



Baseball
Regular Season Policies Manual

All policies effective February 1, 2020



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This manual contains all of the policies currently in place to govern regular season BIG EAST Conference Baseball games. The purpose of this manual is to provide standardized information to ensure that the student-athlete experience is consistent at all sites of competition within the conference. Changes to this manual may only be made through established Conference procedures.

1. Annual Meeting

The BIG EAST Conference Baseball Coaches Association holds its official annual meeting during the dead period each November. These meetings are at the Conference office headquarters in even years and via conference call in odd years. Attendance is mandatory for all head coaches. In extreme situations where the head coach cannot attend, the institution's sport administrator or Director of Athletics will determine the substitution.

Upcoming Meetings

- 2020 – In Person at the Conference office in New York City (likely Nov. 9-10)
- 2021 – Conference Call

2. Automatic Qualification for NCAA

As directed by the NCAA, each member conference must clearly define how the automatic qualifier, if granted, will be determined. The team designated as the winner of the Conference postseason tournament will be declared the Automatic Qualifier of the BIG EAST Conference to the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. In the event that the postseason tournament is unable to be completed, the highest remaining seed will be declared the Automatic Qualifier.

3. Awards, Regular Season (updated for 2019 season)

The following awards are presented for the regular season:

- Regular Season Team Champion Trophy and 35 Individual Awards
- Player of the Year
- Pitcher of the Year
- Freshman of the Year (Nominees must be true or redshirt freshman)
- Coaching Staff of the Year
- First Team All-Conference (14 Student-Athletes: 4 Pitchers, C, 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, 3 Outfielders, Designated Hitter, Relief Pitcher)
- Second Team All-Conference (14 Student-Athletes: all at-large positions) (11/18)

Selection Process:

Each coach will be asked to nominate student-athletes, by position, they feel are deserving of consideration for the regular season awards. Coaches will also be asked to nominate student-



athletes for the major awards. Once these nominations are received, a final ballot will be created and sent to the coaches.

Coaches may vote for any student-athlete on the final ballot, however they may NOT vote for their own student-athletes.

The Conference staff approves final selections.

Preseason Polls (Revised 1/15)

The Conference staff will coordinate and publicize a pre-season coaches’ poll that predicts the order of a team finish, an All-Conference Team, a Player of the Year and a Pitcher of the Year. This process is conducted in December for release late in the month.

Weekly Awards

A publicity release naming a Player and Pitcher of the Week is compiled and distributed by the Conference staff. This release may also contain a Weekly Honor Roll for those nominees worthy of mention but not selected for weekly honors. Notes and statistics from the previous week will be included in the release.

4. Ball (Revised 1/15)

The official baseball of the BIG EAST Conference is the Rawlings **FSR1-NCAA-BE** and must be used for all home regular season contests (conference and non-conference.)

5. Bat Testing (added for 2019 season)

Bat testing is a requirement for all NCAA Division I games beginning with the 2020 season. 2020 will mark the second year of bat testing for BIG EAST Conference regular-season games. More information is available in the Bat Testing Addendum.

6. Coaches’ Association Chair

The chair of the Coaches’ Association shall be the coach who was designated as the vice-chair during the previous year. The positions of chair and vice-chair shall rotate alphabetically by institution. For purposes of the chair positions, the year is designated beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Vice-Chair</u>
2019-20	Georgetown	St. John’s
2020-21	St. John’s	Seton Hall
2021-22	Seton Hall	Villanova



2022-23	Villanova	Xavier
2023-24	Xavier	Butler
2024-25	Butler	Connecticut
2025-26	Connecticut	Creighton
2026-27	Creighton	Georgetown

A first-year coach may not serve as the chair. In the event that a first-year coach is assigned to be the chair, the previous year’s chair will serve an additional year as chair and the first year coach will serve as vice-chair.

7. Conference Champion

The Conference champion shall be the winner of the regular season, based on overall conference winning percentage.

