

Soccer (M)

Section I - Championship Eligibility

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

Section II - Men's Soccer Committee

Chair: TBA

Liaison: Les Poolman, Dickinson.

Section III - Playing Season Regulations

- A. Length of Playing Season.** The length of an institution's playing season in soccer shall be limited to a maximum of 18 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 the date that permits a maximum of 16 practice opportunities prior to the first scheduled intercollegiate game or prior to September 1, whichever is later.
 - 2. First Contest or Date of Competition.** An institution shall not play its first contest or engage in its first date of competition (game) against outside competition before September 1 or the preceding Friday if September 1 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday. An unlimited number of exhibition scrimmages may be conducted on one date during the preseason practice period, which shall count as one date of competition in the institution's maximum limitation on contests or dates of competition and one of the three scrimmages or exhibition games that may be conducted pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 17.19.5.1.1.
 - 3. Maximum Limitations.** An institution shall limit its playing schedule with outside competition in any one year to 18 contests, except for those contests excluded in the *NCAA Manual*. (*Revised 6/4/03*)
- C. Nontraditional Segment**
- 1. Preseason Practice.** Preseason practice may not begin before September 1 or the first date on which classes are scheduled for the institution's fall term, whichever date occurs first.
 - 2. First Contest or Date of Competition.** An institution shall not play its first contest or engage in its first date of competition (game or scrimmage) with outside competition before September 1.
 - 3. Nontraditional Season Length.** All practice and competition during the nontraditional segment shall be limited to a maximum of five weeks.
 - 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 V - Rules Governing Championship

- A. Determining the Conference Champion.** The conference champion will be determined by a five-team playoff. The teams are determined by the most points accumulated in a single round-robin format. Three points will be awarded for a victory, one point for a tie and no points for a loss.

First Round (Wednesday): No. 5 seed at No. 4 seed.

Semifinals (Saturday at No. 1 seed): first-round winner at No. 1 seed; No. 2 seed vs. No. 3 seed. Top seed determines order of semifinal games in consultation with Conference Office.

Championship (Sunday at No. 1 seed): semifinal winners. (*Revised 6/2/99; Revised 6/6/01; Revised 6/9/04; Revised 11/30/04*)

B. Tournament Scheduling Conflicts

If a school hosts two or more fall championship first-round games on the same day at the same unlighted venue, the visiting team that travels the farthest will play its game on Wednesday. The visiting team that is closer will play its game on Tuesday. Mileage matrix determined by the Conference Office.

If the facility has lights, the team traveling the farthest plays the second game on that day.

If there are three fall championship first-round games at the same venue (men's soccer, women's soccer, field hockey), the visiting soccer team that is closest will play its game on Tuesday. The other two games will be played on Wednesday with the order determined by mileage (closest first, farthest second).

If one school hosts two championships on the same venue at an unlighted facility (*example: McDaniel soccer*), the semifinals between the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds in both tournaments will be hosted by the No. 2 seed. Both championship games will be played at the highest remaining seed. If both championship games are played at the No. 1 seed, the order will be determined by mileage (closest first, farthest second).

If one school hosts a championship for both genders at the same venue (*example: men's and women's soccer*), in odd-numbered years, the men's tournament will be played Friday and Saturday, while the women's tournament will be played Saturday and Sunday. In even-numbered years, the women's tournament will be played Friday and Saturday, while the men's tournament will be played Saturday and Sunday.

If field hockey conflicts with either soccer tournament, substitute hockey for the gender not represented. (*example: in 2008, Johns Hopkins hosts field hockey and men's soccer: field hockey plays Friday-Saturday, men's soccer plays Saturday-Sunday*)

If the tournament conflicts with a home football game, the tournament may be scheduled for Friday night and Saturday night. (*Adopted 6/9/04*)

- C. Starting Times.** A minimum of 45 minutes should be available for warm-up prior to the start of the second semifinal. Conflicts will be worked out between the committee chair and the Conference Office. Travel expense and time will be taken into consideration for start times and order of the semifinal games. (*Adopted 6/6/01; Revised 6/5/02; Revised 6/9/04*)

