council
- Day 2, Evening: Invitation to the annual Mid-American Conference Honors Banquet (Dinner provided)

The Conference Office will provide hotel lodging and meals (as outlined above) to all Program attendees. Institutions will be responsible for all other costs associated with attending the MAC Spring Meetings (e.g., travel).

End of Year Evaluation

After the Spring Meeting Program, Mentors and Mentees will be asked to complete an evaluation of their experience in the Diversity & Inclusion Mentoring Program.

Diversity & Inclusion Awards Program

Awards & Selection

On an annual basis, the MAC Diversity & Inclusion Committee will review nominees for three (3) Conference Diversity & Inclusion Awards: The Institutional Athletic Department Award, an Administrator Award, and a Student-Athlete Award. Each award is intended to

recognize outstanding achievement in diversity and inclusion. The Committee is not required to select an award winner from each or any category unless a deserving nominee is identified. Award winners will be identified and announcement during the early fall of the following academic year.

Nomination Criteria

1. Each MAC full member university will have the opportunity to nominate their own athletic department, one (1) athletic department administrator, and/or one (1) student-athlete for each award category on an annual basis.

2. Each individual nominee from a university must currently participate in athletics or be employed by the athletic department at his/her respective university

3. Nominations from each university must be signed by the school's Director of Athletics and Diversity & Inclusion Committee Representative.

4. Nominations should include the following:

   a. Institutional Athletic Department Award

      - Provide a 500-word summary on why the department is deserving of award
      - Provide a broad-based demonstration of a dedication to increasing diversity and inclusion
      - Provide statistical components as appropriate, evidencing a diverse and inclusive staff or progress towards a diverse and inclusive staff
      - Provide a demonstration of diversity and inclusion-based hiring process or policies
      - Provide a demonstration of diversity and inclusion based educational programming or initiatives
      - Provide a demonstration of the departments commitment to the conference diversity and inclusion program
      - Provide an active diversity and inclusion plan within the athletic department
      - Two Letters of Support that describe how the department has fostered leadership and a commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion and expanded opportunities for students and staff

   b. Administrator Award

      - Provide a 500-word recommendation on why the nominee is deserving of award
      - Provide a demonstration of the nominees' active participation in the promotion and educational awareness of diversity and inclusion
      - Provide a demonstration of the nominees' leadership in educational programming or initiatives within the athletic department, on campus, or in the community
      - Two Letters of Support that describe how the nominee has fostered leadership and a commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion and expanded opportunities for students and staff

   c. Student-Athlete Award

      - Provide a 500-word recommendation on why the nominee is deserving of award
      - Provide a demonstration of the nominees' active participation in the promotion and educational awareness of diversity and inclusion
      - Provide a demonstration of the nominees' leadership in educational programming or initiatives within the athletic department, on campus, or in the community
      - Two Letters of Support that describe how the nominee has fostered leadership and a commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion and expanded opportunities for students and staff

Selection Committee
The Diversity & Inclusion Committee will be responsible for reviewing the nominees and selecting award winners.

Timeline
The Committee will operate under the following timeline. The Committee will review nominations for all three award categories on an annual basis however the Committee is not required to identify an award winner in any or all categories unless a deserving nominee is identified.

June 1st -	MAC Office will solicit nominations
June 30th -	Nominations due to MAC Office
July 1st -	Nominations distributed to Diversity & Inclusion Committee
July 1st–15th -	Nominations reviewed by Diversity & Inclusion Committee
July 15th -	Award winner(s) identified by Diversity & Inclusion Committee
August -	Award winner(s) announced

Voting Process
All award nominees will be placed on a ballot in alphabetical order by university. Committee members must assign votes as described below and cannot vote for their own university's nominee(s). If a Committee member fails to assign votes as instructed, any nomination submitted by that Committee members' institution would be disqualified.

Each Committee Member will have a total of six votes to be assigned as follows:

- If four (4) or more nominees are available: Three votes will be assigned to the Committee member's first choice, two votes will be assigned to the Committee member's second choice, and one vote will be assigned to the Committee member's third choice.

- If three (3) nominees are available: Four votes will be assigned to the Committee member's first choice and two votes will be assigned to the Committee member's second choice.

- If two (2) nominees are available: All six votes will be assigned to the Committee members first choice.

The Nominee receiving the most total votes will be the award winner. If two or more nominees are tied for the most total votes, the following tiebreaker steps will be followed:

(1) The nominee receiving more total first choice votes will be the award winner.
(2) If still tied after #1 above, the nominees will be declared co-winner

Uniform Branding Program

It is required that the following sports affix the Mid-American Conference Shield Logo (Institutional Color version per the Mid-American Conference Style Guide) in the designated location. The Conference Office will provide the requisite number of uniform patches to each institution/team on an annual basis, based on Institutional requests.

1. **Football.** Logo positioned on the front of the jersey opposite the manufacturer logo.
2. **Basketball (Men and Women).** Logo positioned on the left singlet area on the front of the jersey above the American Flag (if present) or the NCAA Authentication Logo (if present). If the manufacturer logo is positioned at the neckline, the Mid-American

Conference logo should be positioned opposite the American Flag (if present) and/or the NCAA Authentication logo (if present).

