

**MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE
2019 BASEBALL PROCEDURES**

1. Date.

- 1.1 Regular-Season Competition. The schedules shall be played over eight consecutive weekends with each team having a single bye within the first five weeks of the schedule.
- 1.2 Tournament. The Conference tournament shall be played **Tuesday-Saturday**, May 21-25, 2019, the week prior to NCAA regional competition.

2. Site.

- 2.1 Regular Season. Conference teams shall play each other on a home/away basis in alternating years.
- 2.2 Tournament. The tournament shall be awarded on a bid basis to qualified sites, either neutral or on campus.

2.2.1 Facilities. Qualified sites must have:

- a. Lights for night games to accommodate television production;
- b. Press facilities that are weatherproof and can accommodate three broadcast locations and television production capabilities;
- c. A tarpaulin or field cover;
- d. Ability to charge admission.

2.2.2 Bid. **Beginning with the 2020 tournament bid process, a guarantee of \$10,000 is required.** The timetable for submitting bids shall be determined by the Conference Office.

2.2.3 2019 Site. Illinois State

- 2.3 Future Sites. The 2020 site shall be determined in Spring 2019.

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

3. Team Selection.

3.1 Tournament. All eight teams shall participate in the MVC baseball tournament.

3.2 NCAA Qualifier. The winner of the post-season tournament shall be the Conference Champion and the automatic qualifier to the NCAA baseball tournament.

4. Conduct of Championship.

4.1 Regular-Season Competition.

4.1.1 Regular-Season Scheduling. The Conference Office shall prepare the Conference regular-season baseball schedule. Each team shall play a 21-game Conference schedule. A full Conference series shall consist of three nine-inning games played over three days. The league schedule shall take priority over non-conference games. Institutions with final exams at that time will be scheduled at home, whenever possible, to avoid conflicts with final exams. **Beginning with the 2021 season, games in the first 1-2 scheduling windows shall be placed at Southern locations within the membership to the extent possible.**

4.1.2 Days of Competition. Weekend Conference series shall be played on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, except the final series of the season which may be played on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. See 4.1.3.

4.1.3 Final Series Schedule. The final series of Conference games shall be scheduled on Thursday, Friday and Saturday except by coaches' mutual consent to play the series on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. No rain make-up games may be played on Sunday. [See 4.1.6 (e) for exceptions.]

4.1.4 Regular-Season Champion. The regular-season Conference champion shall be the team with the best winning percentage of Conference games played. To qualify for the championship, a team must play a minimum of 16 Conference games and at least two-thirds of the teams in the Conference must have played the minimum number of Conference games. If at least two-thirds of the Conference teams have not met the minimum of 16 Conference games played, then the Conference regular-season

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

champion and the order of finish in regular-season Conference play shall be determined by the best winning percentage of games played by the teams in the Conference.

4.1.5 Rules. NCAA rules shall be followed except where local ground rules require modification.

- a. Ground Rules. The local ground rules shall be given to the visiting coach and to the umpires before the game starts.
- b. Length of Games. All Conference games shall be nine innings, except as specifically provided in the rain out and rescheduling policies in Appendix 1.
- c. 10-run Rule. The game shall be called if a team is behind by 10 runs or more and has finished its turn at bat in the seventh or eighth inning. The run rule shall apply for nine-inning games only.
- d. Cold Weather Policy.

- (1) **Conference games shall not be started when game-time wind chill factor is less than 28 degrees as posted by the National Weather Service (www.NWS.NOAA.gov).**
- (2) **If the wind chill is less than 28 degrees, but the forecast indicates that the wind chill will reach 28 degrees by the scheduled start time, teams may begin pre-game warm-ups.**
- (3) **If the wind chill at the start of the game does not reach 28 degrees, the game shall not be played at the scheduled time. The game may be delayed if the forecast indicates that the wind chill will reach 28 degrees at a later time.**
- (4) **Delay and postponement due to cold weather is subject to the rain-out/rescheduling policies in 4.1.6 (e).**

