

# Basketball (M)

## Section I - Championship Eligibility

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

## Section II - Men's Basketball Committee

*Chair:* Kevin Small, Ursinus.

*Liaison:* Adam Hertz, Swarthmore.

## Section III - Playing Season Regulations

- A. Length of Playing Season.** The length of an institution's playing season in basketball shall be limited to a maximum of 19 weeks between the start of preseason practice and the end of the regular playing season. This 19-week period includes permissible conditioning activities. *(Adopted 1/12/04)*
- B. Preseason Practice.**
- 1. On-Court Practice.** A member institution shall not commence on-court preseason basketball practice sessions before October 22. *(Revised 8/1/01; Revised 6/4/03)*
  - 2. Permissible Conditioning Activities.** Team conditioning or physical-fitness activities supervised by coaching staff members may be conducted on or off court but shall not begin before October 15.
- C. Maximum Limitations.** An institution may play 25 regular-season games and one permissible scrimmage, or 24 regular-season games and two scrimmages. *(Adopted 9/23/05)*
- D. First Contest.** An institution shall not play its first contest (game or scrimmage) against outside competition before the Friday immediately preceding Thanksgiving. *See NCAA Bylaw 17.5.3.1 for exceptions.*
- 1. Exceptions**
    - a. Practice Scrimmages.** A maximum of **one** informal practice scrimmage with outside competition (conducted without publicity or official scoring) may be conducted between the first permissible date for on-court preseason practice and the conclusion of the basketball season. Such scrimmages need not be counted against the maximum permissible number of contests. If a team has scheduled 24 regular-season games, a team may have two informal practice scrimmages. *(Revised 6/4/03; Revised 9/23/05)*
    - b. NCAA Division I or II Institution.** An institution may play one exhibition contest (which shall not count toward the institution's win-loss record) against a Division I or II institution on or after October 31 and before the first permissible date.

## Section IV - Rules Governing Championship

- A. Number of Conference Contests.** Each school will play 18 Conference games. *(Revised 6/5/02)*
- B. Determining the Conference Champion.** The Conference basketball champion will be determined by a five-team playoff. The teams will be determined by best won-loss record in a round-robin format.
- First Round** (Wednesday night): No. 5 seed at No. 4 seed.  
**Semifinals** (Saturday afternoon at No. 1 seed): No. 3 seed vs. No. 2 seed; winner of first-round game vs. No. 1 seed. The top seed determines the order of the semifinal games in consultation with the Conference Office.  
**Championship** (Sunday afternoon at No. 1 seed): semifinal winners. *(Revised 6/4/03; Revised 6/9/04; Revised 11/30/04)*

If one school is the top seed for both the men's and women's tournaments ... in even numbered years (2010, 2012etc.), the men will play both semifinals and championship game first (*example: 12 and 2 p.m.*) and the women will play second (*example: 4:30 and 6:30*). In odd-numbered years (**2009**, 2011, etc.), the women will play both semifinals and championship game first (*example: 12 and 2 p.m.*) and the men will play second (*example: 4:30 and 6:30*). *(Adopted 6/4/03; Revised 6/9/04)*

## C. Tie-Breaker Format

- All seeds other than the final seed will be determined by applying the following criteria in the order listed:
  - head-to-head Centennial Conference competition among the tied teams;
  - team with the best record vs. teams in descending order of standing (1st place, 2nd, etc.);
  - coin flip by the Executive Director;
  - once the above criteria have been used to reduce the number of tied teams, they will be used again on the teams that remain tied.

2. Ties for the final playoff seed will be determined by applying the following criteria in the order listed:
  - a. head-to-head Conference competition among the tied teams;
  - b. team with the best record vs. teams in descending order of standing (1st place, 2nd, etc.). It should be noted that if 1 (c) above had to be used to break a tie between teams, those teams will be considered as tied for purposes of applying this tie-breaker;
  - c. once the above criteria have been used to reduce the number of tied teams, they will be used again on the teams that remain tied;
  - d. if the application of 2(a), 2(b) and 2(c) does not determine the final seed for the playoffs, a tie-breaker game will be played. The host for the game will be determined through a coin flip by the Executive Director. It should be noted that, under the provisions of criteria 2, a tie-breaker game would only be played if the teams had split their head-to-head games, and the tied teams' records were identical against every other team in the Conference. The rationale of 2(d) is that a tiebreaker game should be held if, and only if, the only other possible way to determine the final playoff team was a coin flip. *(Adopted 6/4/03; Revised 6/9/04)*