3. **Volleyball.** Logo positioned on the front of the jersey opposite the manufacturer logo. If not possible due to another logo's presence, logo should be positioned on left or right sleeve.
4. **Soccer (Men and Women).** Logo positioned on the front of the jersey opposite the manufacturer logo. If not possible due to other logo presence, logo should be positioned on the nape of the neck.
5. **Field Hockey.** Logo positioned on the front of the jersey opposite the manufacturer logo. If not possible due to other logo presence, logo should be positioned on the nape of the neck.
6. **Baseball.** Logo positioned on the left sleeve. If not possible, it may be positioned on the right sleeve or the jersey front opposite the manufacturer logo.
7. **Softball.** Logo positioned on the left sleeve. If not possible, it may be positioned on the right sleeve or the jersey front opposite the manufacturer logo.
8. **Golf (Men and Women).** Logo positioned on the player's golf bag.
9. **Tennis (Men and Women).** Logo positioned on the front of the shirt opposite the manufacturer logo. If utilizing a t-shirt, logo should be positioned on the left sleeve.
10. **Wrestling.** Logo positioned on the front of the singlet opposite the manufacturer logo. If not possible due to other logo presence, logo should be positioned on the nape of the neck.
11. **Cross Country (Men and Women), Swimming & Diving (Men and Women), Gymnastics, and Track & Field.** Logo positioned on team warm-ups at the discretion of the institution.

Patch Size/Applications:

- **Large (3 inch):** Football, Baseball, Softball, Golf;
- **Small (2 inch):** All other applications.

Home Football Uniform Designation

Mid-American Conference Football Home Uniform Rule: In accordance with NCAA Football Rules 1-4-4 and 1-4-5; the home team shall wear dark jerseys and the visiting team shall wear white or light jerseys during a contest. A home team may opt to wear white jerseys in accordance with the Mid-American Conference Uniform Request Policy. Both home and away teams may opt to wear dark/colored jerseys in accordance with the Mid-American Conference Uniform Request Policy.

Mid-American Conference Uniform Request Policy

- A request, in writing, must be made **PRIOR TO AUGUST 1** to the Conference Office, requesting the ability to wear a white or light jersey for a home contest;
- Once permission is granted, the Conference Office shall coordinate the use of a dark or contrasting jersey with the visiting team;
- If both teams agree to wear dark/colored jerseys, the request must be made, in writing, by the home team **PRIOR TO AUGUST 1** to the Conference Office. The home and away teams have agreed, in writing, to comply with the terms of the uniform arrangement prior to the game.

Award Programs

In all conference sports, the Conference Office will fund up to five awards (e.g., freshman of the year, player of the year), one of which must be the coach of the year award.

All-Sports Trophies

David E. Reese Award (Men) - There shall be an annual trophy named for former commissioner David E. Reese, awarded to the member institution with the highest average based upon finishes in the 11 men's sports for which the Mid-American Conference sponsors championships.

Points shall be assigned as shown below, depending on the number of schools sponsoring the sport. In the event of a tie in a sport's standings, the combined point total for the designated positions shall be divided equally by the number of teams sharing the tied position (e.g., two teams tie for second place - points shall be awards as follows: 12 + 11 / 2 = 11.5 points).

When compiling Reese Trophy points, all Mid-American Conference sponsored sports shall receive points. The sum of those total points is then divided the number of teams sponsored by that school, resulting in an average point total. The school with the highest average will be awarded the trophy.

Fred Jacoby Award (Women) - There shall be an annual trophy named for former commissioner Fred Jacoby, awarded to the member institution with the highest average based on the finishes in the 12 women's sports for which the Mid-American Conference sponsors championships.

Points shall be assigned as shown below, depending on the number of schools sponsoring the sport. In the event of a tie in a sport's standings, the combined point total for the designated positions shall be divided equally by the number of teams sharing the tied position (e.g., two teams tie for second place - points shall be awards as follows: 12 + 11 / 2 = 11.5 points).

When compiling Jacoby Trophy points, all Mid-American Conference sponsored sports shall receive points. The sum of those total points is then divided the number of teams sponsored by that school, resulting in an average point total. The school with the highest average will be awarded the trophy.

Regular Season Champion Sports - The following sports (13) honor a regular-season champion and will be awarded points based on their season record (percentage): baseball, men's and women's basketball, field hockey, football, gymnastics, men's and women's soccer, softball, men's and women's tennis, volleyball and wrestling. [*Revised 1/29/14*]

Mid-American Conference Championship/Tournament Sports - The following sports (10) are awarded points based on the Mid-American Conference Championship/tournament finish: men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's indoor track & field, and men's and women's outdoor track & field. [*Revised 1/29/14*]

Affiliate Members – Affiliate Members are not eligible to receive Reese or Jacoby Points. However, when calculating Reese and Jacoby points for each sport, Affiliate Members <u>will</u> count towards the total number of teams competing in the sport (chart below), and final standings and finish will be determined inclusive of Affiliate Member standings or finish.

For example: if "Affiliate Member A" competes in men's soccer along with six (6) full members and finishes in 1st Place in the final Mid-American Conference soccer standings, the full members shall receive 2nd through 7th Place points based on seven (7) teams competing in the sport.

