

2025-26 BIG WEST CONFERENCE MANUAL

SECTION 5 – BASEBALL – January 2026

5.1 Awards

5.1.1 All-Conference Teams

The Conference coaches shall select recipients for the All-Conference First Team and Second Team, as well as Pitcher of the Year, Field Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Freshman Pitcher of the Year, Freshman Field Player of the Year, and Coach of the Year.

1. Coaches shall not vote for themselves or for their own student-athletes for any of the awards. (Adopted 9/26/22)
2. Student-athletes named to the All-Conference First Team shall be awarded a plaque from the Conference. Those named to the All-Conference Second Team shall be awarded a certificate from the Conference. Plaques shall be awarded to individuals named Field Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, Freshman Field Player of the Year, Freshman Pitcher of the Year, and Coach of the Year.
3. Student-athletes will be named Honorable Mention if they receive votes on two or more ballots but are not named to the First or Second Team. Such individuals shall be awarded a certificate from the Conference.
4. The All-Conference First and Second Teams shall consist of 18 players each, with the following breakdown by position: one player for each field position, one designated hitter, three starting pitchers, one middle relief pitcher, one closer, one utility player, and three additional players that can be any position. (Revised 12/6/24)

5.1.2 All-Conference Team Selections

See Bylaw 4.10 for the timing and process for all-conference awards. (Adopted 9/26/22)

5.1.3 Players of the Week

The Conference shall select a "Field Player of the Week" and a "Pitcher of the Week" using the following process:

1. Sports Information personnel shall submit nominations for these awards by no later than 10:00 p.m. PT every Sunday.
 - a. A sports information director who misses the voting deadline shall incur a letter of admonishment from the Commissioner with a copy to the director of athletics.
2. Institutional votes must be recorded by no later than 10:00 a.m. PT Monday.
3. A sports information director may not vote for his/her own nominee.
4. In case of a tie, Conference Office personnel may also vote.
5. A sports information director who misses the voting deadline shall incur a letter of admonishment from the Commissioner with a copy to the director of athletics.

5.1.4 Academic All-Conference

The Conference shall sponsor annual Academic All-Conference teams in each Conference sport. Student-athletes shall be named to the Academic All-Conference Teams for their respective sports if the following standards are met:

1. Student-athlete must carry a minimum 3.00 cumulative institutional grade point average (no rounding);
2. Student-athlete must have completed one full academic year at the member institution prior to the season for which the award is being received (at least a sophomore academically); and
3. With the exception of pitchers, the student-athlete must have competed in at least 50 percent of the institution's contests in the student-athlete's respective sport.

Academic All-Conference forms shall be supplied to each institution and a submission date shall be determined by the Conference Office. All students so honored shall receive a certificate appropriate for framing, as well as recognition in the form of a media release.

5.1.5 Championship Awards

The Conference Champion team(s) shall receive a trophy. The Conference Championship team(s) shall also receive individual items of Big West champions apparel, with the opportunity to purchase additional items. A Most Valuable Player will be named and shall receive a trophy. Additionally, an All-Tournament Team of up to twelve (12) players will be named as follows:

- The head coach of the fifth place team may name one (1) member from that coach's team;
- The head coach of each of the two teams that participate in the semi-final games but do not advance to the Championship may name two (2) members from that coach's team;
- The head coach of the Conference Tournament runner-up may name three (3) members from that coach's team; and
- The head coach of the Conference Tournament Champion may name four (4) members (one of which must be the Tournament MVP) from that coach's team.
- Coaches are not required to name any players to the All-Tournament Team.
- Members of the All-Tournament Team will be recognized publicly but will not receive a physical award.

(Revised 12/14/21, 12/6/24, 6/5/25)

5.2 **Bat Testing**

Member institutions shall be required to have certified bat testing equipment for all contests. The Conference Office shall be responsible for providing tamper-proof stickers to each member institution, which shall be placed on bats that have been tested and certified for that contest. Each institution shall be responsible for having a trained professional administrator (non-student staff) who shall administer bat testing on each day of competition. The visiting team's bats shall be tested before the home team. See [Appendix 1](#) for regulations and protocol.

5.3 Coaches Meetings

Head coaches shall meet if issues warrant. The Big West Council Liaison for baseball, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall determine if a meeting is to be scheduled.

- 5.3.1 Head coaches are required to participate in all official Conference meetings of their sport's coaches.
- 5.3.2 All excused absences must be granted by the Conference Office prior to the meeting. In the event of an excused absence or a head coach vacancy, the institution must be represented by an Athletics department staff member. All substitutes must be approved in advance by the Conference Office.
- 5.3.3 Institutions that are represented by an assistant coach, rather than the head coach (unless he or she is excused per 5.2.2), lose their voting privileges at the meeting of head coaches.
- 5.3.4 Institutions that are either not represented or do not receive prior approval for a head coach's absence at a Conference meeting are subject to an institutional private reprimand and a \$1,000 penalty to be paid to the Conference Office.

