

2020-21 BASEBALL SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Format

There are eight (8) member institutions which sponsor baseball. Each member participating in the Conference baseball league competes in a single round-robin plus one (1) repeat opponent, each team plays a four-game series for a 32-game schedule.

Regular Season Services

1. The Conference staff produces the Conference schedule. The order of opponents and site is detailed in the published home and away matrix. Competition restrictions relative to Final Exam Dates, Study Dates, Commencement and Easter weekend must be forwarded to the Conference staff annually.
 - Eight (8) weekends are available for regular season play.
 - Series will be scheduled as Friday-Saturday-Sunday with no rain date on Monday, except the last weekend of the season, which will be scheduled Thursday-Friday-Saturday with no rain date on Sunday.
- During the weekend series, a doubleheader will occur. Each institution is required to communicate with their sport administrators along with operational staffers to identify a day that is feasible based on compression within the increased spring competitions. Once the doubleheader day is identified, communication with the visiting team must take place.
- Regular season play ends Saturday and the Conference tournament begins Tuesday (through Sunday). Tournament practice day(s) will be scheduled on Monday and Tuesday.
 2. The Conference staff circulates a listing of on-site administrators that handle the weekend-series schedule relative to cancellation and rescheduling.
 3. A publicity release naming a Player and Pitcher of the Week, a weekly Honor Roll (for those nominees worthy of mention but not selected for weekly honors) as well as listing notes and statistics, is compiled and distributed by the Conference staff.
 4. The Conference staff coordinates and publicizes a preseason coaches' poll that predicts the order of team finish, an All-Conference Team, a Player of the Year and a Pitcher of the Year.

Regular Season Policies & Regulations (NCAA rules and regulations are followed unless specified below)

1. All home regular season contests (Conference and non-conference) must utilize the official league ball, Rawlings (model R1-NCAA).
2. Home team bands are not permitted to be located behind the visiting team dugout and a 12-foot buffer must be maintained at all times from the warning track. The usage of megaphones is not permissible. Bands, artificial noisemakers, air horns, bells, whistles, electronic amplifiers, artificial clappers and/or similar items are not permitted to make noise during live action.
3. Bands, cheerleaders and mascots are prohibited from traveling to away contests.
 4. Fans may not display signs or banners deemed as being offensive or inappropriate to particular institutions, players or coaches in the facility. These banners should be identified and removed by security personnel.
5. A three-person umpire crew will be used for all non-conference and intra-conference regular season series.

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Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

7. Every Conference baseball game will be nine (9) innings, inclusive of doubleheaders. The only exception would be doubleheaders played on the last day of a series due to weather rescheduling. Any doubleheader on the last day of the series (i.e. Sunday or Saturday on the last weekend of the regular season) will be a 7-inning game, followed by a 9-inning game.
 - ** For series when both institutions have concluded exams and there are no institutional conflicts, series must be mutually agreed upon by both baseball administrators and head coaches, and approved by the Conference staff in advance of play.
8. Any requests for change to a weekend series due to academic calendars (i.e. exam schedules) must be made in advance of the regular season. Requests for change must be submitted to the Conference by the home administrator for review by Conference Staff.
9. 10-run rule (NCAA Policy): each team must play an equal number of innings unless shortened because the home team needs none or only part of its half of the final inning.
 - 15 runs after 7-innings on Friday and Saturday, 10 runs after 7-innings on Sunday
10. Tobacco use by players, coaches and umpires is banned in any part of the athletic facility.
11. Host school/home team responsibilities (per coaches):
 - The host school/home team is responsible for providing the pregame timing schedule to the visiting team.
 - The host school/home team is required to provide adequate practice time (2 hours maximum) at the game site location the day prior for the visiting team during Conference series based on field availability, weather conditions, tarps, etc.
 - The host school/home team must designate an area where the visiting team can warm up (a "safe" area for liability reasons).
 - Stretching and throwing outside the lines during is permitted the last 10-minutes of batting practice.
 - Each institution is encouraged to provide appropriate radio accommodations. Any new facility should be constructed with appropriate media amenities.
 - The visiting team should be allowed 40 minutes of batting practice (visitor bats second) prior to regular season games.
 - If requested, the home team should provide laundry services to the visiting team with a maximum cost of \$75.
 - Pregame hitting on Friday will be permitted in the cage area only.
 - For the 2021 season, no handshake protocol will take place.