D. Tie-Breaking Formulas

1. Head-to-Head Centennial Conference competition among tied teams;
2. Records vs. teams in descending order of standing;
3. An extra point shall be awarded to the winning team for each goal scored up to three in games among tied teams. These points shall accumulate throughout the Conference season.
4. Coin flip by Executive Secretary. (*Adopted 6/2/99; Revised 6/6/01; Revised 6/5/02*)

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). (*Revised 6/4/03*)

- 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*)

F. Practice at Championship Site

1. No practice will be permitted at the championship site (host team excluded) prior to game day.
2. No practice on the game field prior to the semifinals.
3. Prior to a single outdoor championship event, the facility will be made available for official warm-ups 45 minutes prior to the start of play. (*Adopted 6/9/04*)

- G. Official Ball.** All Conference tournament matches must utilize the official NCAA tournament ball, supplied by the host institution. (*Adopted 6/1/05*)

Section VI - Regulations Governing Competition

All NCAA rules apply unless amended below.

- A. Starting Times.** No Conference matches may start before 12 p.m. unless mutually agreed upon by the competing teams. After the end of daylight savings time, all Centennial weekend games must begin no later than 2 p.m. EST, and all Centennial mid-week games must begin no later than 2:30 EST. The only exception would be those institutions in the Conference that have lighted facilities. On days when the men's and women's teams both play at home, start times should be a minimum of 2 1/2 hours apart. Institutions with lighted facilities may schedule night games that may start no later than 8 p.m. (*Revised 6/5/97; Revised 6/5/02; Revised 6/1/05; Revised 5/31/06*)
- B. Official Ball.** A hand-stitched ball must be used in Conference matches. (*Revised 6/2/99; Revised 6/6/01*)
- C. Officials.** All Conference matches shall have three officials. If three officials are not present at the start of a Conference match, the match shall be played at the direction of the host administrator. (*Revised 6/3/98*)
- D. Postponed Matches.** All postponed Conference matches will be rescheduled upon mutual agreement by the coaches or administrators. In the final week of regularly scheduled Conference play, a postponed Conference match will be rescheduled for the next available date and shall have priority over non-Conference matches. All postponed women's matches must be rescheduled and played by the NCAA tournament selection date. (*Revised 6/7/00*)

- E. 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)*
- F. Scouting Information.** Coaches shall not give scouting reports on Conference schools to non-Conference schools.
- G. Field Measurements.** In men's soccer, all Centennial fields that do not have a natural barrier between the spectators and the field (i.e. track) should rope off an area five yards between the fans and the field. *(Adopted 6/7/00)*
- H. Pre-Game Introductions.**
1. At 10 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time, teams having completed their pre-match preparations, coaches and players line up on the touchline and shake hands in a demonstration of sportsmanship and fair play.
 2. Introductions
 - a. Game Officials
 - b. Starters and coaches for visiting team
 - c. Starters and coaches for home team
 - d. National Anthem
 - e. Reading of Conference Sportsmanship Statement
 - f. Kick-off at scheduled hour. *(Revised 6/4/03; Revised 6/9/04)*
- I. 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."

- J. 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, the conference coaches will select an All-Conference team. The team will be comprised of 10 players with a minimum of three forwards, three midfielders and three backs, and a one goalkeeper. The coaches will also select a Player 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 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 an Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week for individual performances during a selected period. *(Revised 5/31/06)*

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 - Calendar

First Contest:	Friday, August 29, 2008.
All-CC Nominations Due:	Thursday, October 30, 2008
All-CC Ballot Due:	Wednesday, November 5, 2008
Conference Tournament:	Wednesday-Saturday-Sunday, November 5-8-9, 2008
Committee Meeting:	Tuesday, November 11, 2008
NCAA First Round:	Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at campus sites
NCAA 1st / 2nd Rounds:	November 15-16, 2008 at campus sites
NCAA Second Round:	Saturday, November 15, 2008 at campus sites
NCAA Sectionals:	Saturday and Sunday, November 22-23, 2008 at campus sites
NCAA Finals:	Saturday and Sunday, November 29-30, 2008 at Greensboro, N.C.