All Sports Trophy Point Chart

No. of Teams	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
1st place	13	13	13	13	13	12.5	12.5	12	12	12	11.5
2nd place	12.5	12	12	12	11.5	11.5	11	11	10	9	8.5
3rd place	11.5	11	10.5	10	9.5	9	9	9	8	7	5.5
4th place	10.5	10	9.5	9	8.5	8	8	7	6	4	2.5
5th place	9.5	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6	5	4	2	
6th place	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	5	3	2		
7th place	7.5	7	6.5	6	5.5	5	3	2			
8th place	6.5	6	5.5	5	4.5	2.5	1.5				
9th place	5.5	5	4.5	4	2.5	1					
10th place	4.5	4	3.5	2	1						
11th place	3.5	3	2	1							
12th place	2.5	2	1								
13th place	1.5	1									
14th place	1										

Achievement Trophies

The following awards are institutional awards designed to recognize academic and other institutional achievements on an annual basis. *[Revised 1/26/10]*

Institutional Academic Achievement Award

This award shall be presented annually to the MAC institution which achieves the highest overall institutional GPA for student-athletes competing in institutionally sponsored sports for the academic year. Listed below are the criteria to determine an institution's overall grade-point average:

Listed below are the criteria to determine an institution's overall grade-point average:

1. All school-sponsored sports shall be used to determine grade-point averages for the Institutional GPA Award.
2. To calculate the GPA, an institution shall use the roster list (including walk-ons), as it stands on the APR input deadline date (eight-weeks following the start of the institution's fall term). [*Revised 10/9/2019*]
3. If a graduate student-athlete is on the official roster list his/her graduate grade-point average shall be used. If a student is dual enrolled in both graduate and undergraduate classes, the GPA and quality points from both are counted.
4. If a student-athlete participates in more than one sport (i.e. cross country and track), his/her grade-point average should be used once.
5. Only those with a full year GPA at the current institutional will be included. *[Revised 10/11/18]*

Men's and Women's Faculty Athletics Representative Awards

This award shall be presented annually to the member institution with the highest total average number of points based on the overall GPA and Academic Progress Rate (APR) of men's teams and women's teams, respectively. The formula will be a combination of the GPA and APR in a 50/50 formula.

The overall GPA and APR points earned for each team will be computed for the calendar year by dividing the total number of "quality points" (i.e., QP, the sum of A = 4 X credits, B = 3 X credits, etc.) received by that team by the total number of letter graded credit hours attempted by that team (calculated to the third decimal place; see example). To calculate the GPA, an institution shall use the roster list (including walk-ons), as it stands on the APR input deadline date (eight-weeks following the start of the institution's fall term). [*Revised 8/1/2014; 10/9/2019*] The points awarded for a given sport shall be determined as for the Reese/Jacoby Cups as per the Point Table above.

[Revised 10/11/18]

FAR Award Example:

GPA:

Team A – N=14 term 1; 11 term 2

First term 2016 – Qual. Pts. = 614; GPA Hrs. = 178

Second term 2017 – Qual. Pts. = 519; GPA Hrs. = 148

Total for 2016-17 – Qual. Pts. = 1,133; GPA Hrs. = 326

GPA for 2016-17 – 1,133/326 = 3.475

[*Revised: 10/11/2018*]

Dr. Carol A. Cartwright Award

This award shall be presented annually to the Mid-American Conference institution which achieves overall program excellence based upon academic excellence, athletic excellence, and citizenship. Each institution shall appoint one (1) representative to serve on the Award Selection Committee which shall consider the following criteria in selecting a recipient:

- **Academic Excellence:** The Committee will consider APR recognition, APR penalties, graduation rates and other academic accomplishments of institutions' student-athletes and teams.
- **Athletic Excellence:** The Committee will consider Reese and Jacoby Cup Standings and other athletic achievements such as national rankings, NCAA Tournament success, All-American honors for student-athletes, and athletic improvement.
- **Citizenship:** The Committee will consider community service projects, educational programs for student-athletes, diversity and gender equity, and evidence of sportsmanship and ethical conduct in competition.

Selection Process**-**Institutions are encouraged to submit a nomination to the Conference Office reporting on their academic, athletic and citizenship achievements at the conclusion of the academic year. While it is recommended that each Institution submit a nomination, it is not required. The Conference will collect all submitted nominations and provide the Cartwright Nomination Packet to the Cartwright Selection Committee.

The Cartwright Selection Committee is comprised of a twelve (12) representatives appointed by each member institution's President. There are no restrictions on who may be appointed to this committee. Each committee member is free to determine the weight of each category in their voting methodology but must consider all three in determining their vote. Committee members may vote for their institution. Once the votes are submitted and calculated, the winning institution will be informed by the Conference Office to coordinate a joint release and award ceremony.

Sportsmanship Award

This award is presented to the institution selected by its peers to have best exhibited the standards of sportsmanship and ethical conduct as outlined by the Mid-American Conference and NCAA. Voting will occur during the Mid-American Conference Spring Joint Council Meetings.

All-MAC Teams

At the conclusion of their respective sport seasons, the coaches of all conference sports shall select an All-MAC team. Listed below is a breakdown of the total number of student-athletes to be honored (including ties) in each sport and the maximum number of first team honorees. (Note: Each coaches' group retains the flexibility to designate remaining honorees as second team or honorable mention.) *See the operating codes for each respective sport for specific selection procedures.*

In the event of ties in the voting process, the manner in which votes are cast (i.e., number of first place votes nominee received, number of second place votes, etc.) shall be reviewed to

determine if the tie can be broken. If the tie cannot be broken, honoree places from those allocated to second team/honorable mention shall be used in an effort to name only the total number of honorees as allocated for each specific sport. This is with the understanding that, at times, it may be necessary to name 1-2 additional student-athletes as honorees.

