

# Baseball

## Section I - Championship Eligibility

The following schools compete for the conference championship in baseball: Dickinson, Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg, Haverford, Johns Hopkins, McDaniel, Muhlenberg, Swarthmore, Ursinus and Washington.

## Section II - Baseball Committee

*Chair:* Bob Babb, Johns Hopkins.

*Liaison:* Sam Beidleman, Muhlenberg.

## Section III - Playing Season Regulations

**A. Length of Playing Season.** The length of an institution's playing season in baseball shall be limited to a maximum of 19 weeks (traditional and nontraditional segments combined). *(Adopted 1/12/04)*

### B. Traditional Segment.

- 1. Preseason Practice.** A member institution shall not commence practice sessions prior to February 1. *(Revised 6/4/03)*
- 2. First Contest or Date of Competition.** An institution shall not play its first contest (including a scrimmage) against outside competition prior to March 1. If March 1 falls between Sunday through Friday, a contest may be scheduled for the previous weekend in lieu of competition during that week. Teams that utilize this option are prohibited from scheduling a game or scrimmage during the following weekdays (Sunday-Friday). In the event an institution's spring break begins prior to March 1, the first date of competition may be played on the first day of spring break. *(Revised 6/4/03; Revised 9/23/05; Revised 5/28/08)*
- 3. Maximum Limitations.** An institution shall limit its total playing schedule against outside competition during the playing season to 40 contests (games and scrimmages) during the traditional segment and one date of competition during the nontraditional segment, except for those contests excluded in the *NCAA Manual*. Further, during the traditional segment, an institution may exclude contests against an alumni team on one date of competition per NCAA Bylaw 17.4.5.3-(e). *(Revised 8/1/01; Revised 6/9/04)*
- 4. Classes in Session.** No more than 30 contests may be played while classes are in session during the traditional segment. There is no limitation on contests during listed vacation periods. *(Adopted 6/4/03)*

### C. Nontraditional Segment

- 1. Preseason Practice.** Preseason practice may not begin prior to September 7 or the first date on which classes are scheduled for the institution's fall term, whichever date occurs first.
- 2. Contest or Date of Competition.** An institution shall not play its contest (including a scrimmage) with outside competition prior to September 7 or the institution's first day of classes for the fall term, whichever is earlier.
- 3. Nontraditional Season Length.** All practice and competition during the nontraditional segment shall be limited to a maximum of five weeks and must conclude by October 30.
- 4. Practice Opportunities.** The Conference permits a maximum of 16 practices with no more than four practices in any one week. *(Revised 6/4/03)*
- 5. Maximum Limitations.** The Conference permits one date of competition with outside competition that is counted toward the allowable 16 practices (*i.e.* 15 practices + 1 DOC = 16; 16 practices + 0 DOC = 16). *(Revised 6/4/03)*
  - a. Exemption - Alumni Game.** The Conference also permits one date of competition against an alumni team that is counted toward the allowable 16 practices. *(Revised 5/28/08)*
- 6. Class/Laboratory Time.** No class or laboratory time may be missed for practice or competition.
- 7. Date of Competition Limitations.** A maximum of eight hours of athletically related activity may occur on the one date of competition for all participants. Further, competition activity on the one date must be included in the eight-hour maximum and is also limited to two regulation baseball games or 18 regulation innings (e.g., three outs per inning, three strikes per out). *(Revised 4/17/07)*

## Section IV - Rules Governing Championship

**A. Determining the Conference Champion.** The Conference champion will be determined by a four-team double-elimination playoff. The teams are determined by the best win-loss record in a double round-robin format. *(Adopted 6/6/01; Revised 11/28/06)*