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Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

12. For the 2021 season, the travel party size during Conference competition shall be set at 30 student-athletes. There are no limits for members of the coaching staff, administration, sports medicine, academics, etc. The 30 student-athlete limit only applies to the road/traveling team. The home team has no limits. These limits do not apply to non-conference contests.

Student-athletes and team personnel; should remain physically distanced while in the dugout or bullpen areas. If this is not possible and an ancillary area cannot be identified, face coverings/masks must be worn at all times.

13. During a Conference series, NO changes are permitted to the 30-man roster that is exchanged at the beginning of each series. The Conference staff provides a form for institutions to use.

14. An administrator must be on site to determine a game cancellation due to weather following consultation with the conference office liaison. The on-site administrator may NOT have other primary game functions (i.e., PA announcer, scorekeeper, field preparation, etc.).

15. The following procedure will be followed in advance of the regular season to determine the get-away time (or the hour in which an inning will not begin) on get-away day:

- A form, developed and distributed by the Conference office, will be forwarded to coaches and administrators, along with their composite schedule in November.
- Completed forms will be due to the Conference office approx. 2-3 weeks later.
- Staff will catalogue the get-away times and distribute accordingly.
- Get-away times for each series will vary based on travel modes (i.e., flights versus buses), distance between the competing schools and if exams/commencement limitations must be considered.
- All games should start at least four (4) hours before the mutually agreed upon get-away time.
- 1:00 p.m. local time is the preferred start time on get-away day but may start as early as necessary based on weather and other mitigating factors.
- Teams cannot start a new inning past the predetermined get-away time.

16. Get-away Travel Parameters:

- The Conference does not have a make-up day for regular season series. In turn, on the last day of a series, the visiting team must stay as late in the day as necessary to complete the game(s).
- Teams that are flying home must book the last possible flight, regardless of that flight is non-stop or has a connection.

17. Adjusting Game Time Due to Weather

Pre-series situations where impending weather will affect the competition or disruption of a series, the home game administrator and home team head coach may mutually agree with the visiting team administrator and visiting team head coach to adjust the series format. Any adjustment must be forwarded to Conference staff liaison so it may be shared internally for a timely review and reaction.

In-series situations where weather is a determining factor and game times on subsequent days must be adjusted, the home game administrator and home team head coach, after consultation with the visiting team head coach, may adjust the start time of a game. If the aforementioned parties cannot arrive at a mutually agreeable start time, the home game administrator must call Conference staff.

18. If there is any possibility of inclement weather, tarps MUST be on the field each night prior to a Conference regular season games.

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Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

19. When the site of a series is switched because of field conditions, the originally scheduled home team retains that status, as does the originally scheduled visiting team. The schedule relative to home-team designation does not change the following year. Financial travel compensation is determined between the involved institutions.
20. Games shall not be played if the “RealFeel” temperature for the facility on AccuWeather.com is less than 30 degrees. If the temperature at one hour prior to the game is less than 30 degrees, but the forecast indicates the temperature will reach 30 degrees by the start of the game, teams may begin pre-game warm-ups. If the temperature at the start of the game does not reach 30 degrees, the game shall not be played at the scheduled time. The game may be delayed if the forecast indicates the temperature will reach 30 degrees at a later time.

If the “RealFeel” temperature is 30 degrees or above, the home and away team administrators shall mutually agree on whether to play the game. Coaches, administrators and host event management staff shall communicate regarding logistics and other factors influencing the decision to play or delay the game. If a mutual agreement cannot be reached, the home team administrator shall make the final decision on whether to play the game based on field conditions and the health and safety of all participants.

21. The NCAA halted-game rule is NOT in effect during Conference regular season games. Each host institution must follow the AAC Conference-wide lightning policy to halt a game due to lightning in the area.

- a. The halted game will be used during all Conference 4-game series.
- b. The halted game will not be used on the final day of the series.
- c. If a halted game is completed on the final day of a series, one 9-inning game will then be played after the completion of the halted game.

22. For the 2021 season, those institution that charges admission for regular season games, the host institution must offer 54 complimentary admissions to the visiting team if the venue has 100% seating capacity. Any reduction of team complimentary tickets will be based off of seating capacity (e.g. 50% = 27 tickets; 33% = 18 tickets, etc.). Admission procedures are to be handled by the host school.

