

SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

WOMEN'S SOCCER REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Services

1. The Conference staff produces the league schedule based on the following parameters:

- The American Division plays six opponents (3 home and 3 away) within its division and four opponents from the National Division (2 home and 2 away) for a total of 10 games.
- The National Division plays seven opponents (4 home and 3 away, or 3 home and 4 away) within its division. Four teams will play four opponents from the American Division (2 home and 2 away) for a total of 11 games and four teams will play three opponents from the American Division (1 home and 2 away or 2 home and 1 away) for a total of 10 games.

- There are two permanent crossover games and two crossover games that rotate annually; in six years, the cycle is complete relative to playing each cross divisional Conference opponent home and away at least once.
- Of the nine (9) weekends available for scheduling, the Conference will utilize the last six (6) for league games:

Weekends 1, 2 and 3	Open play dates for non-conference scheduling
Weekend 4	Split-Weekend Divisional Matches (2 games, Friday/Sunday)*
Weekend 5	Rotating Cross-Divisional Matches (2 games, Friday/Sunday)
Weekend 6	Permanent Cross-Divisional Matches (2 games, Friday/Sunday)
Weekend 7	Divisional Matches (2 games, split home/away Friday/Sunday)
Weekend 8	Divisional Matches (2 games, Friday/Sunday)
Weekend 9	Travel Partner Matches (1 game Friday, can move if mutual consent/approval)

* *The American Division may play Thursday/Sunday if mutually agreed upon by both head coaches, sport administrators and approved by the sport committee.*

- The Sunday and Monday prior to the start of the championship will be used as a rain/make-up date, as administrated by the staff with the involved institutions.
- It is permissible to schedule a non-league game on either Sunday or Monday, but language must be included in the contract that would allow the Conference school relief for rescheduling purposes.
- Games between Conference opponents not scheduled in a particular year may be scheduled as agreed upon by both institutions. The permanent crossover format allows this to occur without the disruption of the home and away sequence.
- Divisional and travel partners (used for cross divisional scheduling) and the permanent crossover opponents are illustrated below:

American Division

Connecticut-Providence
Marquette-USF
St. John's-Syracuse
Pittsburgh

National Division

DePaul-Notre Dame
Cincinnati-Louisville
Georgetown-Villanova
Rutgers-Seton Hall

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WOMEN'S SOCCER (continued) REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Services (continued)

Scheduling parameters (continued)

- Schools are permitted to make changes with travel partner if agreed upon by both institutions' administrators and coaches as well as approval from Sport Committee/Conference. The Conference staff handles any scheduling conflicts between institutions and approves the finalized schedule.
 - Any single game scheduled prior to a tournament doubleheader (same day, same site) should be scheduled three hours prior to the start of the tournament doubleheader.
2. A publicity release naming an offensive player, a defensive player, a goalkeeper and a rookie of the week, and 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.
 3. The Women's Soccer Assignor schedules officials (one referee, two assistant referees and one alternate referee) for all Conference and non-Conference games. The assignor is responsible for handling all assignments as well as adjustments and substitutions. The assignor is responsible for sustaining the BIG EAST pool through the evaluation process and by identifying new officials. The assignor attends the coaches' annual meeting.
 4. The Conference staff coordinates and publicizes a preseason coaches' poll that predicts the order of team finish, an All-Conference Team, an Offensive Player of the Year, a Defensive Player of the Year and a Goalkeeper of the Year.

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

1. Digital record/capture: It is now required that all games be recorded/captured digitally. If you presently do not have a digital video camera and you need assistance identifying appropriate units, please contact the Conference office.
2. Video Exchange Policy
 - a. A coach may request one digitally recorded regular season game from each Conference opponent.
 - b. All requests must be made by Friday, August 5, 2011 using the form provided by the Conference office or via email, an electronic confirmation/reply is required of each institution receiving an email request.
 - c. All game records must be uploaded to ezchanges within twelve (12) hours from the final whistle.
 - d. The home team is responsible for uploading their non-Conference away match either by bringing their own videographer or by pre-arranging with the home team to receive a digital copy of the game record immediately upon conclusion of the game.
 - e. Additional game records may be exchanged on a one-for-one basis. The number of games exchanged beyond the required one per opponent is up to the discretion of each coach.
 - f. If a requested game cannot be provided or delivered on time, a phone call to the opposing coach is required as soon as the problem becomes apparent.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER (continued) REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

Video Exchange Policy (continued)