### B. Tournament Format

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Game 1</b> (Friday):                 | No. 4 seed at No. 1 seed.             |
| <b>Game 2</b> (Friday):                 | No. 3 seed at No. 2 seed.             |
| <b>Game 3</b> (Saturday at No. 1 seed): | Loser of game 1 vs. Loser of game 2   |
| <b>Game 4</b> (Saturday at No. 1 seed): | Winner of game 1 vs. Winner of game 2 |
| <b>Game 5</b> (Saturday at No. 1 seed): | Winner of game 3 vs. Loser of game 4  |
| <b>Game 6</b> (Sunday at No. 1 seed):   | Winner of game 4 vs. Winner of game 5 |
| <b>Game 7</b> (Sunday at No. 1 seed):   | Championship game, if necessary       |

All games are nine innings. *(Adopted 6/6/01)*

**C. Determination of Home Team.** For Games 1 and 2, the higher seed will be the home team. In subsequent games, the following guidelines will be used:

1. The institution that has been the home team the fewer number of times in the tournament.
2. If the two teams are equal in this respect but unequal in the number of times they were the visitor, then the team that has been visitor more often 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:
  - a. If the two teams have met previously in the tournament, the visitor in the previous game shall be the home team;
  - b. The team that was visitor in its preceding game shall be the home team, unless both teams were visitors in their preceding games;
  - c. If the above procedures do not resolve the matter, the home team shall be determined by a coin flip;
  - d. For game 6, the team that is undefeated in the tournament will be designated as the home team. The home team for Game 7 will be the visiting team from game 6. (*Adopted 11/28/06; Revised 5/28/08*)

**D. Tiebreaker Format.** The tiebreaker formula to determine playoff seedings is as follows:

1. Head-to-head Centennial Conference play among tied teams;
2. Records versus teams in descending order of standing; (e.g., if there is a tie for fourth, the records of those two teams vs. the 1st-place finisher would be examined, then on to 2nd place, etc.);
3. if criteria 1 and 2 does not break the tie
  - a. for the final playoff position, a play-in game will be held. The Executive Director will conduct a coin flip to determine the site;
  - b. for other ties among playoff-bound teams, the Executive Director will conduct a coin flip to determine playoff position. In the event of multiple ties, a random drawing will be held for the playoff positions.

When any secondary criteria separates one or more tied teams, but does not completely break the tie among all teams involved, re-apply the criteria to all groups of teams still tied, starting with the Conference's primary tiebreaker for all sports (head-to-head Centennial competition). (*Adopted 6/6/01; Revised 6/4/03; Revised 6/9/04*)

**E. Championship Game Times.**

**Game 1:** No. 4 seed at No. 1 seed, 3:00

**Game 2:** No. 3 seed at No. 2 seed, 3:00

**Practice** (*game starts at 3:00 p.m.*) The home team (higher seed) will complete batting practice by 2 p.m. The visiting team may hit for 30 minutes, beginning at 2:30 p.m. The home team takes fielding practice from 2:30-2:40. The visiting team takes field practice from 2:40-2:50. Lineup exchange is at 2:52, and anthem begins at 2:55. First pitch is 3 p.m.

**Game 3:** loser of game 1 vs. loser of game 2, 9:00

**Game 4:** winner of game 1 vs. winner of game 2, not before 12:30 or 30 minutes after conclusion of game 3

**Game 5:** winner of game 3 vs. loser of game 4, begins 30 minutes after conclusion of game 4

No practice will be permitted at the team championship site (host team excluded) prior to game day. No practice is permitted on the game field prior to the warm-up for the first game. Prior to games 6/7, the facility will be made available for official warm-ups 60 minutes prior to the start of play.

**Game 3 Practice** (*game starts at 9 a.m.*) Teams take batting practice in cages from 7:55 a.m. to 8:25 a.m. The home team takes fielding practice from 8:30-8:40, while the visiting team takes fielding practice from 8:40-8:50. Lineup exchange takes place at 8:52 and the starting lineups with national anthem begins at 8:55. First pitch is 9:00. *NOTE: If the team hosting the tournament has only one hitting cage, teams will take turns using it with the host team hitting first before game 3.*

**Game 4 Practice** (*game starts at 12:30 p.m. or 30 minutes after conclusion of first game*) Teams take batting practice in cages from 11:25 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. The home team takes fielding practice from 12:00-12:10, while the visiting team takes fielding practice from 12:10-12:20. Lineup exchange takes place at 12:22 and the starting lineups with national anthem begins at 12:25. First pitch is 12:30.