Sport	Total Honorees	Max. First Team Honorees
Baseball	30	15
Basketball (men)	20	5
Basketball (women)	20	5
Cross Country (men)	14	7
Cross Country (women)	14	7
Field Hockey	22	11
Football	87	29
Golf (men)	10	5
Golf (women)	10	5
Gymnastics	15	5
Lacrosse (women)	24	12
Soccer (men)	22	11
Soccer (women)	22	11
Softball	30	15
Swimming (men)	30	15
Swimming (women)	30	15
Tennis (men)	12	6
Tennis (women)	12	6
Track - Indoor (men)	46	23
Track - Indoor (women)	46	23
Track - Outdoor (men)	54	27
Track - Outdoor (women)	54	27
Volleyball	20	14
Wrestling	20	10

Special Awards
Any "special awards," which are presented beyond the four approved awards, are subject to the prior approval of the Mid-American Conference Joint Committee, regardless of the source of funding. The host institution of a Mid-American Conference championship is not permitted to fund and/or present any additional awards.

Academic All-MAC Teams
The Academic All-MAC team honors will be earned in all conference sports.

To qualify for the Academic All-MAC Teams, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.20 cumulative GPA and have participated in at least 50 percent of the contests scheduled or completed in the particular sport. For Track and Field/Cross country, the requirement is 50 percent or participation in the MAC Championship. [*Revised 10/11/2018*]

First-year students and transfers in their first year of residence are not eligible for the award.

Outstanding academic and athletic accomplishments for the current season only are considered.

Mid-American Conference Distinguished *SPORT* Scholar-Athlete Award
Mid-American Conference Distinguished *Sport* Scholar-Athlete Award shall be awarded to the top student-athletes in their respective sports for their academic and athletic excellence in one championship season. The student-athletes that earn this award will be selected in all conference sports.

If a student-athlete is on Academic All-MAC and an athletic All-MAC Team for their respective sport (1st Team, 2nd Team, 3rd Team, etc.), they will be recognized as a Distinguished Scholar-Athlete.

Student-athletes will be nominated using the most current cumulative GPA.

The announcement of such should occur at/around the same time as Academic All-MAC at the conclusion of each fall, winter, and spring season.

First year students and transfers in their first year of residence are not eligible for the award.

A student-athlete that participates in a sport in which no Mid-American Conference championship is conducted remains eligible for nomination for conference academic awards, so long as the sport is not a member of another conference. Each institution will nominate one student-athlete per sport in which a Mid-American Conference championship is not held. [*Revised 5/30/2019*]

Academic Honors
The following awards will be given to those student-athletes who have met the minimum criteria and participate in a Mid-American Conference sport. Student-athletes who compete for affiliate members are eligible for the Mid-American Conference Honor Roll, Commissioner's Award and Presidential Award only. A student-athlete that participates in a sport in which no Mid-American Conference championship is conducted remains eligible for the Mid-American Conference Honor Roll, Commissioner's and Presidential Academic Awards only so long as the sport is not a member of another conference.

Mid-American Conference Honor Roll
Student-athletes who achieve a minimum accumulative 3.000 GPA (on a 4.0 rating basis) in that particular sport will be named to the Mid-American Conference Honor Roll. All conference sponsored sports shall have a Mid-American Conference Honor Roll.

First-year students and transfers in their first year of residence are not eligible for the award.

Commissioner's Award
Recognize those student-athletes who have achieved a 3.5 minimum accumulative grade-point average at the end of two semesters or three quarters. Student-athletes will be nominated using the grades from the most recent academic term.

First-year students, transfers in their first year of residence, and graduating seniors are not eligible for the award.

Presidential Award
Recognize graduating senior student-athletes who have achieved a 3.5 minimum accumulative grade-point average. Those student-athletes whose eligibility is exhausted would also be eligible for this award. It may only be awarded once in the career of a student-athlete.

First-year students and transfers in their first year of residence are not eligible for the award.

Scholar-Athlete of the Week Award
This award shall be presented weekly to one (1) male and one (1) female student-athlete who has displayed outstanding athletic achievement in his/her respective sport. Listed below are the nomination/selection procedures and criteria to determine the recipients of this award:

1. Submission of Nominees. The institution shall determine who (Faculty Athletics Representative or Sports Information Director) submits that institution's weekly nominee(s). Nominations shall be received no later than noon EST each Monday to be given consideration.

2. Procedures for Selection:
   - Institution provides list of qualified student-athletes at beginning of each academic year (term);
   - Conference Office contacts Faculty Athletics Representatives on a rotating basis at a predetermined time of the week; and
   - Conference Office presents Faculty Athletics Representative with current week's male and female candidates and accomplishments.
3. Criteria for Selection:
   - Minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 at beginning of term and
   - Subjectively chosen by Faculty Athletics Representatives based on a balance between athletics and academics.
4. Maximum Selections: A student-athlete may only be selected as Scholar-Athlete of the Week twice in any one season.

Student-athletes that have completed a year in residence at the institution will be eligible for the nomination and selection as a scholar-athlete in any one season. First-year students and transfers in their first year of residence are not eligible for the award.

Bob James Memorial Award (certificate and $5,000 postgraduate scholarship)
Recognize one (1) male and one (1) female student-athlete who have achieved a 3.5 minimum accumulative grade-point average, as well as shown evidence of good character, leadership, and citizenship.