8. Conference Schedule

The Conference staff will produce the regular season schedule based on the following parameters: (Beginning in 2014-15; Updated 11/16)

- Each Conference team will play each other Conference team in a three-game series for a total of 18 conference games (21 games beginning in 2021).
- The Conference will use the last seven (7) weekends prior to the conference championship for conference games, with six (6) series and a bye, with the exception of Georgetown and Villanova, who will play seven (7) Conference opponents in eight (8) weeks with a bye. Both institutions’ byes will be scheduled for their common finals weekend (both GU’s and VU’s final exams take place over two weekends. Both institutions requested that they have a bye scheduled on one of their two final exam weekends). (Requested by both institutions and approved by the remaining baseball coaches 11/17.)
- Starting in 2021, it will be seven (7) series over the last seven (7) weekends of the regular season prior to the BIG EAST Championship. Georgetown and Villanova will play in Week 0, eight (8) weeks prior to the BIG EAST Championship.
- No more than two consecutive home or away conference series will be scheduled.
- Teams will not be on the road two consecutive weekends to end the regular season.
- Best efforts will be made to accommodate institutional policy regarding competition during final exam periods. Institutional policies regarding competition around Easter or exam periods must be sent to the Conference Office annually.
- Series will be scheduled as Friday-Saturday-Sunday with no rain date on Monday, except for the last weekend of the season, which will be scheduled Thursday-Friday-Saturday with no rain date on Sunday.
- Easter weekend will be played as a 9/9 double-header on Thursday and a single 9-inning game on Saturday with no rain date on Sunday. ***For Easter weekend, when two institutions are scheduled to play one another and neither have Easter holiday***



limitations, they may petition the Baseball Committee and Conference to play a 9-inning game on each Thursday-Friday-Saturday with no rain date on Sunday.

- Every conference game will be nine (9) innings, including Easter-weekend doubleheaders and doubleheaders scheduled for Saturdays due to exam/institutional policies. The only exception would be doubleheaders played on the last day of a series (aka the “getaway” day) due to weather rescheduling. Any doubleheader on the last day of the series (i.e. Sunday or Saturday of the last weekend of the regular season) will be a 7-inning game, followed by a 9-inning game. **In the event that the 7-inning game (first game) in such a doubleheader goes to the 8th inning, the second game will revert to a 7-inning game.**
- For series when both institutions have concluded exams and there are no institutional conflicts, series may be played Saturday-Sunday-Monday (except final weekend of season) and must be mutually agreed upon by both baseball administrators and head coaches, and approved by the Baseball Committee in advance of play.
- Any requests for a 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 the Baseball Committee.
- The regular season ends on Saturday and the Conference tournament begins on Thursday and plays through Sunday. A tournament practice day is scheduled on Wednesday, weather permitting.

When the site of a series is switched because of field conditions, the originally scheduled home team retains the 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 individual institutions.

Institutions are mandated to NOT schedule/play more than four non-Division I opponents per year. (Note: Four non-Division 1 opponents are permitted before penalty points are assessed against a school’s RPI ranking.)

9. Equipment and Facilities

The host institution shall furnish all facilities, equipment and other game essentials in order to present a quality game experience to the participating student-athletes, coaches, media and spectators.

As per the decision of the NCAA regarding bat specifications, during regular season and tournament play, no bat may exceed 2 5/8” in diameter and a unit differential between weight and length of three units (e.g., a 34-inch bat cannot weigh less than 31 ounces.)



10. Lightning Policy

The Conference has adopted as policy NCAA Guideline 1E for Lightning Safety. It is available on page 17 of the following link: <https://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/MD15.pdf>.

11. Music/Bands/Artificial Noisemakers

Electronic music through a public address system is not permitted during any segment of live play.

Bands, cheerleaders and mascots are prohibited from traveling to regular season away contests.

Home bands may not be located behind the visiting team dugout.

Bands, artificial noisemakers, air horns, bells, whistles, electronic amplifiers, artificial clappers and/or similar items are not permitted to make noise during live play.

12. Playing Rules (Revised 1/15)

The playing rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) shall be followed in all sports for which rules are published. Exceptions to these rules, such as experimental rules, will only be permitted if approved by the NCAA.

NCAA Halted Game Rule (Rule 5, Section 9.) The NCAA Halted Game rule is in effect during the conference regular season games with the following stipulations:

- The halted game rule will be used during all Conference 3-game series.
- The halted game rule will NOT be used on the final day of the series.
- If either of the first two games of the 3-game series is stopped at ANY point because of weather, darkness or any other reason, the interrupted game will resume from the exact point as soon as possible and must be played to completion before beginning a new game.
- If the completion of the halted game requires more than two (2) innings, only a maximum of one (1) additional game may be played on the same day as the resumed game.
- If a halted game is never able to be completed and if it has passed the point that defines an official game (5 complete innings or 4 ½ complete innings with the home team ahead) it will be recorded as an "official game" OR if it has not reached a point of being an "official game" it will be recorded as a "no game."
- When necessary, start times for games must be adjusted to an earlier time to allow for completion of the games.
- If the completion of a halted game on the final day of a series is played and goes more than two (2) innings, one 9-inning game will then be played after the completion of the halted game.