5.4 Conference Signage

Each member institution should make every attempt to display the Conference logo prominently at all facilities that host Big West Conference contests.

5.5 Contest Arrangement and Contact Information

The home team's Director of Athletics or Senior Woman Administrator (or designee) shall send out Conference contest arrangement and contact information to the visiting team's Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator, Sports Information Director and the Head Coach at least 30 days in advance of each Conference contest. See [Appendix 2](#) for a recommended format for this purpose.

5.6 Contracts

There shall be no financial guarantees between institutions in Conference baseball contracts. The home institution's Director of Athletics or Senior Woman Administrator (or his/her designee) shall send out conference pregame information at least one month in advance of each Conference game. The Director of Athletics or Senior Woman Administrator (or his/her designee) of the visiting institution shall respond with visiting team information at least 21 days prior to the contest. (Revised 5/29/87, 7/9/01)

5.7 Crowd Control

Should any situation arise in which there is a concern about the crowd, the Event Manager should be alerted. The Event Manager must inform the visiting team's head coach regarding procedures to follow if a situation arises requiring his/her immediate attention. At no time are either the home or visiting coaches vested with the authority to either stop or refuse to continue to play. Coaches unilaterally taking their teams off the field or refusing to play will be subject to conference sanctions and possible forfeiture of the contest. If need be, the Director of Athletics, his/her representative, or the home team's head coach should go to the public address system and request cooperation when unsporting crowd behavior becomes prevalent.

5.7.1 Debris

The throwing of debris by spectators shall not be tolerated, nor encouraged or condoned by the host institution, at any Big West Conference event. In the event debris is thrown onto the playing surface during a contest, play shall be halted at the discretion of the game officials until such a time that the host institution game management staff has removed the debris to the satisfaction of the officials. The host institution at Big West contests shall make every effort to prevent the throwing of debris through public address announcements, etc. Spectators who violate this policy shall be subject to expulsion from the athletic venue. Institutions that violate this policy shall be subject to penalties imposed by the Big West Conference Compliance Committee.

5.7.2 Noisemakers

The use of irritants (i.e. artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers other than for band instruments, derogatory banners, or public address systems by cheerleaders or spectators) is prohibited at Big West baseball facilities.

5.7.3 Team Areas

A buffer zone shall exist between the team bench/dugout and spectators. In the event that a sufficient barrier is not possible, additional security should be provided in order to ensure player safety. All fans must be in the venue's designated seating area.

5.7.4 Sporting Behavior Announcements

One or more of the following sporting behavior announcements should be made a minimum of twice per contest. It is suggested that the announcement be made prior to the contest and between innings. In addition, the same or similar announcement should be included in a prominent place in the line-up cards or programs distributed to fans. This shall serve as a "first warning" to unruly spectators.

1. The (name of institution) promotes good sporting behavior by student-athletes, coaches and spectators, and requests 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, team representatives, or other spectators will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition. Spectators are prohibited from entering the playing area. Violators will be removed from the venue.
2. The (name of institution) promotes good sporting behavior by student-athletes, coaches and spectators, and requests your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity or any remarks or actions referring to a participants name, number, heritage, body parts or sexual orientation will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition. Spectators are prohibited from entering the playing area. Violators will be removed from the venue.

3. In the spirit of sporting behavior, the (name of institution) asks that all fans act responsibly and courteously to those around you. Abusive language or disorderly conduct is unacceptable and unwelcome (here, in our home, at name of institution etc.) Spectators are prohibited from entering the playing area. Violators will be removed from the venue. Let's afford the student-athletes and your fellow fans the respect they deserve. Your cooperation is appreciated.

5.8 External Disruption Procedures

If the contest is disrupted due to weather, power failure or any other occurrences that make it impossible to either start or continue a contest, the procedures outlined in [Appendix 3](#) should be implemented.

5.9 Facilities

5.9.1 Locker Rooms

The host institution shall provide adequate facilities for the visiting team and officials prior to the contest, between games, and after the contest. Toilets, showers, soap, towels and drinking water shall be made available.

5.9.2 Parking

The home team will provide free parking for a maximum of five vehicles used to transport the official traveling party of the visiting team. Parking shall be in a lot close to the competition facility.