- g. Under no circumstances are game records of **any** BIG EAST games to be given to anyone outside the BIG EAST Conference. This includes videos of BIG EAST games in which your team is a participant and those in which your team is not a participant. For example:
 - It is inappropriate for Syracuse to provide a videotape of its game with UConn to Harvard.
 - It is also inappropriate for Syracuse to provide a videotape of the UConn/PC game to Harvard.
 - Furthermore, providing verbal scouting reports on Conference teams to anyone outside the Conference is expressly prohibited.
 - g. Each coach is personally responsible for providing the game requested regardless of where the game/record originated and/or who produced it. For example:
 - PC requests from Syracuse the Syracuse/UConn game played in Storrs. UConn agrees to tape the game, and as a favor provides a copy to Syracuse. Syracuse, not UConn, is responsible for retrieving and delivering the tape on time to PC.
3. Taping Protocol
- a. Cameras must be steadied (i.e. shot from a fixed position/tripod versus handheld).
 - b. Games should be filmed from an elevated, midfield position.
 - c. Tapes must have sound.
 - d. Ball shall be kept in the middle of the frame during the run of the play.
 - e. A third of the field should be in view and surround the ball during the run of the play.
 - f. All corners should be zoomed to see the ball and the penalty area.
 - g. All restarts (including throw-ins) in the Attacking half of the field shall be zoomed to see both the ball and the penalty area.
 - h. All restarts (including throw-ins) in the Defending half of the field shall be zoomed as in the run of the play mentioned above.
 - i. As the ball moves from near touch line to far touch line, the camera should zoom to show one third of the field around the ball.
 - j. As the ball enters the penalty area, the camera should zoom to show the entire penalty area.
4. Scouting reports, videos, etc. regarding Conference schools shall **NOT** be provided to non-Conference opponents.
5. Regular Season Band Policy
- a. Bands are permitted to perform during the segments as specified below and never during a penalty kick taken at any point in a game.
 - Pregame
 - 15:00-to-30:00 minutes (first half)
 - Halftime
 - 60:00-to-75:00 minutes (second half)
 - Between the end of regulation and the start of overtime
 - Between overtime periods
 - Postgame
 - Any stoppages of the clock

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WOMEN'S SOCCER (continued) REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

Regular Season Band Policy (continued)

- b. Home team bands, artificial noisemakers and/or similar items MUST be located at the furthest point from the visiting team and NOT behind a goal.
 - c. Artificial noisemakers and/or similar items are not restricted by the policy described in letter a) and are permitted to make noise accordingly.
 - d. PA music is NOT permitted during any segment of live play.
 - e. Bands, cheerleaders and mascots are prohibited from traveling to away contests.
6. 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.

7. Host Responsibilities/Game Management

- a. Host Institution must generate game contracts for all Conference regular season games.
- b. 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.
- c. Ball persons and rotation: The host institution must arrange for a minimum of four, but recommend up to six, ball persons. These ball persons must be at least 10 years of age. A six-ball rotation will be used. One ball will be in play. One ball will be on each sideline of each half of the field (four balls total) and one ball will be at the scorer's table.
- d. An administrator must be on site during all Conference regular season games to handle any postponement/cancellation decision. The on-site administrator may NOT have other primary game functions (i.e., PA announcer, scorekeeper, field preparation, etc.).
- e. Practice/Game Field Access
 - 1) Each institution must make "best efforts" in scheduling the visiting team's practice session on the actual game field. If access to the game field is not possible, the host should ensure practice on another field.
 - 2) If the home team utilizes a primary practice facility, then the visiting team must also have access to that same facility.
 - 3) It is mandated that the visiting team be allowed to walk the game field the day prior or the morning of the scheduled contest without balls for no more than 30 minutes.
- f. Locker/Meeting Rooms: Each institution must provide an enclosed area (meeting room, locker room, etc.) with 25 chairs and a dry erase board for pregame and halftime use. This area must minimally be a tent with sides.
- g. The host school must provide towels to visiting teams.
- h. The host institution will be responsible for immediately providing the visiting team a copy of the game tape at the conclusion of the contest (type of file transfer or copy of game record must be agreed upon before visiting team arrives on campus; i.e., either via hook-up to the home team's laptop or recording device, provide a DVD copy on site, etc.).

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WOMEN'S SOCCER (continued) REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

Host Responsibilities/Game Management (continued)