The Conference shall not utilize a 10-run rule.



13. Postponement Policy (updated for 2019 season)

The home administrator must facilitate discussion between the coaches, the visiting team administrator and the umpires when discussing postponement, cancellation and rescheduling decisions. The home administrator may consult with Conference staff or members of the Baseball Committee if necessary. The Conference staff will circulate a listing of on-site administrators that handle cancellation and rescheduling decisions.

In 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 institutions cannot mutually agree on a start time, the home administrator must call Conference staff.

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 must schedule flights as late as necessary on competition days to complete games.

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 on approximately November 30
- Completed forms will be due to the Conference office by January 15.
- Get-away times for each series will vary based on travel modes (i.e. flights versus buses), distance between 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.
- Conference staff will collect the get-away times and distribute accordingly.

14. Practice/Game Field Access (under SWA review)

Beginning with the 2020 season, the host institution shall provide a 60-90 minute practice window, within reason, to any visiting team that requests it on the competition field the day before the start of the series, weather and field conditions permitting. The visiting team's practice time shall not infringe upon the host team's normal practice time.

15. Pre-Game Protocol

The host institution is responsible for providing the pregame timing schedule to the visiting team.

The visiting team should be allowed 40 minutes of batting practice (visitor bats second) prior to regular season games. The order of batting practice can be flipped by mutual consent.



16. Protests of Umpires' Decisions

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

17. Responsibilities of the Host Institution

For all Conference matches, the host institution is responsible for complying with the following:

- The host must designate an area where the visiting team can warm up (a "safe" area for liability reasons).
- Each institution is encouraged to provide appropriate radio broadcast accommodations. Any new facility should be constructed with appropriate media amenities.
- The host institution should provide laundry services to the visiting team at a reasonable cost.
- ***If there is any possibility of inclement weather, tarps MUST be on the field each night prior to Conference regular season games.***

An administrator must be on-site for all BIG EAST regular season games to handle any postponement/cancellation decision and any other administrative situation. (See Section 12 – Postponement Policy.) The on-site administrator may not have other primary game functions (i.e. announcer, scorekeeper, communications staff, etc.)

Host institutions must ensure that fans do not display signs or banners deemed as being offensive or inappropriate to particular institutions, players or coaches in the facility. These signs or banners should be identified and removed by host security personnel.

18. Roster (Revised 1/15)

Only student-athletes who are eligible per NCAA and BIG EAST rules shall participate.

During a Conference series, NO changes are permitted to the 27-man roster that is exchanged at the beginning of each series. The Conference staff provides a form for institutions to use. Additional student-athletes are permitted to participate in warm-up. However, rosters are limited to 27 players and dugouts are limited to 35 persons.

19. Scouting Policies

Scouting reports, videos or other information (written or verbal) regarding BIG EAST Conference teams shall not be provided to non-conference opponents.



20. Ticket Policies

Each institution that charges admission for regular season games must offer 40 complimentary admissions to the visiting team. Admissions procedures are to comply with NCAA Rules and be administered by the host institution.

21. Tobacco

Tobacco use by players, coaches and umpires is banned in any part of the athletic facility.

22. Umpires

A three-person umpire crew, with home plate umpire rotating, is to be used for all Conference regular season series. In case of sickness, injury or absenteeism, two (2) umpires are sufficient to start and/or continue play.

The same three-person umpire crew should be utilized for all games of a three-game series, unless circumstances require an adjustment per clearance of the BIG EAST Baseball Coordinator of Umpires.

23. Uniforms

Per NCAA Rule 1 Section 14: It is required that each team have two sets of uniform jerseys of contrasting colors. It is the responsibility of the visiting team to wear a contrasting uniform color to the jersey worn by the home team. It is recommended that both teams wear the full pregame or regular-game uniforms when entering the playing field.

24. Unspecified Policies

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 the practice or policy has been approved by the appropriate Conference governing body.

25. Video Replay

The utilization of video replay for BIG EAST Conference games is permitted. The use of video replay can either come off of an established broadcast, either from a television partner (ex: FOX Sports, CBS Sports Network, ESPN, etc.), a streaming broadcast that originates either with the institution or the Conference (ex: Rush Media/BIG EAST Digital Network), or an independent video replay mechanism (ex: Vidswap, DVSPORT, etc.). More complete information on NCAA required minimums and BIG EAST video replay policies are included in the Video Replay Addendum.