**Game 5 Practice** (*game starts 30 minutes after conclusion of second game*) Teams take batting practice in cages from 2:55 p.m. to 3:25 p.m. The home team takes fielding practice from 3:30-3:40, while the visiting team takes fielding practice from 3:40-3:50. Lineup exchange takes place at 3:52 and the starting lineups with national anthem begins at 3:55. First pitch is 4:00.

**Game 6:** winner of game 4 vs. winner of game 5, 12:00

**Game 7, if necessary:** 30 minutes after conclusion of game 6

**Game 6 Practice** (*game starts at noon*) The host institution (or home team) will complete batting practice by 11 a.m. The visiting team may hit for 30 minutes, beginning at 11 a.m. The home team takes fielding practice from 11:30-11:40. The visiting team takes field practice from 11:40-11:50. Lineup exchange is at 11:52, and anthem begins at 11:55. First pitch is 12 p.m.

(*Adopted 6/6/01; Revised 6/9/04; Revised 11/28/06; Revised 5/28/08*)

- F. Inclement Weather.** If the Friday games are not played because of weather or exam schedules, three games will be scheduled on Saturday with teams which placed 1st and 4th playing at 9 a.m., the 2nd place team and the 3rd place team playing at 12:45 p.m., and the losers of the two games playing at 4:30 p.m., all on the 1st-place team's field. Sunday schedule would be as above. The home site Athletic Administrator in consultation with the Executive Director shall make decisions on whether games may be started if weather or field conditions are questionable. *(Adopted 6/6/01; Revised 11/28/06)*
- G. Incomplete Tournament.** Only games 6 and 7 may be played on Monday. If the tournament has not completed five games by the end of Sunday, and if all teams have completed at least one contest, the highest remaining seed will receive the Conference AQ. If all teams have not completed at least one contest, the regular-season top seed will represent the Conference as its automatic qualifier to the NCAA tournament. *(Adopted 6/5/02; Revised 6/1/05; Revised 11/28/06)*
- H. Umpires.** The Conference Office will arrange for umpires. The host institution will pay umpires and be reimbursed by the Conference Office. It is recommended that three umpires be used. *(Adopted 6/6/01)*
- I. Batting Practice.** All batting practice for playoff games shall take place in batting cages, if facilities permit, not on the field. The lone exception will be games on Sunday. *(Adopted 6/6/01; Revised 6/5/02)*
- J. Foul Balls.** The host institution for Conference tournament games is responsible for providing persons to retrieve foul balls that leave the field of play. *(Adopted 5/30/07)*
- K. Dugouts.** A team occupying one dugout in the playoffs will not be forced to change dugouts for the next game, unless the host institution is involved. *(Adopted 5/28/08)*

## Section V - Regulations Governing Competition

All NCAA rules apply unless noted below.