**D. Practice at Championship Site.** No practice will be permitted at the championship site (host team excluded) prior to game day. *(Adopted 6/9/04)*

**E. Incomplete Tournament.** If the championship tournament cannot be completed and each team has completed at least one tournament contest, the highest remaining seed will be the Conference's champion and automatic qualifier to the NCAA tournament. Otherwise, the top seed as determined by the regular season will receive the automatic qualifier. *(Adopted 6/5/02; Revised 6/9/04)*

## Section VI - Regulations Governing Competition

All NCAA rules apply unless noted below.

- A. Starting Times.** All single midweek games will begin no later than 7:30 p.m. All weekend Conference games will begin no earlier than 1 p.m. and no later than 4 p.m. All weeknight doubleheaders will start at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. *(Revised 6/7/00; Revised 6/6/01)*
- B. Doubleheaders.** A doubleheader is defined as two games (Junior Varsity-Varsity, Alumni-Varsity, Men-Women, Women-Men). In the case of doubleheaders involving men's and women's games, the host institution will determine the order of games and starting times. In the case of a doubleheader, 30 minutes should be put on the game clock immediately following the conclusion of the first game. Two Conference games at the same facility (Women-Men, Men-Women) must be played consecutively with no break due to jayvee or alumni contests. *(Adopted 6/3/98; Revised 6/6/01)*
- C. Postponed Contests.** All postponed Conference games will be rescheduled upon mutual agreement by the coaches or administrators. If the two schools cannot reach a mutual agreement, a postponed contest will be played within the next two days, provided the availability of the facility. In the final week of regularly scheduled Conference play, a postponed Conference game will be rescheduled for the next available date and shall have priority over non-Conference games. Teams that do not reschedule a postponed game for the next available date for any circumstance must clear a different date with the Conference Office. *(Revised 6/7/95; Revised 6/4/03; Revised 2/3/04)*
- D. Cut-Off Date.** The cut-off date for the completion of Conference regular-season competition is 6 p.m. on the Sunday prior to the championship. *(Adopted 6/9/04)*
- E. Interrupted Contests.** If, due to electrical failure, a broken backboard, or some other unforeseen emergency, a Conference game is interrupted, it must be replayed in its entirety. If either team was losing at the time of the interruption and chooses not to replay the game, the game will be considered forfeited for the team that was ahead.
- F. Forfeits.** If a Conference team fails to appear for a regularly scheduled, contracted Conference contest, that game may be forfeited and entered as a loss for that institution.
- G. Officials.** For all Centennial Conference men's basketball regular season games, three officials must be assigned by the ECAC Assignor. For Centennial Conference playoff games, the Conference office should use the host institution's assignor to obtain officials. The cost per official with mileage for 2008-09 is \$135. *(Revised 6/3/98, Revised 6/2/99)*
- H. Scouting Information.** Scouting information (film, tape, written or verbal information) will not be shared with non-Centennial institutions about Centennial teams.
- I. Game Tape Exchange**
- A. The home team should provide a copy of the game film for the visiting team as that team departs for campus following the game. The videotape is provided by the home team. *(Adopted 6/6/01)*
  - B. Tapes should be sent by UPS or FedEx, etc., so it can be tracked, unless coaches make another arrangement. *(Adopted 6/6/01)*

There is a mandatory tape exchange between Centennial opponents.

