
SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

BASEBALL REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Format

Each member participating in the Conference baseball league competes in a round-robin rotational, one-division format; each team plays a three-game series versus nine (9) of the 11 opponents on a rotating basis for a 27-game schedule.

Regular Season Services

1. The Conference staff produces the Conference schedule, which uses a modified five-year cycle. 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.
 - Eleven weekends are available for regular season play, utilizing the first two (2) as necessary.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Regular season play ends Saturday and the Conference tournament begins Wednesday (through Sunday). A Tournament practice day is scheduled on Tuesday but is not required.
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 bench. 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, with home plate umpire rotating, is to be used for all BIG EAST regular season series. In case of sickness, injury or absenteeism, two (2) umpires are sufficient to start and/or continue play.

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

BASEBALL (continued) REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

- Whenever possible, each school should notify assignors to secure the same three-person umpire crew for all three-game series.
- Game and time formats are as follows:

<u>3-Game Series</u> *	<u>Easter Weekend</u> **	<u>3-Game Series (post-exam)</u> ***
Friday: 9-inning game	Thursday: 9-inning game	Saturday: 9-inning game
Saturday: 9-inning game	9-inning game	Sunday: 9-inning game
Sunday: 9-inning game	Saturday: 9-inning game	Monday: 9-inning game

* Except last weekend of season (Thurs.-Fri.-Sat.)

Every BIG EAST Baseball game will be nine (9) innings, inclusive of Easter doubleheaders and doubleheaders scheduled for Saturdays due to exam/institutional limitations. 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 Easter Weekend, when two “non-private” 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 make-up day on Sunday.

***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 Baseball Committee in advance of play.

- 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 the Baseball Committee.
- 10-run rule: By mutual consent of both head coaches before the contest, a game may be stopped only after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs. 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.
- Tobacco use by players, coaches and umpires is banned in any part of the athletic facility.
- Host school/home team responsibilities (per coaches agreement):
 - The host school/home team is responsible for providing the pregame timing schedule to the visiting team.
 - The host school/home team is encouraged to provide adequate practice time at the game site location 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).
 - 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.

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

- The host school/home team should provide laundry services to the visiting team at a reasonable cost.

BASEBALL (continued) REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

13. Host Institution must generate game contracts for all Conference regular season games.
14. During a BIG EAST 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.
15. An administrator must be on site to determine a game cancellation due to weather. The on-site administrator may NOT have other primary game functions (i.e., PA announcer, scorekeeper, field preparation, etc.).
16. 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.

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 February 1.
- Completed forms will be due to the Conference office by March 1.
- 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.
- Staff will catalogue the get-away times and distribute accordingly.

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 so it may be shared with the Baseball Committee for 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 BIG EAST regular season games.
19. Thunder and Lightning Safety Policy: The Conference has adopted as policy NCAA Guideline 1D for Lightning Safety. You may find the policy online at:

http://www.lightningsafety.com/nlsi_pls/Sports_Medicine_Handbook_lightning.pdf

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

BASEBALL (continued) REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

20. 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.
21. The NCAA halted-game rule (Rule 5, Sec. 9) is in effect during BIG EAST regular season games with the following stipulations:
 - a. The Halted Game Rule will be used during all Conference 3-game series.
 - b. The Halted Game Rule will not be used on the final day of the series.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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.
 - e. 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.”
 - f. When necessary, start times for games must be adjusted to an earlier time to allow for completion of the games.
 - g. 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.
22. Each institution that charges admission for regular season games must offer 40 complimentary admissions to the visiting team. Admission procedures are to be handled by the host school.
23. Institutions are mandated **NOT** to schedule/play more than four non-Division I opponents per year. (Note: Four non-Division I opponents are permitted before penalty points are assessed against a school’s RPI ranking).
24. 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.
25. The BIG EAST Baseball Coaches Association holds its official annual coaches meeting each January. These meetings are held 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 will determine the substitution.

