



## **MAAC Basketball Tiebreaker Policy**

(Passed 10.7.24)

Teams will be seeded based on their regular-season conference winning percentage. In the event of ties in the standings at the conclusion of regular-season play, the following tie-breaker procedures shall be applied to determine access to the championship and/or seeding.

Higher winning percentages shall prevail in tiebreaker situations, even if the number of games played against a team or group is unequal (i.e., 2-0 (1.000) is better than 3-1 (.750); 1-0 (1.000) is better than 1-1 (.500); 0-1 (.000) is the same as 0-2 (.000). Only if winning percentages are tied will most wins prevail. For example, 2-0 is better than 1-0; 4-2 is better than 2-1.

### **Two-Way Tie**

- A. If there is/are a tie(s) for any place(s) in the standings, then the results of the in-season head-to-head competition shall be used to break that tie.
- B. If teams remain tied, the next step is to compare each team's winning percentage against the higher-seeded common opponent continuing in descending order until the tie is broken. Higher winning percentages shall prevail in tiebreaker situations, even if the number of games played against a team or group is unequal.

If the winning percentage of the tied teams is equal against a team, or a group of tied teams, the team with the most wins will prevail. If both teams have the same number of wins, continue down through the standings until one team gains an advantage.

For example, 2-0 is better than 3-1; 1-0 is better than 1-1; 0-1 is the same as 0-2. However, 2-0 is better than 1-0; 4-2 is better than 2-1.

If during the winning percentage comparison process you arrive at tied teams in the standings, use each team's winning percentage against the collective tied teams as a group (prior to their own tie-breaking procedure).

- C. If procedures A, B or C fail to establish an advantage, road/neutral (if applicable) winning percentage in conference games will be utilized.
- D. If the teams remain tied after Step D, then the team with the higher NET ranking, according to the most current NCAA NET report published at the conclusion of the final regular season game on the conference schedule, will gain the advantage.
- E. If a tie still exists, then the Commissioner or their designee shall use a coin toss to break the tie.

### Three or More Team Tiebreaker

- A. If three or more teams are tied for any place(s) in the standings, a “mini-conference” will be formed for the tiebreaking procedure. The teams will be seeded based on their winning percentage against opponents within the mini-conference. Higher winning percentages shall prevail in tiebreaker situations, even if the number of games played against a team or group is unequal.

If the winning percentage of the tied teams is equal against a team, or a group of tied teams, the team with the most wins will prevail. If both teams have the same number of wins, continue down through the standings until one team gains an advantage.

For example, 2-0 is better than 3-1; 1-0 is better than 1-1; 0-1 is the same as 0-2. However, 2-0 is better than 1-0; 4-2 is better than 2-1.

If multiple teams are tied within the mini-conference, any team with a differentiating winning percentage would be extracted. If two teams remain tied in winning percentage once a team with the advantage is extracted, revert to the two-way tiebreaking procedure. If more than two teams still remain tied, begin Step A again.

For example:  
Team 1 – .833  
Team 2 – .667  
Team 3 – .667  
Team 4 – .600

Team 1 would be seeded highest among the four teams. Teams 2 and 3 would revert to the two-way tiebreaking procedure. Team 4 would be seeded last among the four teams.

- B. If three or more teams remain tied, the next step is to compare each team’s winning percentage against the higher-seeded common opponent continuing in descending order until the tie is broken.

If during the winning percentage comparison process you arrive at tied teams in the standings, use each team’s winning percentage against the collective tied teams as a group (prior to their own tie-breaking procedure).

- C. If procedures A, B or C fail to establish an advantage, road/neutral (if applicable) winning percentage in conference games will be utilized.
- D. If the teams remain tied after Step D, then the team with the higher NET ranking, according to the most current NCAA NET report published at the conclusion of the final regular season game on the conference schedule, will gain the advantage.
- E. If a tie still exists, then the Commissioner or their designee shall use a coin toss to break the tie.