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

- e. Inclement Weather/Jurisdiction of Play.
 - (1) **See 4.1.5 (d) for the cold weather policy.**
 - (2) For other games impacted by inclement weather, the coaches of the competing institutions shall determine when a game shall start. If the two coaches cannot come to an agreement as to when a game shall start due to weather and field conditions, the umpiring crew chief shall make the final decision.
 - (3) Once a game has commenced, it shall be under the absolute jurisdiction of the umpires and coaches of the competing institutions shall not interfere with the umpires' decision, per NCAA Rules.
- f. Brush-Back Pitches. A pitcher, who in the judgment of the home plate umpire throws a "brush-back" pitch with the intention of sending a warning to an on-deck hitter who is too close to the plate area or is timing pitches, shall be ejected from the game and suspended for the remainder of the season, including all post-season play. In addition, the head coach shall be ejected and suspended for the team's next five contests.
- g. Penalties for Unsportslike Conduct. See MVC Bylaw 6.3, Ethical Conduct Policies.

4.1.6 Game Agreements.

- a. Squad Limit. There are no travel squad limits; however teams are limited to 27 participants. Both home and away teams must use the same 27-man rosters for all games in a series. The 27-man rosters shall be exchanged at home plate prior to the opening game of the series.

Only players, members of the coaching staff and team personnel (trainers, managers, etc.) shall be allowed in the dugout for a

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

Conference series. This includes otherwise eligible student-athletes that are not included in the 27-man roster for the series.

- b. Practice. For Conference games, each institution shall have 40 minutes of batting practice and 8 minutes of infield practice prior to the start of play each day. The home team shall hit first in batting practice and take infield practice first.
- c. Pre-game Schedule. The following pre-game schedule shall be followed for all Conference games.

Home batting practice	2:00
Visitor batting practice	1:20
Remove cage	:40
Home infield	:34
Visitor infield	:26
Field preparation	:18
Introductions	:15
National Anthem	:08
Umpires/coaches meeting	:05
Home team on field	:02
First pitch	:00

Note: A sportsmanship message shall be communicated during pre-game activities.

- d. Time of Games. Starting times for all Conference games shall be determined by the host institution in consultation with the visiting team.
 - (1) Any double-headers shall begin at 12:00 noon local time or at a time mutually agreed upon by the coaches. There shall be a minimum of 20 minutes between games in a double-header. Day-night double-headers may be played upon mutual consent of both coaches.
 - (2) Games on get-away day, Easter Sunday and the final day of the season shall start no later than 2 p.m.

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

- (3) Games on get-away Sunday that are delayed for inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances shall start no later than 6 p.m. Waivers of this rule may be submitted to the Conference Office.
 - (4) A midnight curfew is in effect for all other Conference games, specifically, no inning may be started after midnight.
 - (5) Suspended games from Saturday may be continued on Sunday morning with the starting time mutually agreed upon by the coaches.
- e. Rain-outs, Halted and Suspended Games. All schools are required to play three nine-inning games over three days on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, except as noted below. All games must be completed to nine innings except when the 10-run rule is in effect.
- (1) The final Conference series of the season shall be played Thursday, Friday and Saturday, except by mutual consent of the two coaches, when the final Conference series of the season may be played Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
 - (2) No make-up games are permitted on Monday for any Conference series and no make-up games are permitted on Sunday for the final regular-season series, except in situations where teams need to play the minimum number of games (16) required to qualify for the tournament. Teams shall then be permitted to play make-up games on Sunday according to the league rain-out policy.
 - (3) It is permissible for a game that could be played to be postponed to the next day in anticipation of having more favorable playing conditions, provided the coaches mutually agree to the move and are confident the conditions will improve the next day.
 - (4) It is permissible for a game regularly-scheduled on Sunday to be moved to Saturday as part of a doubleheader in

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

anticipation of having more favorable playing conditions, provided the coaches mutually agree upon the change.

- (5) If weather conditions cause concern in advance of a series that a game may need to be rescheduled, the home team must report such conditions to the visiting coach before the team leaves home. The Conference Office and coordinator of umpires should also be notified.
- (6) Once the visiting team arrives on site, the home institution's game administrator should:
 - (a) Consult with both coaches and the umpire crew chief prior to canceling or rescheduling games.
 - (b) Consult or notify the Conference Office and the visiting team administrator about decisions to cancel or reschedule games.
- (7) Each institution should report to the Conference Office the name of its on-site administrator responsible for making decisions to cancel or reschedule games.
- (8) No more than two games may be played in one day except in the event when a halted game is completed on Sunday followed by a seven-inning game and a nine-inning game. Coaches may not purposefully throw one pitch to start a game threatened by existing weather.
- (9) Games that have been suspended for any reason shall be resumed from the point of interruption. All Conference games shall be completed, weather permitting.
- (10) There shall be no make-up games for rain-outs, other than games on Friday and Saturday whose start is postponed due to inclement weather. Those games shall be rescheduled for either Saturday or Sunday and the regularly-scheduled game for that day shall follow. All games shall be played

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

in the order they were originally scheduled, except as noted below when the original sequence of games in a series is altered due to inclement weather. Games rained out on Sunday shall not be rescheduled.

