



**MID-AMERICAN
CONFERENCE**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mid-American Conference Head Coaches, Sport Administrators & Event Management Staff
FROM: Jeff Bacon, Senior Associate Commissioner, Mid-American Conference
DATE: February 17, 2021
RE: 2020-21 MAC Softball & Baseball Seasons

Please allow this Memorandum to serve as an overview of the 2020-21 Season, and to provide some initial reminders as competition gets underway. Please review all attachments in their entirety and utilize any provided forms as instructed.

Conference Contacts

Should any inquiries or issues arise throughout the season, please contact the appropriate person below via cell, text or e-mail.

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Sport Operating Code

The MAC Sport Operating Codes can be accessed via the MAC website and provide an overview of all Conference Rules and Regulations. In the event that a rule is not addressed by the Sport Operating Code, NCAA Rules shall apply.

PLEASE NOTE: this year, COVID related adjustments to policies, dates and other matters usurp any and all Sport Operating Code procedures. Deference should be given to these adjustments as noted throughout the supplements provided with this Memorandum.

To access the Sport Operating Code online please follow these instructions:

Visit www.getsomemaction.com
Select "About the MAC"
Select "Handbook"
Username: MACAdmin
Password: mac1946sports

2021 Spring Season Resources

A Resource Page has been developed within the MAC's official website which contains information specific to:

- COVID-19 Resources
 - Minimum Standards for COVID-19 Management
 - MAC COVID-19 Testing Attestation Form
- 2021 Sport Information & Resources
 - MAC Sport Administrator Contact Information (coming soon)
 - COVID-19 Sport Policies
 - MAC Game Operations Manual
 - 2021 Spring MAC Sport Schedules

To access this page:

<https://getsomemaction.com/MACAdmin>

Username: MACAdmin

Password: mac1946sports

This page can also be found by going to www.getsomemaction.com, selecting "About the MAC", and selecting "Administration".

Scheduling/Procedures

Any changes to the conference schedule must be cleared by the Conference Office. Scheduling changes may be permitted due to facility conflicts, staffing conflicts, or circumstances necessary to ensure a contest takes place.

Officials Fees

Officials fees have been reduced for the 2020-21 season and are detailed within the Sport Operating Codes.

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

12:30-1:20	Visiting Team Hits
1:20-2:10	Home Team Hits
2:15-2:25	Visiting Team Infield
2:25-2:35	Home Team Infield
2:35	Field Maintenance/ Ground Rules
3:00	Game Time

Saturday 12pm Games

9:30-10:20	Home Team Hits
10:20-11:10	Visiting Team Hits
11:15-11:25	Home Team Infield
11:25-11:35	Visiting Team Infield
11:35	Field Maintenance/ Ground Rules
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. [Revised 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]*