5.9.3 Practice Facilities

If the visiting team requests practice time for the day prior to the contest, the home team should make every attempt to provide or arrange for practice time in the game (or other suitable) facility. Requests must be made a minimum of three weeks prior to the contest. If the visiting team requests practice time for the day of the contest the home team must accommodate it in the game facility for a minimum of one hour. If the game facility is not available for the visiting team but time is reserved for the home team then the home team shall either share time with the visitors or use the alternate site as well. The visiting team should contact the home team as soon as possible if it intends to cancel any practice time that has been reserved.

5.10 Game Ball

The official baseball for all Conference games shall be the Rawlings baseball.

5.10.1 The home team shall furnish the game balls.

5.10.2 The winning team may keep the last ball of the final out.

5.11 Game Countdown

The Big West Conference has a standard countdown format for all hosted baseball games. See [Appendix 4](#) for this format.

5.12 Game Length

- 5.12.1 All Conference games, including those re-scheduled as one of two games on the same day, shall be of nine innings' duration. If a conference game is halted at any time after its start because of inclement weather, darkness, light failure or curfew, the game will be restarted at the point stopped. When the resumption of a halted game is one of two games scheduled for the same day, it shall be the first game.
- 5.12.2 During the Conference Championship, after the 7th inning and each completed inning thereafter, a game shall be declared complete if one team is ahead by more than 10 runs, except that the as-needed game shall be played to competition regardless of the score. (Revised 12/6/24)

5.13 Game Management Director

At each Conference game, the home institution shall provide and identify to game officials and the competing teams an athletics department designee on the premises as the person in charge of game management at that event. See [Appendix 5](#) for the Game Management Director's responsibilities.

5.14 NCAA Automatic Qualification

See Section 4.14 for Seeding and Tiebreaking policies applicable to all sports, which shall be used as needed to supplement or clarify any sport-specific bylaws. (Adopted 8/23/23)

The Conference shall conduct a five-team, institution-hosted conference championship tournament the weekend of the NCAA Tournament selection date. The No. 4 and No. 5 seeds will play a single-elimination play-in game. After that first game, the tournament will become a four-team double-elimination tournament with the winner of the 4/5 game initially playing the No. 1 seed and the No. 2 seed playing the No. 3 seed. The winner of the Big West Baseball Championship shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Tournament. (Revised 6/8/23, 6/7/24)

- 5.14.1 In the event a postseason Conference baseball championship tournament is not held, the Conference regular season champion shall be the automatic qualifier. (Revised 6/7/24)
- 5.14.2 If co-champions exist in the regular season, the following tie-breakers shall be applied.
 - a. Two-Way Tie-Breaking Procedures
In the event of a two-way tie for first place:
 - 1. The winner of the two teams' three-game series shall be the Conference representative to the NCAA Tournament.
 - 2. If the two teams are still tied (i.e., only two games were completed in the head-to-head series), the teams shall be ranked based on win-loss record in Conference games against common opponents, starting at the top of the standings and working down until the tie is broken. Ties at the top of the standings shall be broken first to establish a rank order.
 - 3. If still tied, the automatic qualifier shall go to the team with the highest RPI ranking.
 - b. Three-Way Tie-Breaking Procedures

In the event of a three-way tie for first place and all of the tied teams have played the same number of games against each other:

1. The tied teams shall be ranked according to the total wins and losses in those games against each other. If one team is ranked ahead of the other teams, it shall be the automatic qualifier. If, based on this ranking, two teams are ranked ahead of the other team(s) and are still tied with each other, the tie shall be broken using the two-way tie-breaking formula in [Bylaw 5.14.1](#).
 2. If more than two teams are still tied, the teams shall be ranked based on win-loss record in Conference games against common opponents, starting at the top of the standings and working down until the tie is broken.
 3. If more than two teams are still tied, the automatic qualifier shall go to the team with the highest RPI ranking. (Adopted 7/8/98; Revised 8/23/23, 6/7/24)
- c. In the event that more than two teams tie for the Conference regular season Championship and the tied teams have not played the same number of games against each other, the automatic qualifier shall be determined by the following tie-breaking formula:
1. The tied teams shall be ranked based on win-loss percentage in games against each other. If one team is ranked ahead of the other teams, it shall be the automatic qualifier. If, based on this ranking, two teams are ranked ahead of the other team(s) and are still tied with each other, the tie shall be broken using the two-way tie-breaking formula in [Bylaw 5.14.1](#).
 2. If more than two teams are still tied, the automatic qualifier shall go to the team with the highest RPI ranking. (Revised 8/23/23, 6/7/24)
- 5.14.3 In the event a postseason Conference baseball tournament is started but not completed, the highest remaining seed shall be the automatic qualifier. (Adopted 6/7/24)

5.15 Official Scorer

The official scorekeeper must be appointed by or approved by the host institution's Director of Athletics (or designee). The scorekeeper shall not perform duties from the bench or dugout area.