- (11) A team needing to meet the minimum number of games required to qualify for the tournament may play a rained-out game on the Sunday of the final weekend of league play.
 - (12) Every attempt shall be made to play a Conference series at the scheduled site. If the series cannot be played due to weather conditions or other factors at the scheduled site, the series shall be cancelled.
 - (13) Rules for nine-inning games shall be applied to any seven-inning game played, except that the 10-run rule does not apply to seven-inning games.
 - (14) A game halted by rain shall not be resumed any sooner than a minimum of 60 minutes after the visiting team's head coach has been informed by the home team that the game is to be resumed, unless both head coaches agree to start the game sooner.
 - (15) See Appendix 1 for outline of rain-out and rescheduling policies regarding specific situations.
- f. Tarps. In order to avoid cancellation of a game due to wet grounds, each university shall provide a reliable rain cover for its entire infield. This cover shall be placed on the field the day before a scheduled Conference game or games, unless the condition of the field does not warrant this action.
- g. Field Lights. A coach's request to turn on field lights must be made through the umpire-in-chief. Lights shall be turned on only upon completion of a full inning unless the umpire-in-chief feels that conditions warrant immediate use. To avoid delay, the host

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

institution must provide someone at all late afternoon and night games to turn on the lights.

- h. Baseballs. The Rawlings NCAA tournament baseball is designated as “the official baseball of the Conference” and must be used during the regular season and tournament. The host institution shall provide the game balls.
- i. Equipment. Teams shall provide all equipment needed except game baseballs.
- j. Dressing Facilities. The host institution shall provide a schedule for use and assignment of locker room space, if available, for the opposing team.
- k. Crowd Control. The responsibility for crowd control rests with the Director of Athletics or the designated representative of the host institution. The Directors of Athletics of the competing institutions are expected to communicate with their students and other interested fans prior to the competition to encourage enthusiastic support within the confines of good sportsmanship. The Directors of Athletics or the designated representative of the host institution (other than coaches) shall be available at the site of the competition to assist in controlling the crowd.
 - (1) Public Address. The Director of Athletics or the designated representative of the host institution should be prepared to go to the public address system at the first sign of unsportsmanlike crowd behavior and request cooperation in maintaining proper playing conditions.
 - (2) Access. Only the participants, coaches, officials, and authorized personnel shall be allowed in the competition area before, during and at the conclusion of competition.
 - (3) Noisemakers. Air horns, whistles and electronic amplifiers are not permissible. The Directors of Athletics or the designated representative of the host institution is

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

responsible for removing these items from the competition area. Artificial noisemakers, such as promotional balloons and “spirit sticks”, are permissible provided their use does not negatively impact play.

- l. Complimentary Tickets. The host institution shall provide up to 50 complimentary admissions to the visiting team, with at least 25 located directly behind the bench.
- m. Bat Testing. Bat testing (consisting of both ring and compression tests) is required to be conducted prior to each Conference series. Procedures for bat testing are included as Appendix 2.
- n. Replay. **Host institutions may utilize instant replay as permitted under NCAA playing rules during Conference series (or individual games) on an optional basis during the 2019 season.**

4.2 Tournament.

- 4.2.1 Team Selection. Eight teams shall participate in the MVC baseball tournament.
- 4.2.2 Format. **The tournament shall be an eight-team tournament consisting of single elimination games for the No. 5 through No. 8 seeds followed by a six-team double elimination bracket.**
- 4.2.3 Seeding. Teams shall be seeded one through eight according to their respective won-lost records and winning percentages in regular-season Conference games. The team with the best won-lost percentage shall be the seeded No. 1; the team with the second-best percentage shall be seeded No. 2; and so forth.
 - a. Tied Games. Tied regular-season games shall be counted in the Conference standings as a half-game lost and a half-game won.
 - b. Announcement. Tournament seedings and pairings shall be announced after the last regular-season Conference game is played.