Students shall be nominated during the academic year in which they complete their final season of competitive eligibility or graduation year in his/her sport(s) of choice. Student-athletes will be nominated using the cumulative grades from the most recent semester. Each institution may nominate one (1) male and one (1) female student-athlete, who must submit a written commitment to pursue graduate studies at an accredited institution and enroll within five (5) years.

Selection of award recipients will be made by the Faculty Athletics Representatives. The scholarship will be awarded upon enrollment. Should a delay be desired in the use of the award (later than the opening fall semester or term following immediate notice of selection), approval from the Commissioner or designee shall be sought prior to that time through a letter to the Conference Office.

Awards Timeline

Individual Academic Awards	Timelines
Bob James Memorial Award ($5,000 postgraduate scholarship and certificate	Sent out: Mid-April Nominations due: Start of June FAR votes due: Mid-June
Medal of Excellence	Selections due Mid- April
Distinguished Scholar Athlete Award	Awarded 3 times a year following the completion of Fall, Winter and Spring seasons- a week following the last championship nominees (Academic All-MAC) due from SIDs and a week following that the FARs selections due.
Academic All-MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE Teams	Due a week following the end of the championship for each season (Fall, Winter, Spring)
Scholar-Athlete of the Week	During the academic year, nominees due Monday by noon- FAR selection by Wednesday at noon
Commissioner's Award	Due end of April
Presidential Award	Due end of April
MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE Honor Roll	Due end of April
Institutional Academic Awards	**Timelines**
Dr. Carol A. Cartwright Award	Nominations due: End of July Votes due: Mid-August
Institutional Academic Achievement Award	Due mid-June
Men's Faculty Athletics Representative Award	Due mid-June
Women's Faculty Athletics Representative Award	Due mid-June
Institutional Sports Awards	**Timelines**
Sportsmanship Award	Voted on at the Spring Meetings
David E. Reese Award (Men)	Determined at the end of the academic year
Fred Jacoby Award (Women)	Determined at the end of the academic year

Academic Award History

Institutional Academic Achievement Award

2019-20 Western Michigan University
2018-19 University of Toledo
2017-18 University of Toledo
2016-17 Western Michigan University
2015-16 University of Toledo
2014-15 University of Toledo
2013-14 Miami University
2012-13 University of Toledo
2011-12 University of Toledo
2010-11 University of Akron
2009-10 Bowling Green State University
2008-09 Ball State University
2007-08 Northern Illinois University
2006-07 Central Michigan University
2005-06 Central Michigan University
2004-05 Central Michigan University
2003-04 Central Michigan University
2002-03 Central Michigan University
2001-02 Central Michigan University
2000-01 Bowling Green State University
1999-00 Central Michigan University
1998-99 Central Michigan University
1997-98 Central Michigan University
1996-97 Ball State University and Central Michigan University (tie)
1995-96 Bowling Green State University
1994-95 Bowling Green State University

Men's Faculty Athletics Representative Academic Achievement Award

2019-20 Western Michigan University
2018-19 Western Michigan University
2017-18 Western Michigan University
2016-17 Western Michigan University
2015-16 University of Toledo
2014-15 Miami University
2013-14 Miami University
2012-13 Western Michigan University
2011-12 Western Michigan University
2010-11 University of Toledo
2009-10 University of Toledo
2008-09 Western Michigan University
2007-08 Western Michigan University

Women's Faculty Athletics Representative Academic Achievement Award

2019-20 Kent State University
2018-19 Bowling Green State University
2017-18 University of Toledo
2016-17 Bowling Green State University
2015-16 Bowling Green State University
2014-15 Bowling Green State University
2013-14 Bowling Green State University
2012-13 Central Michigan University
2011-12 Bowling Green State University
2010-11 Central Michigan University
2009-10 Bowling Green State University
2008-09 Bowling Green State University

2007-08 Central Michigan University

Cartwright Award

2019-20 N/A
2018-19 Miami University
2017-18 Miami University
2016-17 Eastern Michigan University
2015-16 Kent State University
2014-15 Central Michigan University
2013-14 Eastern Michigan University
2012-13 Kent State University
2011-12 University of Toledo
2010-11 Western Michigan University
2009-10 Kent State University
2008-09 Central Michigan University