- A. Starting Times.** Starting times for midweek single games is 3 p.m. (3:30 after Daylight Savings Time begins, or 3:45 p.m. by mutual consent), except by mutual agreement. All weekend doubleheaders begin at 11:30 a.m. before Daylight Savings Time and 12:30 p.m. after Daylight Savings. Weekday doubleheaders must begin at 1 p.m. *(Revised 6/4/97, Revised 6/3/98; Revised 6/6/01; Revised 6/4/03; Revised 6/9/04)*
- B. Length of Contests.** Length of Conference contests will be nine innings for single games. The first game of a weekend doubleheader will be seven innings, while the second game will be nine innings. There will be a 20-minute break between games of a Conference doubleheader. *(Revised 6/9/04)*
- C. Games Ending in Ties.** Ties in regular-season games will not be replayed and will count in the standings.
- D. Batting Practice.** The home team will complete batting practice 60 minutes before game time. The visiting team may hit for 30 minutes, beginning 60 minutes before game time. The home team takes fielding practice for 10 minutes, beginning 30 minutes before game time. The visiting team also gets 10 minutes, beginning 20 minutes before game time. *(Revised 6/3/98; Revised 6/9/04; Revised 5/31/06)*
- E. Postponements**
  1. All postponed Conference games must be made up.
  2. If a game is called by the umpires due to inclement conditions, 4 1/2 innings shall constitute a complete game if the home team is ahead and 5 innings if the visiting team is ahead.
  3. A Tuesday postponement must be made up on the first day conditions permit (Wednesday, then Thursday)
  4. A Friday postponement shall be replayed Sunday then Monday. If neither of these days are available, the two coaches must select a mutually convenient date. *(Revised 6/2/99; Revised 6/6/01; Revised 6/9/04)*
  5. A Saturday postponement shall be replayed Sunday then the next available Sunday, taking precedence over a Friday postponement. A Saturday postponed doubleheader takes precedence in rescheduling over a previously rescheduled doubleheader on that Sunday. If a team has already arrived at a host college for a Saturday doubleheader and all or part of that doubleheader is postponed, the game may be made up Sunday or the next available Sunday, at the option of the visiting college. *(Revised 6/7/00; Revised 6/6/01; Revised 6/9/04; Revised 6/1/05; Revised 5/28/08)*
  6. No Conference games will be played on Easter Sunday. A scheduled game on a religious holiday may be moved to another date if mutually agreeable. Deadline for request or notification: February 15. *(Revised 6/4/03)*
  7. As a last resort, if any Conference doubleheader cannot be made up on the next-to-last Sunday because of a previously postponed doubleheader being scheduled there, it will be made up on the Tuesday prior to that final weekend of regular season games. If that doubleheader is postponed on Tuesday, it will be made up the next day. *(Revised 6/1/05)*
  8. If games cannot be made up according to the guidelines stipulated above, the teams involved should select a mutually agreeable date, as long as all makeup games are played by the Tuesday following the final Saturday of regularly-scheduled Conference competition. *(Revised 6/9/04)*
- F. Tobacco Use.** All Tobacco products are banned from the field, dugouts, bullpens and batting cages.

- G. **Uniforms.** Each institution is responsible for notifying its opponents what color its home uniform will be if not white.
- H. **Suspended Games.** A game that is stopped before it becomes official should be considered a suspended game and played from the point of interruption on the date mandated by Conference policy. If the two teams play at a future date, the suspended game should be continued at that time. (*Adopted 6/2/99*).
- I. **Out-of-Bounds Lines.** "Imaginary lines" are discouraged. Members should paint/mark or use cones for all out-of-bounds lines when fences are not present. (*Adopted 6/7/00*)
- J. **Bullpens.** Every institution must have a separate bullpen for the visiting team. Institutions should either provide two mounds for the use of visitors or, if field conditions make that impossible, provide equal access to a second mound in the home bullpen. (*Adopted 6/6/01*)
- K. **Scouting Reports.** Coaches shall not give scouting reports on Conference schools to non-Conference schools or to other Centennial Conference schools. (*Adopted 6/5/02*)
- L. **Jewelry.** Due to the potential for bodily injury, dismemberment, or even death, this policy regarding the wearing of jewelry, body piercing articles, and symbolic bracelets is recommended for all practices and games of Centennial Conference athletes. Tongue studs, spacers, or other objects are discouraged due to the potential for an obstructed airway or soft tissue damage. Protective mouthpieces are excluded from this policy. A player should not wear any jewelry, including earrings, chains, charms, watches, hair clips, bobby pins, tongue studs or items associated with piercing (visible or not visible), or bracelets. Exception: Medical alert bracelets or necklaces may be worn but should be taped to the body. Religious medals should be removed from chains and may be taped to the body or sewn under the uniform. (*Adopted 6/1/05*)