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

4.2.4 Ties.

- a. Two-way Tie. In the case of a two-way tie, head-to-head competition shall be used to break the tie. The higher seed shall go to the team that has won the most Conference games played against the other team involved in the tie. If the teams have split their season series, a comparison of records between the tying institutions versus the No. 1 seed shall be used to break the tie, with the team having the better record against the No. 1 seed receiving the higher seed. This process will continue through the No. 8 seed, if necessary.

The final alternative will be a coin toss.

- b. Multiple Ties. In the case of multiple ties, composite records among teams shall be used to determine if one team won more games against the other tied teams. If this process does not resolve the multiple ties or reduce the multiple ties to two teams having identical records, a comparison of records versus the No. 1 seed shall occur. This process shall continue through the No. 8 seed, if necessary. All ties will be broken starting at the top of the standings and working down.

The final alternative shall be a coin toss.

4.2.5 Tournament Agreements. All regular-season rules and game agreements shall apply except as modified below.

a. Squad Size.

- (1) Each team shall be limited to twenty-seven (27) eligible players in uniform to be designated prior to the tournament. After the tournament has begun, no changes may be made in a team roster for any reason.
- (2) Prior restrictions on travel party size were eliminated, effective for the 2018 Tournament. However, only players, members of the coaching staff and team personnel (trainers, managers, etc.) shall be allowed on the field, including the practice field, bullpen, bench and dugout.

b. Practice.

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

- (1) Batting practice should be arranged on a field other than the tournament field in the event that more than one game is to be played on a given day. Competing teams shall each have forty (40) minutes of batting practice, with the home team batting first.
 - (2) All teams should be accorded practice facilities of equal quality beginning the day before the tournament and during the tournament. Dual batting practice may be conducted if the host facility can accommodate this format.
 - (3) The host school should provide a practice coordinator for these purposes. Practices are one hour in length on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - (4) Between games in a tournament session, there shall be a minimum of 40 minutes from the last out of the first game to the start of the second game. Each team shall be permitted eight minutes for infield practices. The home team will take infield first.
- c. Rain Conditions. The tournament director shall control the start of games under rain conditions.
- (1) If rain occurs in any portion of any day, but not sufficient to cancel the entire day's schedule, the bracket shall be adjusted to accommodate the scheduled format.
 - (2) If rain cancels the first day of competition, the tournament shall be moved back one day and shall be played as scheduled.
 - (3) If rain should cancel any day following the first scheduled day of competition, the tournament shall be moved back one day to accommodate the scheduled format.
 - (4) If rain cancels two consecutive days of competition, a single-elimination tournament shall be played.
 - (5) If rain delays the championship game, the game shall be postponed until such time that weather conditions permit the game to be played.
- d. Postponed Game.

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

- (1) All tournament games are to be completed.
 - (2) If play is stopped prior to a game's completion, the game shall be resumed from the point of suspension (regardless of whether the game is a regulation game of 4-1/2 innings or not). However, if the game is halted at a time when the 10-run rule would apply (including during the championship game) and the game cannot be finished that day, it shall be considered a complete game.
 - (3) If for unforeseen circumstances, it becomes impossible to play a tournament game(s), the Conference Office is authorized to determine which team(s) shall advance in the championship and based on regular-season standings.
- e. Curfew. **No tournament game shall be started after 10 p.m. local time.**
- f. Rules.
- (1) 10-run Rule. The 10-run rule shall be used for tournament games, except the championship game.
 - (2) Ground Rules. A ground rules walk-through shall be conducted following the coaches meeting.
- g. Game Ball. The Rawlings ball shall be "the official ball of the Conference tournament." Rawlings shall provide 50 dozen balls for the tournament at no cost to the Conference. The Conference Office shall be responsible for receiving the balls from Rawlings.
- h. Home Team Determination. The home teams **for the two single-elimination games and the first 3 games of the double-elimination bracket** are determined through seeding, with the higher-seeded team in each first-round game serving as the home team. In subsequent games, the home team shall be determined according to the following formula:
- (1) The institution that has been the home team the fewer number of times **in the double-elimination portion of the bracket** shall be designated the home team.
 - (2) If the two teams are equal in this respect but unequal in the number of times they were the visitor, the team that has

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

been the visitor more often **in the double-elimination portion of the bracket** will be designated the home team.