Bob James Memorial Award

2020 Tim Rooney, Kent State University, Wrestling
Maria Cegles, Kent State University, Softball
2019 Julia Beyer, Bowling Green State University, Gymnastics
Paul Garbarino, Bowling Green State University, Cross Country
2018 Alyssa Heintschel, Ball State University, Soccer
John McCarty, Central Michigan University, Basketball
2017 Tanner Barton, Ball State University, Swimming and Diving
Kelsi White, Miami University, Field Hockey
2016 Julia Lombardi, Eastern Michigan University, Soccer
Jordan Italiano, Kent State University, Football
2015 Dusty Page, Northern Illinois, Soccer
Stephanie Haugh, Kent State, Soccer
2014 Kyle Smith, Central Michigan, Track and Field
Lindsey Butterfield, Bowling Green, Volleyball
2013 Nabal Jefferson, Northern Illinois, Football
Skylar Chew, Ball State, Soccer
2012 Briggs Orsbon, Ball State, Football
Kristin Hoffman, Northern Illinois, Volleyball
2011 Jon Edgington, Miami, Baseball
Christine Chiricosta, Bowling Green, Gymnastics
2010 Tim Hiller, Western Michigan, Football
Megan Chronister, Bowling Green, Gymnastics
2009 Gonzalo Barinaga, Ball State, Football
Jillian Wolosiansky, Eastern Michigan, Volleyball
2008 Wynn Michalak, Central Michigan, Wrestling
Stephanie Swiger, Bowling Green, Volleyball
2007 Matt Lefeld, Bowling Green, Basketball
Jody Yednock, Northern Illinois, Gymnastics
2006 David Mitchell, Miami, Track and Field
Marie Zidek, Northern Illinois, Volleyball
2005 Burke Badenhop, Bowling Green, Baseball
Robin Davidson, Toledo, Soccer
2004 Travis Barclay, Ball State, Football
Andrea Kremer, Miami, Track and Field
2003 Brett Faustman, Central Michigan, Wrestling
Katrina Kerns, Bowling Green, Track and Field
2002 Anthony Malik, Bowling Green, Soccer
Kate Miller, Kent State, Basketball
2001 Nick Iagulli, Miami, Track and Field
Jennifer Jarjosa, Bowling Green, Swimming
2000 Cato Coleman, Miami, Track and Field

	Laura Szczepanski, Ball State, Gymnastics
1999	Justin Millard, Akron, Soccer
	Wendy Feldman, Central Michigan, Volleyball
1998	Desmond Johnston, Akron, Soccer
	Janelle Tranquillo, Ball State, Field Hockey
1997	Joseph Burch, Bowling Green, Soccer
	Sarah Mikrut, Ball State, Gymnastics
1996	Dustin Swinehart, Miami, Soccer
	Kristin Gaddis, Bowling Green, Cross Country
1995	Stephen Fetyko, Eastern Michigan, Swimming
	Dana Drew, Toledo, Women's Basketball
1994	Bob Dudley, Bowling Green, Football
	Kris Parks, Ohio, Cross Country/Track
1993	Sander Scott, Central Michigan, Basketball
	Kelly Weir, Ohio, Women's Basketball
1992	Jeff Bender, Central Michigan, Football
	Julie Young, Western Michigan, Volleyball
1991	Pat Jackson, Bowling Green, Football
	Kristin McDaniel, Kent State, Track and Field
1990	Danny Rieman, Ball State, Baseball
	Linda Popovich, Bowling Green, Volleyball
1989	Rick Winegardner, Ball State, Swimming
	Kim Keenan, Kent State, Cross Country/Track

Sport & Championship Awards

Baseball

- Players of the Week (pitcher & player)
- Regular-Season Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
- Regular-Season Champion Individual Awards
- Freshman Player of the Year
- Freshman Pitcher of the Year
- Player of the Year
- Pitcher of the Year
- Defensive Player of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- All-MAC Team – First Team (15 members)
- All-MAC Team – Second Team (15 members)
- All-Defensive Team (9 members)

Basketball (Men and Women)

- Preseason East/West All-MAC Teams (10 members)
- East/West Division Players of the Week
- East/West Divisional Champions
- Regular-Season Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
- Regular-Season Champion Individual Awards
- Tournament Champion
- Tournament Champion Individual Awards
- All-Tournament Team (5 members)
- Tournament Most Valuable Player
- Player of the Year
- Defensive Player of the Year
- Freshman of the Year
- Sixth Man/Sixth Player of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- All-Freshman Team (5 members - Certificate)
- All-MAC Team – First Team (5 members)
- All-MAC Team – Second Team (5 members)

All-MAC Team – Third Team (women only; 5 members - Certificate)
All-MAC Team – Honorable Mention (men: up to 10 members; women: final 5 members - Certificate)
All-Defensive Team (5 Members)

Cross Country (Men and Women)
Runner of the Week
Championship Individual Place Winners (1st-3rd)
Team Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
Championship Individual Awards
Freshman of the Year
Coach of the Year
All-MAC Team – First Team (7 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team (7 members)

Field Hockey
Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week
Regular-Season Champion
Regular-Season Champion Individual Awards
Offensive Player of the Year
Defensive Player of the Year
Freshman of the Year
Coach of the Year
All-MAC Team – First Team (11 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team (11 members)

Football
East/West Division Players of the Week (Offense/Defense/Special teams)
East/West Divisional Champions
Playoff Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
Offensive/Defensive/Special Teams Players of the Game (playoff)
    Outstanding Offensive Player of the Game
    Outstanding Defensive Player of the Game
    Outstanding Special Teams Player of the Game
Freshman of the Year
Offensive Player of the Year
Defensive Player of the Year
Special Teams Player of the Year
Coach of the Year
All-MAC Team – First Team
    (Offense: 14 members; Defense: 13 members; Specialists: 2 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team
    (Offense: 14 members; Defense: 13 members; Specialists: 2 members)
All-MAC Team – Third Team (Certificate)
    (Offense: 14 members; Defense: 13 members; Specialists: 2 members)
Vern Smith Award Nominees
Vern Smith Award Winner

Golf (Men and Women)
Golfer of the Week
Tournament Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
Tournament Champion Individual Awards
All-Tournament Team (5 members)
Medalist
Medalist Runner-Up
Golfer of the Year
Freshman of the Year
Sportswomen of the Year
Coach of the Year