23. Bat testing is mandatory for all conference series using the conference provided institutional specific stickers. Bat Testing operational procedures are included in the 2021 COVID-19 operational and policy modifications. Additional bat testing procedures and the accompanying form will be forwarded as separate attachments.

24. Video replay utilizing pre-established NCAA policies and procedures will be used in any intra-conference series if the institution has the capability.
25. Evaluation of Umpires: Institutions are mandated to evaluate officiating crews for home/away Conference and home non-conference matches.
26. The Conference Baseball Coaches Association holds its official annual coaches meeting in-person, each August at the Conference office headquarters. Attendance is mandatory for all head coaches. In extreme situations where the head coach cannot attend, the institution’s sport administrator or Athletic Director will determine the substitution.

2020-21 BASEBALL SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Awards

1. Regular Season Team Champion (trophy and individual awards)
2. First Team All-Conference (1B, 2B, 3B, SS, DH, 3 OF, 4P, RP, C, U) *
3. Second Team All-Conference (1B, 2B, 3B, SS, DH, 3 OF, 4P, RP, C, U) *

^ Note: Utility Player is defined as a student athlete who is utilized at multiple defensive positions throughout the course of the conference's regular season.

4. Player of the Year *
5. Pitcher of the Year *
6. Coach of the Year *
7. Newcomer Pitcher of the Year * ^
8. Newcomer Position Player of the Year * ^

^ Note: Newcomer is defined as student-athlete who was not on the respective team's roster the previous academic year such as a true-freshman, a red-shirt freshman or a transfer.

* Selection Process

- Coaches nominate their own players by position.
- Nominees are forwarded to each coach on a ballot with supporting information.
- Coaches submit choices (via the Conference's web site) from the nominee list, but cannot select their own players.
- All players may only be nominated at one position.
- Conference staff approves final selections.

2020-21 BASEBALL SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Format

1. Eight-team, double-elimination. The event is conducted in six (6) days. Seeds are determined by overall league winning percentage. The games are scheduled beginning on Tuesday as follows:

DAY 1	9:00 a.m. TBD (47 mins after Game 1) 4:00 p.m. TBD (47 mins after Game 3)	Game 1 Game 2 Game 3 Game 4	#5 seed vs. #4 seed #8 seed vs. #1 seed #7 seed vs. #2 seed #6 seed vs. #3 seed
DAY 2	3:00 p.m. TBD (47 mins after Game 5)	Game 5 Game 6	Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2 Loser Game 3 vs. Loser Game 4
DAY 3	3:00 p.m. TBD (47 mins after Game 7)	Game 7 Game 8	Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2 Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4
DAY 4	1:00 p.m. TBD (47 mins after Game 9)	Game 9 Game 10	Winner Game 5 vs. Loser Game 5 Winner Game 6 vs. Loser Game 8
DAY 5	9:00 a.m. TBD (47 mins after Game 11) TBD TBD	Game 11 Game 12 Game 13* Game 14*	Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 9 Winner Game 8 vs. Winner Game 10 Loser Game 11 vs. Winner Game 11 Loser Game 12 vs. Winner Game 12
DAY 6	12:00 p.m.	Game 15	Championship Game ^

^ Conference Staff will determine start time based on availability of television coverage and other marketing/promotional opportunities.

* Game will be played *if necessary*.

2. A tournament practice day is scheduled on the Monday preceding the Championship. All participating teams will be provided a 55-minute practice session at Carpenter Complex. Practice on the game field will be limited to I/O for the last 15 minutes.
3. A virtual technical meeting will be conducted for the eight (8) participating head coaches, as well as tournament personnel, the Monday preceding the start of the Championship. A zoom invite will be sent under separate cover.
4. The tournament champion earns the Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The highest-seeded team remaining will be the automatic bid representative should the tournament not be completed. In the event that the Championship is not completed, no champion will be declared.

2020-21 BASEBALL SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Seeding Requirements/Procedures

Overall league winning percentage at the conclusion of the regular season is used to seed the eight (8) teams. The Conference office may evaluate tournament qualification and/or seeding if a team has played less than 18 games.

Tie-Breaking Policies

The following policies are set up to break ties at the end of the regular season for seeding purposes. Follow the appropriate steps in order. Once one or more teams gain an advantage in the case of a multiple-team tie, revert to the beginning of the tie-breaking policies with the remaining teams. If the ties cannot be broken, a coin flip will be conducted by the Commissioner or his designee.

