

# Volleyball

## Section I - Championship Eligibility

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

## Section II - Volleyball Committee

*Chair:* Carole Malloy, McDaniel.

*Liaison:* Erin Stroble, Ursinus.

## Section III - Playing Season Regulations

**A. Length of Playing Season.** The length of an institution's playing season in volleyball 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 before the date that permits a maximum of 16 units in the preseason practice formula before the first scheduled intercollegiate competition. A "unit" is a numerical value assigned to a particular calendar day within the application of the preseason practice formula that is used to determine the first permissible practice date for fall sports other than football. The number of units assigned to a particular day does not determine or limit the number of practices that may be conducted on that day. *(Adopted 5/4/09)*
- 2. Determining the First Permissible Practice Date.** To determine the first permissible practice date, an institution shall count back a total of 16 units on a calendar starting with the day before the first scheduled intercollegiate competition, as follows:
  - a. Never assign any units to Sundays on the calendar; it is permissible to practice on Sundays;
  - b. Never assign any units to calendar days during the preseason when all institutional dormitories are closed, the institution's team must leave campus, and practice is not conducted;
  - c. The first six units: assign one unit to each of the six calendar days (not including Sunday) before the first scheduled intercollegiate competition;
  - d. The remaining ten units:
    - i. Assign one unit to each calendar day (not including Sundays) that occurs on or after the opening day of classes for the fall term and
    - ii. Assign two units to each calendar day before the opening day of classes for the fall term (not including Sundays) until the sum of units on the calendar reaches 16;
  - e. The date on which the total count of units on the calendar reaches 16 is the first permissible date for preseason practice. *(Adopted 5/4/09)*
- 3. First Contest or Date of Competition.** An institution shall not engage in its first date of competition (contest or scrimmage) with outside competition prior to September 1 or the preceding Friday if September 1 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday. Effective in 2010-11, the first date of competition will be the Friday before Labor Day. 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. *(Revised 5/27/09)*
- 4. Maximum Limitations.** An institution shall limit its playing schedule with outside competition in any one year to 19 dates of competition, which may include not more than one two-day tournament that shall count as a single date of competition, except for those contests excluded in the *NCAA Manual*. *(Revised 6/4/03; Revised 5/28/08)*

### C. Nontraditional Segment

- 1. Preseason Practice.** February 1. *(Revised 1/12/04)*
- 2. First Date of Competition.** An institution shall not engage in its first date of competition (game or scrimmage) with outside competition prior to September 1. For an institution that conducts its nontraditional season in the spring, February 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 IV - Rules Governing Championship

All NCAA championship rules apply unless amended below.

- A. Determining the Conference Champion.** The Conference champion will be determined by a five-team playoff. The teams are determined by the best won-lost record in a round-robin format.

**First Round** (Wednesday): No. 5 seed at No. 4 seed.  
**Semifinals** (Saturday at No. 1 seed): first-round winner vs. No. 1 seed; No. 2 seed vs. No. 3 seed. Top seed determines the order of semifinal games in consultation with Conference Office.  
**Championship** (Sunday at No. 1 seed): semifinal winners. (*Adopted 6/9/04; Revised 11/30/04*)

### B. Tie-Breaking Formulas

1. Head-to-Head Conference competition.
  2. Team with best record vs. 1st place team, 2nd place team, etc. until tie is broken.
  3. Game percentage among tied teams.
  4. Point differential in games among tied teams.
  5. Coin flip by Executive Secretary.
- 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*)

### C. Starting Times.

**First Round** (Wednesday): 7:00  
**Semifinals** (Saturday): 12:00 and 2:30.  
**Championship** (Sunday): 1:00 (*Adopted 6/7/00; Revised 6/6/01; Revised 6/9/04*)

- D. 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*)

- E. Officials.** The Conference Office will secure four certified officials for all championship matches. The team of officials will consist of up and down referees and two line judges. (*Adopted 6/5/02; Revised 6/4/03*)

### 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 venue prior to the semifinals. (*Adopted 6/9/04*)

## Section V - Rules Governing Competition

All NCAA championship rules apply unless amended below. The recommended match protocol appears in the NAGWS rulebook.

- A. Official Ball.** The official game ball for Centennial Conference matches will be the official NCAA ball. (*Revised 6/3/98; Revised 6/9/04; Revised 5/31/06*)

- B. Length of Match.** All conference matches will be best three-of-five games.

- C. Pre-Match Procedure.** Warm-Up time will be 4-4-5-5. The home team will supply balls to visiting Conference teams for use during warm-ups. (*Revised 6/2/99; Revised 6/4/03*)

- D. Starting Times.** The start time for weekday matches should be 7 p.m. and weekend matches should be 1 p.m., unless mutually agreed to by the participating institutions. In the event of multiple matches, the Conference match should take place first. The home team should play the first and third matches, while the team traveling the furthest distance to the site should play the second and third match. The second match should begin 45 minutes after the completion of the first match. The starting times and sequence of play should be printed on the contract. (*Adopted 6/7/95, Revised 6/5/96; Revised 6/5/02; Revised 5/31/06*)

- E. Line Judges.** The home team must provide two certified line judges. For tri-matches, the host school is responsible for lines people and a scorer for all three matches. (*Revised 5/30/07*)

- F. Officials.** Officials should be NCAA and/or PAVO certified. For a Centennial match to be considered official, at least one certified official must be present at the match. Teams should wait a reasonable amount of time for late-arriving officials to reach the site. (*Adopted 6/5/96; Revised 5/31/06*)

- G. 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.

- H. **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)*
- I. **Videotaping.** A third party (i.e. anyone not associated with the two competing teams) may not videotape any Conference match without the permission of both coaches involved in the match. *(Adopted 6/7/95)*
- J. **Scouting Reports.** Conference members shall not share scouting reports of Conference schools with non-conference schools. *(Adopted 6/9/04)*
- K. **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)*
- L. **Travel Squad.** Teams may not travel with more than 20 players. Those who do not make the travel squad may not use athletic department-sponsored transportation to attend the contest as a manager, scorekeeper or statistician. An institution that is in violation of this regulation shall automatically forfeit the competition. *(Adopted 5/27/09)*

## Section VI - Awards

- A. **All-Conference Team.** At the conclusion of the regular season, the conference coaches will select an All-Conference team. The team will comprise seven (7) players with at least one setter, but not more than two, and a libero. The coaches will select Player of the Year. *(Revised 6/1/05)*
  - 1. **Nominations.** Each coach of a participating Conference school should submit nominations of his/her athletes to be considered for All-Centennial status by the Tuesday after the conclusion of the regular season. 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. *(Revised 11/28/07)*
  - 2. **Voting Procedure.** After the conclusion of the championship tournament, voting for All-Centennial teams should be concluded. This procedure will be in effect through the 2012 season. 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. *(Revised 11/29/07)*
  - 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 VII - Calendar**

<b>Preseason Conference Call:</b>	Tuesday, August 11
<b>First Contest:</b>	Tuesday, September 1
<b>All-CC Nominations Due:</b>	Thursday, October 29
<b>All-CC Ballot Due:</b>	Tuesday, November 3
<b>Conference Tournament:</b>	Wednesday-Saturday-Sunday, November 4-7-8
<b>Committee Meeting:</b>	Tuesday, November 10
<b>NCAA Regionals:</b>	November 12-13-14 at campus sites
<b>NCAA Finals:</b>	November 19-20-21 at Cleveland, Ohio (Cleveland State, host)