- (3) If the two teams are equal in the number of times that they have been home and visitor **in the double-elimination portion of the bracket**, then the higher seeded team will be the home team.

Note: Home/away designations in the single-elimination games for seeds No. 5 through No. 8 shall not impact the formula for home/away selection in the double-elimination portion of the tournament.

i. Accommodations for Host and Visiting Teams.

- (1) **The host institution's team may use its regular dugout during all games of the tournament (regardless of home/away designation in a particular game).**
- (2) **The host institution's team may not use its home clubhouse during games in which it participates; however, the clubhouse may be used at all other times during the tournament (e.g., pregame, postgame, between games, during weather delays).**
- (3) **In the event of inclement weather (e.g., rain/lightning delays, excessive heat), indoor accommodations shall be made available to visiting teams.**

j. National Anthem. The National Anthem shall be played before each session and prior to the championship game. The host institution is responsible for providing a live singer or pre-recorded version.

k. Tickets.

- (1) Ticket prices for the tournament are to be determined by the host institution and the Conference Office.
- (2) Players shall be admitted to games in which they are not participating via a pass list.

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

- l. Mascots. Team mascots are not to be allowed on the playing field at any time.
 - m. Tournament Meeting. A meeting of the coaches of the competing teams and the tournament director shall be held on the day prior to the beginning of the tournament and prior to each round of competition to determine home and visiting team, review ground rules and dispense with any problems that may arise.
 - n. Bat Testing. **Bat and ring testing for visiting tournament teams will be conducted by the host administration in conjunction with the pre-tournament practice sessions. MVC staff will review any negative tests for visiting teams and conduct all testing for host institution bats.**
 - o. Replay. Video replay shall be used for the 2019 MVC Tournament, with future use to be determined on an annual basis.
- 4.2.6 Protest Procedures. The following protest procedures shall be followed in the tournament:
- a. Any protest by the coach of a competing team must be made at the time of the action or incident which caused the protest and before play is resumed.
 - b. If the game ends (legal contest) in a situation or protest, the offended team must start protest procedures immediately (within 20 seconds).
 - c. All protests must be made to the umpire-in-chief.
 - d. No protest shall be allowed that involves a judgement decision by an umpire.
 - e. All protests must be ruled upon immediately by the tournament director.
- 4.2.7 Host Responsibilities.
- a. Lodging. The tournament host institution shall manage lodging needs as follows:

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

- (1) Designate the tournament headquarters.
 - (2) Provide the Conference Office and member institutions with a list of hotels and rates.
 - (3) Ensure that sufficient rooms are available to accommodate participating teams, including on Saturday night in the event of inclement weather.
 - (4) Unless otherwise arranged, institutions are to make their own hotel reservations for the tournament.
- b. The host institution shall provide the following:
- (1) Ground crews
 - (2) Water and towels for both dugouts
 - (3) Adequate security
 - (4) Trainer for visiting team(s) and immediate access to a doctor
 - (5) Ice cups and ice bags for dugout
 - (6) Public address announcer
 - (7) Official scorer
 - (8) Tournament program (cover provided by Conference Office)
 - (9) Cumulative tournament statistics
 - (10) Tournament game reports to news services
 - (11) Tarpaulin
 - (12) Telephone numbers for local weather service
- c. Transportation. Institutions are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to the tournament.

4.2.8 Sports Information Director Responsibilities. The sports information director of each competing institution in the tournament shall forward the following materials to the sports information director of the host institution:

- a. Media guide or team information packet
- b. Head shots of all individual players and head coaches, and a team photo with caption

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

- c. Up-to-date roster including: name, height, weight, class, age, letters won, hometown, high school and special awards or recognition
- d. Season's record and standing in Conference
- e. Individual statistics and team statistics
- f. Walk-up music

5. Tournament Administration.

5.1 **Tournament Committee.** The Tournament Committee shall consist of a representative of the Conference office, the host institution's tournament director and the umpire-in-chief in consultation with head coaches.

5.2 **Tournament Director.** The Commissioner or designated representative shall serve as tournament director.

6. Umpires.

6.1 **Regular Season.** The Conference shall assign three umpires to all baseball games, Conference and non-conference, with the latter assigned umpires within geographic proximity.