5.16 Officials

5.16.1 Assignments

1. Umpires shall be assigned by the Conference's Coordinator of Baseball Officials. Costs associated with the assigning program, including the coordinator's fee and the cost of traveling any umpires to conference games, are to be prorated out among the conference's baseball-playing members.
2. Three umpires shall work each non-conference game. Four umpires shall work each conference game. The home institution is responsible for providing the funds to the Big West to pay these umpires.

3. Four umpires shall work each Conference Championship game. (Revised 12/6/24)
4. The home institution shall make available two complimentary tickets for each umpire assigned to a Big West contest. The umpire must request these tickets/admissions a minimum of 48 hours prior to the contest. See [Bylaw 5.26.2](#).
5. Composite officiating assignments for each institution will be posted on the assigning web site prior to the start of the season.
6. Umpires are to arrive 90 minutes prior to the start of the first game of the series. Umpires should arrive 60 minutes before the scheduled starting time of all other games in the series. Umpires must contact the home team Game Management Director if their arrival will be delayed or if they are unable to make the contest.

5.16.2 Communications

1. Communication between game officials and coaches, student-athletes or other members of each team's official party shall be prohibited before and after the game except for common courtesies. Communication during the game is permitted only for rules clarification. If a prolonged conversation is required, both coaches should be present. Following the game, officials shall leave the field immediately.
2. Officials should not assess sanctions against spectators or the crowd. The host institution event management and event security personnel shall be responsible for crowd control and handling any unsportsmanlike actions of the crowd.
3. Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone. All matters pertaining to officials or officiating shall be directed to the Conference Office or the Conference Officials Coordinator. Likewise, this policy precludes officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.
4. Officials should not be included in any social gatherings held in conjunction with the game.

5.16.3 Complimentary Items

Under no circumstances are umpires to be provided with any complimentary items such as hats, shirts or promotional items by the host institution.

5.16.4 Criticism of Officials

1. Institutional personnel are prohibited from commenting on the game performance of umpires to or through any source other than the Conference Office. Failure to comply with this policy may lead to Conference disciplinary action as described in Big West Constitution 1.9.
2. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating, game management responsibilities, players, coaches or officials shall be directed only to the Conference office.
3. Video shall not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for

criticism of contest officials or officiating; specifically, this prohibits the use of footage for the purpose of highlighting officiating calls. No reference shall be made in any public forum on officiating matters.

4. Event management personnel, by the very nature of their duties, are placed in a position of being exposed to privileged information regarding personnel or activities of competing teams. Under no circumstances may a game official relay this information regarding personnel or play of an institution's team, or comment regarding umpires or umpiring of Conference games to the general public, the press, radio or personnel of other institutions.

5.16.5 Identification of Officials

Sports Information Directors and coaches will make no reference whatsoever to officiating in institutional press releases or in any other institutionally published materials, such as social media, game programs, etc. Names of game officials will not be listed in the game program or line-up sheets.

5.16.6 Locker Rooms

A secure, private locker room should be provided for the umpires' use. Appropriate amenities shall be provided.

5.16.7 Parking/Escort

The home team shall provide parking for the umpires' vehicles in a secure lot close to the competition facility. Parking passes or arrangements for complimentary parking shall be provided to the umpires prior to the contest. Umpires shall be escorted to their vehicles by security or game management, if requested by the official or deemed necessary by game management.

5.16.8 Twenty Second Clocks

For all Conference contests, the home institution shall be required to have a minimum of two visible action-clocks, which are to be operated by the officials. One clock shall be located near the end of the plate-side of both the home and away team's dugout.

5.17 Postponed Games

When postponement is probable (i.e. inclement weather), the home institution should notify the visiting institution before it has started its trip, if possible.

- 5.17.1 Any Friday Conference game postponed due to inclement weather must be made up as the first of two games to be played on Saturday. Any Saturday Conference game postponed due to inclement weather must be made up as part of two Sunday games. Sunday Conference games postponed due to inclement weather or any Friday or Saturday Conference game that is not able to be made up on Saturday or Sunday shall be played the following Monday. The Conference Office shall then be notified of any Monday makeup game. If, because of inclement weather, the game cannot be made up on Monday, the following regulations shall apply:

1. The last scheduled game between two teams will be considered a complete game, if halted with a decision after five innings.
 2. If all games are not completed, the Conference standings will be based on overall Conference record percentage.
- 5.17.2 In the event Conference games are postponed and need to be made up, the home team shall provide the visiting team with ten (10) rooms per night, if necessary, for each night required to play the make-up. The visiting team shall be responsible for all other expenses associated with its participation in the make-up games (i.e., travel and food).