Two-Way Tie

1. Regular season head-to-head results.
2. Each team's combined winning percentage versus the teams ranked higher in the standings.
3. Each team's winning percentage versus a common opponent that is occupying the highest position in the standings and continuing down through the standings until one team gains an advantage.
NOTE: When arriving at another pair of tied teams while comparing records, use each team's record against the tied teams as a group rather than the performance against the individual tied teams.
4. Each team's Overall 32-game run differential (maximum of three runs per game).
5. Each team's Overall 32-game run total (maximum of three runs per game).
6. Each team's Overall 32-game runs against (maximum of three runs per game).

Multiple-Team Tie

1. Teams are viewed as a "mini-conference" when comparing head-to-head results. The team or teams with the best combined record versus the other teams in the mini-conference gains the advantage.
2. Each team's combined winning percentage versus the teams ranked higher in the standings.
3. Each team's winning percentage against a common opponent that is occupying the highest position in the standings, and continuing down through the standings until one team gains an advantage.
NOTE: When arriving at another pair of tied teams while comparing records, use each team's record against the tied teams as a group rather than the performance against the individual tied teams.
4. Each team's Overall 32-game run differential (maximum of three runs per game).
5. Each team's Overall 32-game run total (maximum of three runs per game).
6. Each team's Overall 32-game runs against (maximum of three runs per game).

Championship Policies & Regulations

1. All tournament games must be played with the official NCAA ball - Rawlings R1NCAA.
2. The Conference staff contracts umpires based upon coaches recommendations.

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CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Policies & Regulations (continued)

3. The 10-run rule will NOT be used during the Conference Championship game. However the 10-run rule will be implemented after the 7th inning during the other tournament games.
4. Tobacco use by players, coaches, tournament personnel, and umpires is banned during all Conference tournament competition and activities. Additionally, spitting or chewing of sunflower seeds are not allowed. Chewing gum is allowed.
5. The tournament field is available for practice for all participating teams on the day preceding the start of the tournament and as appropriate during the tournament.
6. A 30-man roster must be submitted at the tournament meeting held prior to the tournament start. No changes are permitted after this time. Dugouts are limited to 30 student-athletes, four (4) coaching staff and four (4) non-uniformed personnel (i.e., managers, trainers, doctors). Bat handlers do not count against the maximum limit of 38.
7. The highest-seeded team in each game shall be designated as the home team for the duration of the championship. The home team shall bat last, occupy the third base dugout, take infield warm-up first and wear white uniforms if they own white uniforms. The visiting team must wear a uniform of contrasting color. Conference staff will resolve any conflict in the selection of uniforms.
8. In the event of rain precluding further competition, the Games Committee, which is comprised of the GM of Spectrum Field, Conference staff and the Umpire Observer determines rescheduling. General policy is that a game is postponed to the next time slot and that no team plays more than two complete games on any one day. The Games Committee may make exceptions to this in emergency situations.
9. A representative from stadium operations, along with the Games Committee, as described above, determines if field conditions are playable prior to start of a game. Once play begins, the decision is that of the home plate umpire.
10. Bat testing will take place at the site of the championship. Testing shall be conducted by championship operations staff with either the head coach or their designee present. Each team is responsible for testing of their own bats. A member of the opposing team along with a conference representative will be present for the testing. Staff will distribute a testing schedule once the final seeds are determined (e.g. in advance of the team's first practice at the championship site).

Championship Awards, Gifts & Services

1. The championship team receives a trophy.
2. An All-Tournament team will be selected from among the eight (8) participating institutions at the site of the championship. Eleven (11) players will be selected – catcher, 4 infielders (no specific position), 3 outfielders (no specific position), designated hitter and two pitchers. A selection committee shall be comprised of the Sport Committee, staff and select media, with input from the sports information representatives of the eight participating institutions.
3. The player that receives the Most Outstanding Player Award is selected by a vote of qualified persons as determined by the Conference staff. The player is also included as a member of the All-Tournament Team.
4. Each student-athlete competing at the Championship will have the opportunity to select a gift from an online suite and will also receive a branded phone pocket with their selection. Appropriate information about gift selection will be forwarded to each head coach.