6.2 **Pool.** The Conference Office shall select, assign, and contract umpires from a pool of umpires provided by league coaches and selected umpire associations as determined by the Conference Office.

6.2.1 Employees of member institutions shall not be assigned to officiate any Conference or non-conference game.

6.3 **Payment.** The host institution shall be responsible for payment of umpires at the site on game day when possible or by mail payment within 5 business days.

6.3.1 Conference members shall share equally in all officiating costs for Conference games through an adjustment to the Conference's annual distribution.

6.3.2 Umpires are guaranteed payment for an entire series regardless of the number of games played due to inclement weather. If games are canceled

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

prior to the umpires' departure from home for a series, umpires shall not be paid for those games canceled.

6.4 Fees.

6.4.1 Conference Series Fee. **\$795** per series.

6.4.2 Travel. \$1.00 per mile (one-way) for each umpire. Additionally, there shall be a mileage cap of 350 to accommodate the assignment of high-level out-of-region umpires.

6.4.3 Meal Allowance. \$40 for one-day, \$55 for a two-day series; \$85 for a three-day series.

6.4.4 Lodging. Three rooms for each three-man umpiring crew shall be provided by the host institution.

6.4.5 Nonconference Fees. Beginning with the 2018 regular season, nonconference fees will follow the fee structure for Conference games/series (with the exception of non-Division I games, which are at institutional discretion).

6.4.6 Facilities. Locker room facilities shall be made available on campus, upon request, at institutions without on-site facilities for umpires. A game administrator shall meet umpires on site for league games to accompany umpires to their dressing room.

6.4.7 Payment. Checks for game fees, travel and meal allowance shall be given to each umpire prior to the start of the series.

6.4.8 Tickets. Two complimentary admissions shall be provided to each official for all Conference contests, when requested at least one week in advance.

6.5 Tournament Umpires.

6.5.1 Assignment. The Conference Office shall assign eight umpires for the Conference championship tournament.

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

- 6.5.2 Crews. Four umpires shall work each tournament game, except that six umpires shall work the championship game.
- 6.5.3 Fees. Tournament fee is **\$2000**, reasonable hotel expenses, per diem and either standard airfare or automobile mileage (\$1.00 per mile; one way).
- 6.5.4 Restrictions. Under no circumstances shall a player, coach or representative of any institution be allowed in the umpires' room.

7. Awards.

- 7.1 Team Trophies. Team trophies shall be awarded as follows:
 - 7.1.1 Regular-season champion
 - 7.1.2 First-place tournament team
 - 7.1.3 Second-place tournament team
- 7.2 First-place Team Individual Awards. Watches shall be awarded to members of the first-place team, regular season and tournament. [Duplicate watches shall not be provided if the same team wins both titles.]
- 7.3 All-Conference Awards. Coaches shall annually select 15 players each to first and second all-conference teams, a player of the year, pitcher of the year, newcomer of the year (four-year transfer or junior college transfer nominations only) and freshman of the year (true freshmen nominations only). Coaches shall nominate players and select players on a ballot to be submitted to the Conference Office. Coaches shall not vote for players from their own team. Student-athletes who receive at least two votes in a particular category receive honorable mention all-conference recognition.
 - 7.3.1 If a second player is not nominated at any given position, the next highest vote getter at any position will be named to the second all-conference team to bring the total number of players honored to 15.
- 7.4 All-Defensive Team. Coaches will select an all-defensive team to include nine players, one at each position, plus a Defensive Player of the Year as the Gold Glove Award recipient.

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

- 7.5 All-Tournament. A 12-member all-tournament team, including a Most Outstanding Player, shall be selected by the media.
- 7.6 Coach of the Year. Head coaches, baseball sports information directors and one member of the media (print or broadcast) per team shall annually select a recipient for the Dan Callahan Coach of the Year Award.
- 7.7 Scholar-Athlete Team. Student-athletes shall be named to the MVC scholar-athlete team using the following all-academic criteria and procedures.
 - 7.7.1 3.2 cumulative GPA.
 - 7.7.2 At least a sophomore in athletic and academic standing.
 - 7.7.3 Participation in MVC Championship or 75% of regular-season.
 - 7.7.4 Voted upon by sports information staff after the championship.
 - 7.7.5 Receipt of at least two votes to be named honorable mention.
8. Coaches' Meetings. The baseball coaches shall meet annually during the summer.
9. Finances.
 - 9.1 Expense Reports. Expense reports shall be filed by visiting teams with the Conference Office on a timeline to be determined by the Conference Office.
 - 9.2 Reimbursement. The tournament guarantee shall be used to defray a portion of the travel expenses of visiting teams, who will receive a pro rata reimbursement based on the following formula:
 - 9.2.1 Transportation expenses at a rate of \$2.25 per mile round trip;
 - 9.2.2 \$30 per diem (for a travel party of 27), including half day per diem for a travel day that does not include competition. [If a sports information director does not travel with the team, the institution shall be reimbursed for one less person in the team travel party.]
 - 9.3 Expenses and Revenue.