5.18 Protests

The following regulations shall apply for protesting Conference baseball games:

- 5.18.1 Protests of the umpire's judgment calls are not permitted.
- 5.18.2 Protests of rules interpretations by the umpires are permitted. The umpires should be instructed by the home institution that protests are in order and must be accepted when filed by a coach.
- 5.18.3 Any protest by the coach of a competing team must be made at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest and before play is resumed. The umpire-in-chief shall then advise the coach of the team against which the protest is filed.
- 5.18.4 The protesting coach shall then advise the coach's Director of Athletics of the protest. The Director of Athletics shall notify the Conference Commissioner of the protest and the circumstances involved.
- 5.18.5 The protesting institution's Director of Athletics and the head umpire must forward the protest in writing to the Conference Commissioner. The written protest must be submitted within 72 hours of the starting time of the game in which the protest occurred.
- 5.18.6 The Conference Commissioner shall decide the course of action to be followed in resolving the protest with the use of the NCAA Baseball Rules and baseball precedents, and shall advise the Directors of Athletics of the two institutions involved. The decision of the Commissioner is to be rendered within two weeks of the protest.
- 5.18.7 The decision of the Commissioner is binding on the parties unless it is overruled by an appeal to the Conference Executive Committee.

5.19 Public Address Announcer

Member institutions shall provide public address announcers at all home Conference baseball games.

- 5.19.1 Use of Microphone
The public address facilities should not be available to or used by spectators, student yell leaders or any non-contest administrative personnel.
- 5.19.2 Sporting Behavior

- a. The public address announcer shall instruct the spectators that the visiting players, coaches, and game officials are guests of the home institution and should be treated as such.
- b. One or more of the designated sporting behavior announcements should be made a minimum of twice per contest (See [Bylaw 5.7.4](#)). It is suggested that the announcement be made once prior to the contest and once during any inning.

5.19.3 Disciplinary Action

Public address announcers are considered to be part of game management staff and as such are subject to disciplinary action under Big West Constitution Sections 1.9 and 1.10 for any violation of these baseball game administrative guidelines.

5.20 Schedules, Conference

The Conference Championship regular season schedule shall include one three-game series against each member institution with sites alternating annually.

- 5.20.1 The Conference Championship shall be determined by the win-loss percentage of all Conference games played. In the event of a tie for first place in the Conference standings, co-champions shall be declared.
- 5.20.2 With the exception noted in [Bylaw 5.20.4](#), Conference series shall be conducted with single games scheduled on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with the host institution having the option to schedule the Friday and Saturday games in either the afternoon or at night. All Sunday games shall be scheduled in the afternoon. Any deviation from this schedule shall be by mutual agreement of the institutions involved and approved by the commissioner. Exceptions may be made for television. (Adopted 5/17/84, Revised 5/16/85, 5/12/14)
- 5.20.3 Single Conference weekday games shall not begin earlier than 2:00 p.m. Saturday single Conference games when the game is the second in a three-day series shall begin no earlier than noon and no later than 7:00 p.m. Saturday single conference games when the game is the third game of the series and Sunday single Conference games shall begin no earlier than noon and no later than 1:00 p.m. Sunday doubleheaders shall begin no earlier than 11:00 a.m. and no later than 1:00 p.m.
 - 5.20.3.1 Any deviation from this time schedule shall be by mutual agreement of the institutions involved and approved by the commissioner.
- 5.20.4 Conference baseball series scheduled for Easter Week and the final week of the season shall be played on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Any deviation from this schedule shall be by mutual agreement of the institutions involved and approved by the commissioner.

5.21 Schedules, Non-Conference

Each Conference institution may schedule no more than one non-Division I contest in any season. Additionally, the University of Hawai'i is permitted to play up to three (3) more non-Division I contests in a season, provided the contests are scheduled to occur Monday-Thursday in the state of Hawai'i. (Revised 11/30/23)

5.21.1 Failure to adhere to the stipulation in 5.21 shall result in a \$500 fine per game.

5.22 Scouting and Video Exchange

5.22.1 Each team must upload all games (excluding scrimmages and exhibitions) to the Synergy video exchange server.

5.22.1.1 For home contests, the team shall upload all game video no later than 9am local time on the Monday following home weekend conference or nonconference games, and by noon on the day following a midweek game.

5.22.1.2 Failure to comply with the regulations of Bylaw 5.22.1.1 will result in a \$100 fine for the first offense, a \$250 fine for the second offense, a \$500 fine for the third offense, and a \$1,000 fine for the fourth offense.