- i. All facilities must have visible soccer lines only during the traditional season.
 - j. Each institution is asked to provide game officials a locker room. In addition, each institution must provide security to/from the field and to their vehicles upon arrival and departure.
 - k. All repetitive movements (drills, sprints, etc.) during warm-ups should be done on a warm-up area or on the side of the main field.
 - l. The NCAA pregame schedule (Appendix D of the NCAA Women's Soccer Championship Handbook) will be utilized for all Regular Season games. However, exceptions may be made due to special events (i.e. Senior Day) as long as the host institution communicates the change to the visiting institution in advance.
 - m. The home team must wear a white/light-colored uniform in Conference play. The visiting team must wear a uniform in clear contrast to the home team (i.e. dark). If the home team chooses to wear a dark/alternate color uniform, the home team must advise the visiting team's coach and administrator via e-mail no later than one week prior to the contest in question. It is the responsibility of the home team to confirm the change with the visiting team.
8. All assigned referees must be on the field 30 minutes prior to the start of the match. If they cannot arrive before this time, they must contact the on-site administrator who will notify all parties involved. This will allow appropriate planning and notification for adjustments or delays in the pregame timing sequence. Any official who arrives after the 30-minute pregame window must be reported to Roger Taylor in the referee report.
9. Postponement Policy:
The intent is for all games to be played and/or made up when postponements occur. When there is no effect on BIG EAST Championship Qualification and Seeding, and there is mutual institutional agreement NOT to make-up a game with approval by the Conference staff, then the game in question does not have to be played.

Administrators, in consultation with the referees, will make postponement decisions prior to the start of the game. Once play begins, the referee is responsible for postponement decisions.

Monday and Tuesday prior to the quarterfinals will be used for the rescheduling of postponed games.
10. 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
11. Policy for placement of BIG EAST logo on uniforms
- BIG EAST soccer logo should be placed on left sleeve in either primary Conference colors or a one-color stitch;
 - If the left sleeve is unavailable (i.e. adidas stripes), then the logo must be placed on the chest opposite the brand mark (i.e. if adidas mark is on right chest, BIG EAST logo should be on left chest);
 - If chest placement is unavailable logo centered on the front below the neck "v" is acceptable;

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WOMEN'S SOCCER (continued) REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

Policy for placement of BIG EAST logo on uniforms (continued)

- Back 'tags' are unacceptable;
- Logo should be clearly represented and within NCAA maximum guidelines.

12. The BIG EAST Conference Women's Soccer Coaches Association holds its official annual meeting at the Conference office headquarters each June. 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.

Regular Season Awards

1. a. Regular Season American Division Team Champion (trophy and individual awards)
b. Regular Season National Division Team Champion (trophy and individual awards)
2. Offensive Player of the Year *
3. Defensive Player of the Year *
4. Midfielder of the Year *
5. Goalkeeper of the Year *
6. Rookie of the Year *
7. Coach of the Year *
8. First Team All-Conference (11 spots; 1 goalkeeper, 10 at-large) *
9. Second Team All-Conference (11 spots; 1 goalkeeper, 10 at-large) *
10. Third Team All-Conference (11 at-large spots) *
11. All-Rookie Team (11 at-large spots) * [*True Freshman or a Red Shirt Freshman*]
 - * Selection Process
 - Coaches nominate their own players by position and in preferential order.
 - Nominees, with uniform number, are forwarded to each coach on a ballot.
 - Coaches submit choices (via the Conference's website) from the nominee list, but cannot select their own players.
 - Conference staff approves final selections.
12. Fair Play Award - Award will be based on the accumulation of points: Foul (1 point); Yellow Card (5 points); Red Card (10 points)

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WOMEN'S SOCCER (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Format

1. 10-team single-elimination. The top four (4) teams in each division and the next two (2) at-large teams, regardless of division, seeded by points per game average (PPGA), qualify for the Conference Championship. The lower points per game average (PPGA) at-large team will play the higher #4 seed from either the American or National Division. The higher points per game average (PPGA) at-large team will play the lower #4 seed from either the American or National Division. The top three (3) teams in each division earn a first-round bye to the quarterfinals. Crossover divisional pairings are applicable throughout the bracket. First round and quarterfinal games are conducted on the campus of the higher seeded team while the semifinals and final are conducted at a predetermined site.

The event is conducted as follows:

First Round Games (Thursday Prior to Quarterfinals, October 27)

First Round 1	Higher PPGA At-Large at Lower PPGA #4 American/National
First Round 2	Lower PPGA At-Large at Higher PPGA #4 American/National

Quarterfinal Games (Sunday Prior to Semifinals, October 30)

Quarterfinal 1	FR1 at Higher PPGA #1 American/National
Quarterfinal 2	3 National at 2 American
Quarterfinal 3	FR2 at Lower PPGA #1 American/National
Quarterfinal 4	3 American at 2 National

Semifinals/Final (Friday/Sunday, November 4 & 6) *

Friday	Semifinal 1	Quarterfinal Winners	4:00 p.m. EST **
	Semifinal 2	Quarterfinal Winners	6:30 p.m. EST **
Sunday	Championship	Winner Semi 1 vs. Winner Semi 2	Noon EST **

All make-up, first round and quarterfinal games are scheduled with approval by the Conference staff.