1. Each team will be allowed to request and obtain ONE tape copy per opponent.
2. Requests must be made no later than the second Wednesday in November (November 14, 2007).
3. The tapes must be received at least three days prior to the day of the contest for which it is needed.
4. The tape must be new and of first generation quality with sound. Tapes should scan the scoreboard during timeouts and at halftime.
5. Once a tape is mailed to an institution, it becomes the property of the receiving institution. (*Adopted 6/7/00*)

**J. Player Introductions.** The following player introduction procedure shall be used in all Centennial games:

"The announcer shall introduce the starting players in alternate fashion, beginning with the visiting team. The first player introduced shall proceed to the jump circle at mid-court and remain there until the first player from the other team is introduced. These two athletes shall shake hands, then go to the free-throw line in front of their respective benches. This procedure shall continue until the final starter from the home team has been presented. The final players introduced must meet at the jump circle and shake hands, rather than immediately joining his teammates. The two head coaches will be introduced (visiting coach first) and they will shake hands in front of the official scorers' table." **Point of Emphasis:** Players should not shake the opponent coaches or officials hands but instead go to the center circle to shake opponent's hands. (*Adopted 6/4/97; Revised 6/9/04*)

**K. Sportsmanship Code.** The Centennial Conference sportsmanship code must be placed in programs and read over the public address system prior to the start of all contests. (*Adopted 6/4/97*)

"The Centennial Conference promotes good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racial or sexist comments, or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches or team representatives will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site."

**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 VII - Awards

**A. All-Conference Team.** At the conclusion of the regular season, an All-Conference team is selected by the conference coaches. The team will comprise of two Guards and two Frontcourt (Forwards and Centers) players, and one player at-large (guard, forward or center). The coaches will also select a Player of the Year. The honorable mention list will include a minimum of five players. See page 31 for procedural information. (*Revised 6/2/99; Revised 6/5/02*)

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 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.
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 of the Week for individual performances during a selected period.

**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 VIII - Championship Tournament

**A. Budget.** The host institution should pay for all expenses and submit a Championship Expense Report Form to the Conference Office for reimbursement. If expenses are entirely covered through ticket sales and extra revenue remains, it will be returned to the Conference Office to offset deficits from other championships. If expenses are not covered by the fees, the Conference Office will absorb the deficit, provided the host institution kept expenses within the budget guidelines.

**B. Admission Charge.** An admission charge will be assessed at each round of the Conference tournament, including tie-breaker games.

Students of participating schools:	Free upon presentation of ID.
Adults (18 and over):	\$5
Students (13-18 without ID):	\$3
Youth (12 and under):	Free

There are no complimentary tickets for the Conference basketball championships, though an institution may purchase tickets for special guests and friends of the institution. Up to 12 cheerleaders and 25 band members will be admitted free, provided these groups announce their intention to attend the contest with the host Director of Athletics.

The host institution shall afford each of the three visiting schools the opportunity to purchase 15% of the available tickets. The visiting teams should contact the Tournament Director no later than Thursday regarding the number of tickets desired and the process by which the tickets shall be available to the visiting team. *(Revised 6/2/99; Revised 6/1/05)*

### C. Spectator Areas

To avoid potential conflicts, the Conference recommends that the host institution designate distinct seating sections within the playing facility for:

#### Home Supporters Section

- Shall not be behind the visiting team bench.
- Should be available to advance ticket customers.
- Should have a distinct ticket (different from home supporters and walk-up sections) for admittance.

#### Visiting Supporters Section(s)

- Should be directly behind the visiting team bench(es).
- Should have a distinct ticket (different from visitor supporters and walk-up sections) for admittance.

#### Walk-Up General Admission Section

- Should have a distinct ticket (different from visitor and home supporters sections) for admittance.
- Should be available to supporters from all institutions.

## Section VIII - Calendar

<b>Start of On-Court Practice:</b>	Wednesday, October 22, 2008
<b>First Contest:</b>	Friday, November 21, 2008
<b>All-CC Nominations Due:</b>	Thursday, February 19, 2008
<b>All-CC Ballot Due:</b>	Tuesday, February 24, 2008
<b>Conference Tournament:</b>	Wednesday-Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 25-28, March 1, 2009
<b>Committee Meeting:</b>	Tuesday, March 3, 2009
<b>NCAA First Round:</b>	Thursday, March 5, 2009
<b>NCAA 1st / 2nd Round:</b>	Friday-Saturday, March 6-7, 2009
<b>NCAA Second Round:</b>	Saturday, March 7, 2009
<b>NCAA Sectionals:</b>	Friday-Saturday, March 13-14, 2009
<b>NCAA Finals:</b>	Friday-Saturday, March 20-21, 2009 at Salem, Va.