5.22.1.3 In addition to the Conference fine, the Synergy system will pause college video access to institutional users who are behind on their game uploads after a second offense. An exception may be made for demonstrated technical failure.

5.23 Sports Information/Media

5.23.1 The Sports Information Directors (SIDs) must exchange pertinent information (i.e. cap files, updated cumulative statistics and the latest box scores, where applicable) with the SID(s) of the next week's opponent(s) on the same day of the last game of the week/weekend. (Revised 12/14/21)

5.23.2 The home SID must provide credentialed working media with a parking pass and working space, including access to internet and electrical outlets. (Revised 12/14/21)

5.23.3 The home SID must provide media equal access to coaches and competitors from each team after a 10-minute cooling-off period after the competition. Equal access must be given to all media representatives regardless of gender at any time interviews with coaches and/or student-athletes are conducted, including after competition. Equal access is defined as access to coaches and/or student-athletes at the same time and the same place. Bringing student-athletes to a separate area for reporters of the opposite sex is not considered equal access. The exact method of ensuring equal access shall be determined by the institution.

5.23.4 Sports Information Directors and coaches will make no reference to umpiring in institutional media releases or in any other institutionally published materials, such as social media, game programs, etc. Names of umpires will not be listed in the program.

5.24 Sports Medicine

A certified athletic trainer is required to be on site or "on-call" for all home baseball games. "On-call" is defined as being within five minutes of the site. (Adopted 7/15/05)

5.24.1 Each host institution shall provide reasonable athletic training facility access for the certified athletic trainer of the visiting team prior to or during practice preceding a conference contest. Advance scheduling awareness and

communication are the responsibility of the visiting institution's athletic trainer. Training facilities shall be made available to both teams prior to and at the conclusion of each contest.

- 5.24.2 Host institutions must provide the visiting team with a bio-hazard kit consistent with OSHA guidelines.
- 5.24.3 Host institutions shall provide drinking water for the visiting team's use during and immediately after the contest, as well as during any scheduled practice sessions. These items shall be made available one hour prior to the start of competition and any practices.
- 5.24.4 In the case of an injury to a visiting player, the home team is not required to provide transportation to a hospital or other medical facility. The host institution should assist in making arrangements and should provide directions to the closest emergency room available when ambulance service is not deemed necessary.
- 5.24.5 All Big West conference head coaches and assistants must attend an in-person, hands-on training course to be certified in CPR/AED (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation/Automated External Defibrillator) and First Aid. New coaches shall have a 45-day window from his/her start date at the institution to be certified.

5.25 Suspended Coaches

A coach who has been suspended from a contest by the Big West Conference, the NCAA or as a result of a violation of Playing Rules shall not be within sight and sound of the contest. Additionally, a suspended coach shall be precluded from communicating with any team personnel or officials, from participating in any official pre-game activities at the site of the contest directly preceding the competition and from being in the facility once pre-game activities have started through the end of the contest.

5.26 Tickets

- 5.26.1 The home institution shall provide 70 complimentary tickets to the visiting team for each Conference game.
- 5.26.2 The home institution shall make available two complimentary tickets for each umpire assigned to a Big West contest. The umpire must request these tickets/admissions a minimum of 48 hours prior to the contest.

5.27 Travel Squads/Declared Players

- 5.27.1 Visiting teams are prohibited from traveling more than 30 eligible student-athletes for any weekend series that count in the Conference standings. At the start of any series, the visiting team must declare its 30 travel squad players to the host institution's coach and the lead umpire, and only those 30 players will be able to play that weekend.
 - 5.27.1.1 Teams are prohibited from traveling squad members over the 30-player limit and having them serve in a non-playing capacity (e.g., team manager, assistant trainer, scorer, etc.)
 - 5.27.1.2 The home team must declare its 30 players for the weekend series to the visiting team's coach and the lead umpire at the start of the series.

The home team may dress, but not play, more than the declared 30 players.

- 5.27.1.3 No substitutions to these declared rosters will be allowed for any reason once they are made. (Revised 12/6/24)
- 5.27.2 An institution that allows a player not included on the Conference series roster to participate will be required to forfeit the game.
- 5.27.3 The head coach of a team that travels student-athletes above the Conference-legislated travel squad size maximum will receive a letter of admonishment and the institution shall be fined an amount equal to the cost of traveling the student-athlete(s). A second offense within five years shall result in the suspension of the head coach.
- 5.27.4 Student-athletes from the visiting team not on the official travel squad who arrive at an away Conference game at their own expense shall be treated as any other student spectators and shall not be permitted in the bench area. Violations shall result in a letter of admonishment to the head coach.