## Section VI - Awards

- A. **All-Conference Team.** At the conclusion of the regular season, an All-Conference team will be selected by the Conference coaches. The team will comprise of two (2) Pitchers, one (1) Catcher, First Baseman, Second Baseman, Third Baseman, Shortstop, three (3) Outfielders and a Designated Hitter. The coaches will also select a Player of the Year and a Pitcher of the Year.
  - 1. **Nominations.** Approximately seven days before the conclusion of the regular season, each coach of a participating Conference school should submit nominations of his/her athletes to be considered for All-Centennial status. No Conference-wide limit is made to the number of nominations that can be made for All-Conference consideration, although nominees should be starters or key reserves. Some sport committees may establish maximums for the number of nominees. Only one player may be nominated for Player of the Year status.
  - 2. **Voting Procedure.** Shortly after the conclusion of the regular season and prior to the start of the championship tournament, voting for All-Centennial teams should be concluded. Coaches should vote for 1st and 2nd team selections, and a Player of the Year. **No coach can vote for his/her own player!** The completed ballot should be returned to the Director of Sports Information and sent via email or FAX to the Conference Office.
  - 3. **Determination of All-Conference Team.** Two (2) points will be awarded for a 1st team vote and one (1) point for a 2nd team vote. Players with the most points shall be accorded 1st team All-Centennial status. Ties will be broken in favor of the candidate with the highest number of 1st team votes. If the tie is still not broken, additional players may be added to the All-Star team. Any athlete receiving four (4) points will be assured of at least honorable mention status.
  - 4. **Determination of Player and Pitcher of the Year.** For Player of the Year honors, coaches should vote for 1st, 2nd and 3rd with five points for a 1st place vote, three for a 2nd place vote, and one for a 3rd place vote. **Once again, coaches cannot vote for his/her own player.** Ties will not be broken and co-winners will be named. The top vote-getter among the pitching nominees will be named Pitcher of the Year.
  - 5. **Determination of Coach of the Year.** For Coach of the Year honors, coaches will be asked to nominate **one** opposing coach for Coach of the Year. Coaches should vote for 1st, 2nd and 3rd with five points for a 1st place vote, three for a 2nd place vote, and one for a 3rd place vote. **Once again, coaches may not vote for themselves.** Ties will not be broken and co-winners will be named.
- B. **Weekly Honors.** The Conference Office, in cooperation with the Sports Information Directors committee, will recognize a Player and Pitcher of the Week for individual performances during a selected period. (*Revised 6/2/99*)
- C. **Academic Honor Roll.** To be nominated/selected for the Academic Honor Roll, a student-athlete must meet the following criteria:
  - 1. The student-athlete must be a starter or key reserve on her/his team.
  - 2. Must be a sophomore or higher in class standing.
  - 3. Must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.40 or higher (or its equivalent as determined by the institution) based on a 4.0 scale. The GPA must be at least 3.40, not 3.39 and rounded to the nearest tenth of a point.

- D. All-Sportsmanship Team.** All institutions will elect one member from their team who displays good sportsmanship throughout the season to be a member of the All-Centennial sportsmanship team. These individuals will be selected by the team and head coach and submitted to the Conference Office as part of the All-Conference nomination process. Only one student from each team may be selected. All institutions will have one representative on the All-CC sportsmanship team with the final decision made by each institution's head coach. (*Adopted 5/30/07*)

## **Section VII - Calendar**

<b>Start of Spring Practice:</b>	Sunday, February 1, 2009
<b>First 2009 Contest:</b>	Saturday, February 28, 2009 ( <i>with stipulations</i> ) or Sunday, March 1, 2009
<b>All-CC Nominations Due:</b>	Wednesday, April 22, 2009
<b>All-CC Conference Call:</b>	Tuesday, April 28, 2009
<b>All-CC Ballot Due:</b>	Wednesday, April 29, 2009
<b>Conference Tournament:</b>	Friday-Saturday-Sunday, May 1-2-3, 2009
<b>Committee Meeting:</b>	Tuesday, May 5, 2009
<b>NCAA Regionals:</b>	Thursday-Monday, May 14-18, 2009 at campus sites
<b>NCAA Finals:</b>	Friday-Tuesday, May 22-26, 2009 at Appleton, Wis.