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

BASEBALL (continued) 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) *
3. Second Team All-Conference (1B, 2B, 3B, SS, DH, 3 OF, 4P, RP, C) *
4. Third Team All-Conference (14 spots) *

5. Player of the Year *
6. Pitcher of the Year *
7. Rookie of the Year *

Note: Nominees must be true or red-shirt freshman

8. Coach of the Year *

* 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.
- Conference staff approves final selections.

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

BASEBALL (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Format

1. Eight-team, double-elimination. The event is conducted in five days. The games are scheduled beginning on Wednesday as follows:

DAY 1	10:00 a.m.	Game 1	#6 vs. #3
	1:00 p.m.	Game 2	#7 vs. #2
	5:00 p.m.	Game 3	#5 vs. #4
	8:00 p.m.	Game 4	#8 vs. #1
DAY 2	10:00 a.m.	Game 5	Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2
	1:00 p.m.	Game 6	Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2
	5:00 p.m.	Game 7	Loser Game 3 vs. Loser Game 4
	8:00 p.m.	Game 8	Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4
DAY 3	3:00 p.m.	Game 9	Winner Game 5 vs. Loser Game 7
	6:00 p.m.	Game 10	Winner Game 6 vs. Loser Game 8
DAY 4	10:00 a.m.	Game 11	Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 9
	1:00 p.m.	Game 12	Winner Game 8 vs. Winner Game 10
	5:00 p.m.	Game 13	<i>If Winner Game 9 also wins Game 11</i>
	6:30/8:00 p.m.	Game 14	<i>If Winner Game 10 also wins Game 12</i>
DAY 5	1:00 p.m.	Championship Game ^	

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

Note: Conference Staff has the discretion to change the order of Day 1 games and all corresponding games, based on the host/local institution playing in the tournament, which will create a positive Championship environment and facilitate attendance.

2. A tournament practice day is scheduled on the Tuesday preceding the Championship. Participating teams will be provided a 55-minute practice based on tournament seed and time they play on Day 1.
3. A tournament meeting is conducted for the eight (8) participating head coaches, as well as tournament personnel, the evening preceding the start of the Championship.
4. An Opening Ceremony honoring the eight (8) participating teams is scheduled the evening preceding the start of the Championship at the Championship venue. Head Coaches and Administrators will be entitled to bring one guest each, at their respective institution's expense.
5. 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.

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

BASEBALL (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Seeding Requirements/Procedures

Overall league winning percentage at the conclusion of the regular season is used to seed the top eight (8) teams. The Baseball Committee 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. Runs given up against each other.

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. Runs given up against each other.

Championship Policies & Regulations (NCAA rules and guidelines are followed unless otherwise noted; regular season game management policies, where applicable, apply to the championship)

1. All tournament games must be played with the official league ball, Rawlings (model R1-NCAA).
2. The Conference staff contracts umpires based upon coaches recommendations.
3. The 10-run rule will NOT be used during the BIG EAST Championship game. However the 10-run rule will be implemented after the 7th inning during the other tournament games.

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

BASEBALL (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Policies & Regulations (continued)

4. Tobacco use by players, coaches, tournament personnel, and umpires is banned during all Conference tournament competition and activities.
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. The higher seeds are given preference to practice times. However, consideration will be given to teams traveling further distances and for those teams trying to work around final exams in an effort to insure that every team is allotted a practice slot.
6. A 27-man roster must be submitted at the technical meeting held prior to the tournament start. No changes are permitted after this time. Dugouts are limited to 27 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 35.
7. For first round games (Games #1 - #4), the highest-seeded team shall be designated as the home team. In subsequent games, the formula in the NCAA Baseball Handbook will be used to determine the home team. 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. The Games Committee will resolve any conflict in the selection of uniforms.
8. In the event of rain precluding further competition, the Protest Committee, which is comprised of the Baseball Committee and the BIG EAST Administrator as chair, 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 Protest Committee may make exceptions to this in emergency situations.
9. A representative from stadium operations, along with the Protest 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. 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.

Championship Awards, Gifts & Services

1. The championship team receives a trophy and individual awards.
2. The runner-up team receives a trophy.
3. 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.
4. A Most Outstanding Player receives the Jack Kaiser Award and 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.
5. The Conference staff produces a Championship program. A press release previewing the tournament field is distributed a week prior to the Championship.