5.28 Uniforms

- 5.28.1 All team members shall wear uniforms that prominently display the Big West logo. A single competition exemption of the rule shall be permitted annually for special occasion uniforms.
 - 5.28.1.1 Failure to adhere to the stipulation in Bylaw 5.28.1 shall result in a \$250 fine. An additional fine shall be levied if conference logos are not displayed at the next available opportunity.
- 5.28.2 Teams that do not take batting practice in their game uniform are required to have players' game numbers on the back of the batting practice uniform. The number must be a minimum of 8-inches and in a contrasting color from the uniform. An exception shall exist for cold weather when jackets are necessary.

APPENDIX 1 –Conference Bat Testing Regulations/Protocol*

Big West General Bat Testing Regulations

- 1) Barrel compression testing (BCT) must be completed at least 90 minutes prior to the first game of each Conference/Nonconference series or single Conference/Nonconference contest. The host institution shall supply the BCT machine.
- 2) All bats to be used in a series shall be tested using the NCAA bat-testing protocol.
- 3) The testing must be conducted by a non-coaching/non sport-specific staff member and shall include a representative of each team at a mutually agreeable time
- 4) The time and location of the testing must be communicated to the visiting team at least 48 hours prior to the first game of the series.
- 5) In the event of machine failure or malfunction, testing will be suspended for that series.

Big West Bat Testing Protocol

- 1) Each team must have every bat they plan to use in competition available for testing.
- 2) The host administrator must have a current NCAA Approved Bat List available at testing and in the dugout during each game.
- 3) New bats may not be added after the first game of a series unless they undergo testing.
- 4) Each bat is tested until it receives two pass results or two fail results, whichever comes first.
- 5) The bat is tested (test 1), removed from the machine, rotated 90 degrees and then tested again (test 2). If a bat has one pass result and one fail result, the bat is removed from the machine, inspected for cracks, and if there are none, inserted into the machine and tested for the third and final time.
- 6) Bats that pass BCT will have a sticker provided by the Conference Office affixed to them on the taper.
- 7) Bats that fail BCT will be confiscated by the testing administrator for the duration of the series and returned to the team following the end of the series. The required NCAA Incident Report form for bats that fail BCT will be filed by the Conference Office.
- 8) Umpires will check each bat for the appropriate sticker as well as their normal check for cracks or other deformities. Umpires may confiscate bats that have passed the BCT but are illegal for other reasons (e.g., rattles, cracks). Those bats should be removed from the dugout and returned to the teams at the end of the game.

APPENDIX 2 - Contest Arrangement and Contact Information

The home team's Director of Athletics/Senior Woman Administrator or his/her designee shall send out Conference contest arrangement and contact information to the visiting team's Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator, Sports Information Director and the Head Coach at least 30 days in advance of each Conference contest. Institutions may use the Big West Conference suggested format for this purpose or they may use other similar methods of communicating the information. Any changes in scheduled time, date or contest site made subsequent to final master schedule must be mutually agreed upon by the parties involved, approved by the commissioner and submitted in writing.

The home team will provide the following information to the visiting team in writing at least 30 days in advance of the contest. Items 6-12 should be provided in a separate visitors handbook to include any additional information that may be of use to teams traveling to the institution.

1. Event Manager Contact
2. Home Team/Visiting Team
3. Sport
4. Contest Location
5. Day, Date and Time of Contest
6. Colors worn by the home team
7. Parking Arrangements for Visiting Team Vehicles
 - a. Parking Contact
 - b. Directions or map to parking and game facility
8. Individual to contact regarding practice arrangements
 - a. Contact no later than
 - b. How to cancel practice if not using the reserved practice time (voice mail etc.)
9. Locker Room Facilities Available
 - a. Training Facility Contact
10. Laundry Service Availability
 - a. Equipment Room Contact
11. Media Information
 - a. Media Contact
12. Ticket Exchange Information
 - a. Procedures for Will Call and Player Complimentary Tickets

APPENDIX 3 - External Disruption

If a contest is disrupted due to weather, power failure, or any other occurrences, making it impossible to either start or continue a contest, the following will be implemented:

1. If a contest cannot start, the home game management official, the visiting institution's senior athletic department representative, if present, and the assigned game officials will confer to determine:
 - a. If the contest can be played;
 - b. An alternate start time in the event the contest can possibly be played on the day scheduled;
 - c. An alternate date if it cannot be played as scheduled. The contest must be rescheduled unless it is determined that it has no bearing on the Big West Conference Championship and both institutions and a majority of the remaining Big West Conference institutions agree.
2. If a conference game is halted at any time after its start because of inclement weather, darkness, light failure or curfew, the game will be restarted at the point stopped. When the resumption of a halted game is part of a doubleheader, it shall be the first game (See [Bylaw 5.12](#)).

