

2024-25 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Format

Each member participating in the Conference competes in a 8-week schedule with 16 matches (8 home/8 away). The regular season format will consist of a single round robin (12 matches) plus 4 additional matches with 2 regional opponents, and 2 at-large matches. Conference play will begin mid-week of the fifth week of allowable competition providing the first four available weekends for non-conference play. Match days will consist of Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday during conference play.

Regular Season Services

1. Conference will be a single division.
2. A press release naming an Offensive Player of the Week, Defensive Player of the Week, Setter of the Week, and Freshman of the Week as well as a weekly Honorable Mention (for those nominees worthy of mention but not selected for weekly honors) as well as listing notes and statistics, is compiled and distributed by Conference staff.
3. The Conference staff coordinates and publicizes a preseason coaches' poll that predicts the order of team finish, an All-Conference Team and a Player of the Year.

Regular Season Policies & Regulations (NCAA rules & regulations are followed unless specified below)

1. The following 3-tier non-conference scheduling system will be used. Institutions will not be assigned to a specific tier as it will be at the discretion of the institutions as to where they believe they fall.

Top Tier (no particular order):

- Continue to schedule against 20+ win teams
- Should be at around 50% wins for non-conference play
- Schedule top RPI teams
- Schedule against top teams in middle RPI conferences
- Schedule against the top 5 RPI conference
- Remaining schedule should be teams in the top 50-100 (no teams with a RPI of 200+)

Middle Tier (no particular order):

- Should be at 70% wins (i.e. 9-3) for non-conference play
- Schedule top teams in lower RPI conferences (i.e. conference champions)
- Schedule middle-lower teams in higher RPI conferences
- Minimize scheduling teams with 200+ RPI

Lower Tier (no particular order):

- Schedule and win no matter what
- Should be at 100% wins (i.e. 12-0) or in the range
- No restrictions on the number of lower RPI teams scheduled
- Be strategic when scheduling opponents

- a. When hosting a tournament, teams are asked to follow their expected tier philosophy when securing opponents. Secure a variety of teams with mixes of RPIs.
2. The Conference staff will annually review the Conference football schedule upon release to identify potential scheduling conflicts. Staff will contact the involved institutions in advance and will facilitate institutional requests determining a new play date and time. Notification will be sent to the impacted teams.
 3. For matches scheduled on Wednesday and/or Friday, the host institution will determine start times after consulting with the visiting team regarding their travel plans.
 4. For matches scheduled on Sundays, the host institutions will determine start times. Matches may not begin before noon or after 2:00 pm local time.

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Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

5. The Conference office contracts an assignor for all matches (non-conference and conference). All first and second referees assigned to all matches must hold a current USAV or PAVO certification, with national certification recommended.
6. Institutions must secure and use PAVO certified line judges for all Conference matches. These individuals may not be current students or currently affiliated with the institution. They must also be uniformly dressed and pre-assigned.
7. Coaches must complete a universal referee evaluation form and line judge evaluation form online per the direction of the official assignor.
8. **Video Exchange policy** is mandated as follows:
 - a. The policy is a national open exchange, which entitles all programs to view all matches of the American Athletic Conference opponents along with any other conferences that are involved in the open exchange program.
 - Institutions are responsible for videotaping all their non-conference matches (home and away) and uploading to VolleyMetrics.
 - Conference matches must be uploaded to VolleyMetrics by the host institution.
 - Home teams are required to record all matches as a backup using their own team camera. Home teams are not required to upload match videos unless issues involving the VolleyMetrics camera occur. The home team can record the backup video from either end of the facility.
 - b. Each institution is also required to upload all Conference and non-conference match score sheets and statistical sheets to NCAA Live Stat by midnight the day of competition. These sheets must include stats/per set and overall match stats. The original (white) score sheets must be uploaded by set.
 - c. All videos must be high quality uploads (i.e. no compressed files, no DVD, uploaded from the original file/camera), shot in high definition (HD) and uploaded as one file, not multiple.
 - Videos must be captured in 'real-time' to include time-outs, etc.
 - The video camera should be center positioned behind the court (rather than at an angle), elevated with a minimum camera lens height of 10 feet (rather than at floor level), zoomed so that the court is framed from pole to pole, the opposing end line must be visible through the center of the net and jersey numbers must be visible.
 - The team performing the upload should be recorded closest to the camera (back to camera).
 - Visiting teams must be able to shoot from either end of the floor. Scaffolding or similar must be constructed for facilities with limitations. Institutions with facility limitations should contact the visiting team at least the week prior to competition of their preferred filming location.
 - Matches for the entire week (both Conference and non-conference) must be uploaded to VolleyMetrics at any time upon conclusion but must be uploaded by Sunday at midnight.
 - Institutions are allowed to download any opponent's matches at any point during the weekend pending that they have uploaded their own matches to VolleyMetrics.
 - During non-conference tournaments, teams will be able to download all matches for the day/weekend versus match-by-match for each day.