2019 MVC Baseball Procedures

- 9.3.1 Budget preparation, expenditures and receipt of funds, accounting and other financial matters relating to the event shall be the responsibility of the host institution. (The Conference Office shall be responsible for paying travel expenses and game fees for tournament umpires.)
- 9.3.2 If there is net revenue once the host has paid its expenses, such revenue shall be used to further reimburse visiting teams on a pro rata basis using the formula outlined in subsection (b) above.
- 9.3.3 If there is net revenue after full reimbursement of the participating teams, net tournament revenue distribution will be shared among participating teams.

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Appendix 1

Rain-Out and Rescheduling Policies

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Game postponed due to weather conditions, etc.	Two 9-inning games	One nine-inning game
Game started and played to completion	Game is started but play halted due to weather, etc.	Saturday's game resumed and completed to nine innings, followed by a nine-inning game
Game started and played to completion	Game postponed due to weather	Two nine-inning games
Game started but play halted due to weather, etc.	Friday's game resumed and completed to nine innings, followed by a nine-inning game	One nine-inning game
Game postponed due to weather, etc.	Game again postponed due to weather, etc.	Two nine-inning games
Game started but play halted due to weather	Game resumed but play halted	Halted game is completed to nine-innings, followed by a seven-inning and nine-inning doubleheader
Game postponed due to weather, etc.	Game started but played halted	Halted game is completed to nine innings, followed by a seven-inning and nine-inning doubleheader
Play halted	Play halted	Halted game completed to 9 innings, followed by a seven-inning game and a nine-inning game. If either of the first two games goes into extra innings, the third game shall be seven innings.

Bat Testing Protocol

1. Bat testing will take place prior to each Conference baseball series and only bats passing testing will be considered legal for use during the series. The host institution's testing equipment shall be used. Compression testing machines must be calibrated each series.
2. Bat testing shall be conducted by head coaches or their designees with the visiting team bat testing to occur prior to hitting on the day of the first game of the series and the home team bat testing during the visiting team's hitting session that day. The bat testing schedule may be adjusted by mutual consent.
3. A bat must pass both ring testing and compression testing to be legal for use in a Conference series.
4. Ring Testing: A ring test will be conducted to verify the maximum barrel diameter. The bat must pass through a ring that is 1 inch long and of inside diameter of 2.658 inches.
5. Compression Testing: The G4 compression tester shall be used. The lowest passing scores for each type of bat using the G4 will be as follows:
 - Metal Bats: 1250 psi
 - Composite Bats: 1000 psi
 - Non-linear (based on notification from NCAA indicating that the bat passes BBCOR at a lower psi level than typical): Rawlings Quattro (composite), 800 psi

A compression test will be considered passed or failed as follows:

- a. If the bat meets or exceeds the passing score threshold on the first test, it will be considered to have passed testing.
- b. If the bat does not meet the passing score threshold on the first test, it will be rotated 90 degrees (either direction) and tested again. If the bat meets or exceeds the passing score threshold on the second test, it will be considered to have passed testing. If the bat fails to meet the passing score threshold on the second test, the bat will be considered to have failed testing.

6. Each team shall be issued a unique-colored sticker by the Conference office for use both home and away, with the home team's stickers applied to the visiting team's approved bats and vice versa. Stickers shall be placed on the taper of approved bats so that they are easily visible.
7. A bat that fails testing will be considered illegal for use during the series.

Confiscated bats will be returned to the visiting team at the conclusion of the series for transportation home; it is the responsibility of the visiting team coach to provide the bats to the institution's sport administrator. However, such bats shall not be used in any subsequent game.