APPENDIX 4 - Game Countdown

All Big West Conference member institutions must provide their institution's specific pregame countdown to the Conference Office. The countdown shall follow this prescribed order and minimum time allotments for pregame practice activities.

<u>Clock</u>	<u>Activity</u>
2:10	*Home batting practice (Visiting team may not be on the field of play)
1:30	Field maintenance
1:25	*Visitor batting practice (Home team may not be on the field of play)
0:50	Remove cage
0:37	Home infield
0:27	Visitor infield
0:17	Field preparation
0:13	Introductions
0:09	National anthem
0:06	Umpires/coaches meeting
0:02	Home team on field
0:00	First pitch

1. *The visiting team shall hit first during pregame warm-up if the visiting team arrives the night before and the contest is scheduled for the afternoon. In this case, the time scheduled in the standard countdown should read Visitor batting practice at 2:10 and Home batting practice at 1:25.
2. The visiting team shall be allowed 40 minutes of batting practice, such period to be concluded approximately 45 minutes prior to game time, except where the field is unplayable and an alternate field is available. The visiting team shall also be allowed the use of a minimum of one batting cage/tunnel during its on-field pregame batting practice time. The home team shall provide two buckets of baseballs in the cage/tunnel for the visiting team.
3. A 10-minute maximum infield practice may be taken by the home team immediately following the visiting team's batting practice. The visiting team's maximum 10-minute infield practice shall follow that of the home team except where field conditions warrant elimination of infield practice for both teams.
4. The countdown shall be as indicated in this section, but may be adjusted to accommodate special promotions such as Senior Recognition or television requirements. The home team shall make the countdown available to the coaches, SIDs and officials no later than 90 minutes before game time. In addition, countdown sheets should be posted in both dugouts. The countdown sheet shall inform the visiting team and umpires the procedures to be followed during introduction of players, playing of the national anthem, special presentations or special activities. Senior recognition programs are to be conducted immediately following the playing of the national anthem. The length of the senior recognition program and national anthem shall not exceed seven minutes.

APPENDIX 5 - Game Management Director Responsibilities

At each Conference game, the home institution shall provide and identify to game officials and the competing teams, an athletics department designee on the premises as the person in charge of game management at that event. The Game Management Director should have access to means of electronic communication in order to promptly address any game management issues during the contest. He/she shall be available to the game officials and the visiting team's personnel for any matters, which may arise during the contest.

The director is charged with the administration and operation of the facilities that host Big West Conference intercollegiate contests. To assist in establishing a top quality environment at these facilities, the following responsibilities are recommended:

1. Coordinate pregame and intermission activities when applicable and inform both coaching staffs. It is recommended that there be a coordinator for pregame and/or intermission.
2. Plan to play the national anthem during the pregame interval.
3. Arrange for adequate security for officials to and from their locker room. In some situations, an escort to their vehicles after the game may be necessary. All reasonable precautions should be taken.
4. Secure the playing area, if possible, at game's end, and have all coaches, players, and officials depart to their locker rooms as soon as possible.
5. Meet during the preseason and postseason on campus with the appropriate representatives to review all aspects of positive contest control. These individuals may include the following:
 - a. Athletic Director or other Senior Administrator
 - b. Head coach for respective sport
 - c. Sports information directors
 - d. Campus security director and/or staff
 - e. Public address announcer
 - f. Head cheerleader and adviser
 - g. Student body president or official student representative
 - h. Student newspaper sports editor
 - i. Student booster head
 - j. Alumni director
 - k. Band director
 - l. Other pertinent officials as needed
6. Establish a command post in the venue to coordinate crowd control programs.
7. Restrict access to the locker rooms to only those people having official business or possessing proper credentials to enter the locker room.

8. The Game Management Director and staff should make every effort to identify troublemakers and do everything possible to remove them from the facility.
9. Ensure that all visible posters, signs and handout literature are positive, non-inflammatory, non-derogatory and in good taste.
10. Take immediate corrective action in the event of any objectionable and/or improper chants by the host institution's fans. Each institution must have in place a procedure to deal with this issue and have it stated in its institutional policy manual for game management and good sporting behavior.
11. Be familiar with the layout of the venue, so that accurate directions can be given in the event of an emergency. A listing of any emergency procedures should be furnished to the public address announcer.
12. Game management should have specific procedures in place to accommodate medical aid situations in the spectator areas. All game management personnel should be briefed regarding the steps to take in the event of an emergency.