"Earl Yestingsmeier" Sportsmanship Award – Men
"Kermit Blosser" Coach of the Year - Men
All-MAC Team – First Team (5 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team (5 members)

Gymnastics
Gymnast of the Week
Specialist of the Week
Championship Individual Place Winners (1st-3rd)
Tournament Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
Team Champion Individual Awards
Senior Gymnast of the Year
Gymnast of the Year
Specialist of the Year
Freshman of the Year
Coach of the Year
All-Tournament Team (10 members)
All-MAC Team – First Team (5 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team (10 members)

Lacrosse (Women)
Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week
Regular-Season Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
Regular-Season Champion Individual Awards
Offensive Player of the Year
Defensive Player of the Year
Goalkeeper of the Year
Freshman of the Year
Coach of the Year
All-MAC Team – First Team (12 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team (12 members)

Soccer (Men)
Player of the Week
Regular-Season Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
Regular-Season Champion Individual Awards
Player of the Year
Freshman of the Year
"Gary V. Palmisano" Coach of the Year
All-MAC Team – First Team (11 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team (11 members)

Soccer (Women)
Player of the Week
Regular-Season Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
Regular-Season Champion Individual Awards
Offensive Player of the Year
Defensive Player of the Year
Freshman of the Year
Coach of the Year
All-MAC Team – First Team (11 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team (11 members)
All-Freshman Team (11 members - Certificate)

Softball
Players of the Week (pitcher & player)
Regular-Season Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
Regular-Season Champion Individual Awards
Freshman of the Year

Pitcher of the Year
Player of the Year
Coach of the Year
"Nan Harvey" Sportswomen of the Year
All-MAC Team – First Team (15 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team (15 members)
All-Defensive Team (9 members)

Swimming and Diving (Men and Women)
Swimmers and Diver of the Week
Championship Relay/Individual Place Winners (1st-3rd)
Championship Team
Championship Team Individual Awards
Most Outstanding Swimmer
Most Outstanding Diver
Freshman Swimmer of the Year
Freshman Diver of the Year
Swimming Coach of the Year
Diving Coach of the Year
Most Outstanding Senior Swimmer – (Awards provided by Ohio - Women; Miami - Men)
All-MAC Team – First Team (15 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team (15 members)

Tennis (Men)
Players of the Week
Regular-Season Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
Regular-Season Champion Individual Awards
"Jack Vredevelt" Senior Sportsmanship Award
Player of the Year
Newcomer of the Year
Coach of the Year
All-MAC Team – First Team (6 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team (6 members)

Tennis (Women)
Players of the Week
Regular-Season Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
Regular-Season Champion Individual Awards
Sportsmanship Award
"Leann Grimes Davidge" Senior Sportswoman of the Year (traveling award)
Player of the Year
Freshman of the Year
Coach of the Year
All-MAC Team – First Team (6 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team (6 members)

Indoor Track & Field (Men and Women)
Student-Athlete of the Week
Championship Relay/Individual Place Winners (1st-3rd)
Championship Team
Championship Team Individual Awards
Most Valuable Performer
Most Outstanding Performer (Track/Field)
Coach of the Year
Assistant Coach of the Year
Freshman of the Year (Track/Field)
All-MAC Team – First Team (23 members)
All-MAC Team – Second Team (23 members)

Outdoor Track & Field (Men and Women)

- Student-Athlete of the Week
- Championship Relay/Individual Place Winners (1st-3rd)
- Championship Team
- Team Champion Individual Awards
- Most Valuable Performer
- Most Outstanding Performer (Track/Field)
- Coach of the Year
- Assistant Coach of the Year
- Freshman of the Year (Track/Field)
- All-MAC Team – First Team (27 members)
- All-MAC Team – Second Team (27 members)

Volleyball

- East/West Division Offensive and Defensive Players of the Week
- East/West Divisional Champions
- Regular-Season Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
- Regular-Season Champion Individual Awards
- Tournament Champion
- Tournament Champion Individual Awards
- All-Tournament Team (7 members)
- Tournament Most Valuable Player
- Player of the Year
- Freshman of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Setter of the Year
- Defensive Player of the Year
- All-MAC Team – First Team (14 members)
- All-MAC Team – Honorable Mention (6 members - Certificate)
- All-Freshman Team (6 members - Certificate)

Wrestling

- East/West Division Wrestler of the Week
- Regular-Season Champion (Mid-American Conference Champion)
- Regular-Season Champion Individual Awards
- Championship Individual Place Winners (1st-3rd)
- Tournament Champion
- Tournament Champion Individual Awards
- Tournament Most Outstanding Wrestler
- Wrestler of the Year
- Freshman of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- All-MAC Team – First Team (10 members)
- All-MAC Team – Second Team (10 members)

Cheerleading Guidelines

Established in Accordance with the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Advisors' Recommendations and Guidelines for Cheerleading Safety (collegiate level).

These guidelines apply to all camps, clinics, practices, games and special events.

General Guidelines

A. Cheerleading squads should be placed under the direction of a qualified and knowledgeable coach.
B. All practice sessions should be supervised by the coach and held in a location suitable for the activities of cheerleaders (i.e., use of tumbling mats, away from excessive noise and distractions, etc.)
C. Advisors/coaches should recognize a squad's particular ability level and should limit the squad's activities accordingly. "Ability level" refers to the squad's talents as a whole and individuals should not be pressed to perform activities until safely perfected.
D. All cheerleaders should receive proper training before attempting any form of cheerleading gymnastics (i.e., tumbling, partner stunts, pyramids and jumps).
E. Professional training in proper spotting techniques should be mandatory for all squads.
F. All cheerleading squads should adopt a comprehensive conditioning and strength building program.
G. A structured stretching exercise and flexibility routine should precede and follow all practice sessions and game activities, pep rallies, etc.
H. Tumbling, partner stunts, pyramids and jumps should be limited to appropriate surfaces.