* Semifinals and final are scheduled the Friday and Sunday after the quarterfinals at predetermined sites. Semifinal doubleheader begins at 4:00 p.m. with the second game beginning no earlier than 6:30 p.m. Teams in the second game will have a full pregame warm-up. Conference staff will have discretion relative to the order of the Championship semifinal games.

** Televised – time subject to change

2. A tournament meeting is conducted for the four participating head coaches the evening preceding the start of the Championship.
3. A dinner honoring the four participating teams is scheduled the evening preceding the start of the Championship. Head Coaches and Administrators may each bring one guest, at their respective institution's expense.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Format (continued)

4. The tournament champion earns the Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Should the tournament not be completed the representative will be determined as follows:
 - Highest remaining seed in the tournament
 - Head-to-Head competition
 - Record against common opponents within the Conference
 - Record against common opponents outside the Conference
 - Strength of schedule
 - Coin toss

Note: In the event that the Championship is not completed, no champion will be declared.

Championship Seeding Requirements/Procedures

At the conclusion of the regular season, the top four teams and the next two at-large teams, regardless of division, are selected and seeded based on points per game average (PPGA).

Tie-Breaking Policies

The following policies are established to break ties at the end of the regular season for selection/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, the Commissioner or his designee will conduct a coin flip.

1. Regular season head-to-head results within a team's division. If three or more teams are tied, they 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. Combined points per game average versus the teams that have qualified for the Championship (Note: May be an uneven number of opponents among the tied teams).
3. Result versus the highest common opponent that has qualified for the Championship at the same site of competition. (Continue down highest common opponent until there are no common opponents).
4. Result versus the highest common opponent that has qualified for the Championship regardless of site of competition. (Continue down highest common opponent until there are no common opponents).
5. Coin toss.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

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 (First Round, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Championship) must be played with the official league ball, Nike Maxim.
2. All tournament games must be played on grass or natural grass-like fields (first round, quarterfinals, semifinals, and final). The higher seeded/host team has the option of securing a grass field for its quarterfinal. If an alternate field cannot be secured, hosting privileges revert to the lower-seeded team.
3. The Women's Soccer Assignor contracts officials (one referee, two assistant referees and one table referee) for all nine (9) tournament games (two first round, four quarterfinals, two semifinals and the Championship).
4. The semifinal tournament field is available for practice to all participating teams on the day preceding the start of the semifinals, weather permitting. The highest remaining seed is given first choice of one-hour practice slots, the 2nd highest remaining seed is given second choice, etc. However, consideration will be given to teams traveling further distances in an effort to ensure that every team is allotted a practice slot.
5. Benches are limited to a maximum of 22 players in uniform and a total of 30 persons, all of whom shall be properly identified.
6. The higher-seeded team is designated the home team and will wear light jerseys and matching socks, and use the bench traditionally occupied by the host school.
7. The following procedure shall be used when a game is tied at the end of regulation:

Post Season play – NCAA format for Conference tournament games (Rule 7.1.2 2012 and 2013 NCAA Rule Book pages 33-35): For postseason games, which include conference tournaments and NCAA tournament games, two sudden-victory overtime periods of 10 minutes each shall be played. If the score is still tied, the game shall be recorded as a draw and the tiebreaker procedure of taking kicks from the penalty-kick line or spot shall be used to determine advancement/champion.

The interval between the end of regulation play and the first overtime period shall be five minutes. The interval between the first and second overtime period shall not exceed two minutes.

A coin toss called by the visiting team will determine choice of ends of the field or the kickoff before the start of the first sudden-victory overtime period. Teams shall change ends of the field to start the second overtime period.

8. A pregame meeting prior to each championship first round and quarterfinal match will be conducted 30 minutes prior to the game at the scorer's table.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Awards, Gifts & Services

1. The Championship team receives a trophy and individual awards.
2. The runner-up team receives a trophy.
3. A Most Outstanding Offensive Player and a Most Outstanding Defensive Player receive awards and are selected by a vote of qualified persons as determined by the Conference staff.
4. An all-tournament team will be selected from among the four (4) participating institutions at the site of the finals. Eleven (11) players will be selected – 10 at-large field players and a goalkeeper. From the eleven will be designated most outstanding defensive and offensive players. A selection committee shall be comprised of the Sport Committee, staff and select media, with input from the sports information representatives of the four participating institutions. Before the first semifinal game, the committee will ask the four participating coaches to identify not more than six players from their respective teams who they believe should be considered. If warranted, the Selection Committee has the discretion to select a player(s) that was not nominated by a participating coach.
5. The Conference staff produces a Championship program. A press release previewing the tournament field is distributed a week prior to the Championship.
6. Each Women's Soccer student-athlete competing in the postseason Championship receives a gift from the Conference office, which is shipped to each head coach after the Women's Soccer Championship.