Restrictions

A. The use of mini-trampolines, springboards, or any height increasing apparatus is prohibited.
B. Pyramids higher than two and one-half body lengths are prohibited. For example, a shoulder stand is two body lengths, a chair is one and one-half body lengths, an extension on top of a thigh stand is three body lengths high and therefore, is prohibited.
C. Split catches are prohibited.
D. Chair lifts with a full twist dismount are prohibited.
E. Flips into and from partner stunts as well as straddle catches are prohibited, with the exception of the following: basket tosses or similar tosses, front flip dismounts from shoulder level to a cradle, back flip dismounts from shoulder level elevators, and double base stunts to a cradle. Flips must land in a cradle to the original bases and must have an additional spotter.
F. All flips from pyramids are prohibited except a forward three-quarter roll dismount, which will be allowed as long as at least two catchers are used.
G. Front, back, and side tension drops are prohibited.
H. Toe pitch, leg pitch or walk-in and "smoosh" front and back flips are prohibited.
I. All flips with two rotations or greater from any type of toss are prohibited.
J. Twisting skills greater than two rotations from partner stunts, pyramids or from tosses are prohibited.
K. Basket tosses, or similar tosses must be performed from ground level and must be cradled by the same bases that originally tossed the top person and an additional spotter. You may not jump, flip or dive over, under or through partner stunts, pyramids, or individuals from basket tosses, partner stunts or other tosses from hands.

Partner Stunt and Pyramid Guidelines

A. All partner stunts, pyramids, and basket tosses shall be reviewed and approved by the coach prior to execution. "Hands on" spotting is required until new stunts are mastered.
B. In all pyramids, there must be at least two spotters designated for each person who is above "two high" and whose base does not have at least one foot on the ground. One of the spotters must be in the back and the other can be at the side or in front of the pyramid to spot the front. The spotters should assist the top person when dismounting.
C. Pyramids over "two high" should be limited to appropriate surfaces.
D. Cradles from pyramids over "two high" must use at least two catchers.
E. A forward three-quarter roll dismounts off of pyramids must use at least two catchers.
F. The top person in a partner stunt, pyramid, or transition cannot dismount or be tossed to purposely land or be caught in an inverted body position.
G. Basket tosses must be cradled to the same bases that originally tossed the top person.
H. Toe touch dismounts off of pyramids two body lengths high or above must use at least three catchers. Toe touch dismounts off a single layer table top must have at least one spotter.
I. You may not jump, flip or dive over, under or through partner stunts, pyramids, or individuals from basket tosses, partner stunts or other tosses from hands.
J. Basket tosses may only be performed from ground level and shall be cradled by three catchers (the original two bases and a spotter at the head and shoulder area).
K. An additional spotter that assists in the dismount is required for the following:
    a. Twisting dismounts with more than a 360-degree rotation.
    b. Flip dismounts to a cradle from shoulder height partner stunts.
    c. Stunts which use only one arm of the base for support.

Note: As a general rule, all programs should qualify cheerleaders according to accepted teaching progressions. Additional spotting should be used until all performers demonstrate mastery of the skill.

Tumbling

A. All tumbling activities should be reviewed and approved by the advisor/coach prior to execution.
B. Tumbling skills must use at least one spotter until performance consistency is demonstrated.
C. A clear, accurate communication between performer and spotter must be established prior to attempting a skill.
D. New tumbling skills should be mastered on a mat whenever possible. If a mat is not available, "over spotting" should be employed. New tumbling skills should not be learned on inappropriate surfaces.
E. You should not tumble over, under, or through partner stunts, pyramids or individuals.
F. Flips greater than one rotation are prohibited.
G. Twists greater than two rotations are prohibited.
H. Dive rolls are prohibited. (A dive roll is defined as a forward roll wherein the performer is airborne prior to the completion of the forward roll.)

Specific Football Guidelines

A. Pyramids over two body lengths should not be performed outdoors unless they are performed on appropriate surfaces.
B. Pyramids over two body lengths should be performed only during pregame, time-outs, quarter breaks or halftime activities to avoid the potential of interference from players, game officials, spectators, etc. on the sidelines during the actual game.
C. Tumbling should only be performed on appropriate surfaces.

Specific Basketball Guidelines

A. Pyramids over two body lengths performed indoors must have spotters in front and back of the pyramid for each person over "two persons" high.
B. Pyramids over two high should be performed only during pregame, time-outs, or halftime activities.
C. Flips from partner stunts or basket tosses should not be performed indoors without the use of cushioned mats.
D. Basketball tosses should be performed only during pregame, time-outs, or halftime activities and should be performed in a space which insures that no incidental traffic could interfere with the toss.

Note: The above safety guidelines are general in nature and are not intended to cover all circumstances. All cheerleading gymnastics (including tumbling, partner stunts, pyramids, and jumps) should be carefully reviewed and supervised by a qualified and knowledgeable advisor or coach.