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Video Exchange Policy (continued)

- If an institution is unable to upload matches to VolleyMetrics for any reason, that institution must notify all other institutions and the Conference staff liaison. That institution is financially responsible for sending a copy of the matches (via email) to any institution that has requested the video.
- d. Sharing video exchange, scouting reports (e.g., statistical/analytical reports generated from either Data Volley or VolleyMetrics) etc. with anyone outside the Conference is prohibited.

Challenge Replay Systems

- Challenge replay systems (CRS) shall be provided by the home team for conference matches utilizing a 5 static camera system with at least 120 frames per second.
- Baselines, sidelines, and net are the recommended angles.
- The home institution may use television angles to supplement the static cameras if they have the capability, and a 6th net mounted camera is suggested, if possible.

9. Uniform Assignments:

- If a Team Plays Wednesday/Friday – The home team will wear light-colored uniforms on Wednesday and the opposite on Friday
- If Friday match is the first of a weekend – The home team will wear light-colored uniforms, and the away team will wear dark-colored uniforms.
- For the Sunday/second match of a weekend – The home team will wear dark-colored uniforms, and the away team will wear light-colored uniforms.

10. An administrator from the host institution must be on site during all Conference regular season games to handle all problems relative to operations. The administrator should be present for the duration of the match. This administrator may NOT have other primary game functions (i.e. PA Announcer, scorekeeper, field preparation, etc.)

11. Home Team Responsibilities

- a. The host school must email directly or have available online the visiting team packets, which should include maps, restaurant listings, complimentary admission list and a practice request form.
- b. The host institution must secure a meeting space on gameday as close to the court as possible for the visiting team (besides the locker room) only if the visiting team locker room is not in close proximity to the court. This meeting space will be utilized by the visiting team during the 5-minute break between sets two (2) and three (3). The meeting space must be equipped with a dry erase board or chalk board and clock notification either by a person or a game clock during that time.
- c. Visiting coaches must be provided a changing/locker room separate from the team's locker room. The changing area can either be a separate locker room, an office or classroom, etc.
- d. Each institution is required to implement a computerized statistical program for all Conference matches. When submitting weekly statistics to the Conference office, each institution must use Automated Scorebook for Volleyball (Statcrew).
- e. The host institution must provide full box scores to include side-out percentage, both game-by-game **and** cumulative statistics, to each bench at the end of each game and the conclusion of each match. The visiting statistician should confer on the final box score. Statistics should be completed before the visiting team leaves the gymnasium.

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Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

- f. The host institutions will be held accountable and are required to re-stat the match if the visiting institution provides proof that a significant statistical discrepancy has occurred.
 - g. A minimum of 60 balls, which must be of the same make and model of the game ball that will be utilized for matches and four (4) carts must be provided by the host institution to visiting teams for their respective practices.
 - h. Visiting teams will be provided towels in the locker room. These towels must be properly sanitized prior to use and delivered to the visiting team locker room.
 - i. Every effort should be made by the host institution to ensure exclusive use of the facility once a match begins.
 - j. The host facility practice day (day before competition) and pre-match serve/pass time lighting must be the same lighting as the actual match lighting.
 - k. A minimum of 30 balls per team must be provided by the host institution for pre-match warm-ups.
 - l. Testing of the CRS equipment should take place no later than 90 minutes prior to the match, and officials and coaches notified of any issues in a timely manner.
12. Artificial noisemakers, including whistles, air horns, clackers and inflated sticks may not be used in the playing or spectator area. Host institutions will determine if fans are permitted to use non-electronic megaphones for voice amplification only. Computerized noisemakers controlled by event management are permissible when the ball is out of play.
13. During play, the designated area for home team cheerleaders and official team mascots is on their own team's portion of the playing area, beyond the sideline opposite the team bench or beyond the end line. Home team bands are not allowed behind the visiting team bench.
14. Institutionally sponsored bands, cheerleaders and mascots are prohibited from traveling to away contests.
15. Fans may not display signs or banners deemed as being offensive or inappropriate to institutions, players or coaches in the facility. These banners should be identified and removed by security personnel.
16. Those institutions that charge admission for regular season games, the host institution must offer 40 complimentary admissions to the visiting team if the venue has 100% seating capacity. Any reduction of team complimentary tickets will be based off seating capacity (e.g., 50% = 20 tickets; 25% = 10 tickets, etc.). Admission procedures are to be handled by the host school.
17. The travel party size during Conference competition shall be set to mirror the NCAA Championship model at 16 uniformed student-athletes + 2 non-uniformed that are permitted on the bench. There are no limits for members of the coaching staff, administration, sports medicine, academics, etc. The 16 student-athlete + 2 limits only apply to the road/traveling team. The home team has no limits. These limits do not apply to non-conference contests.
18. Standardized match protocol is in effect for all Conference matches:
- a. An automated scoreboard must be used, and a visible time clock should be run during warm-up and official timeout periods.
 - b. The court must be available and set up one hour prior to the scheduled start of a Conference match. When the hour of warm-up begins, each team has access to their half of the court only (prior to the 4-4-5-5). The centerline is extended into the sideline area.
 - c. A minimum of a 4-ball system must be used

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Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

19. Practice Policy:

- Day prior to competition: Teams will be offered a 1-hour minimum practice slot. The practice session does not need to be on the competition floor and can be at any campus facility. If the visiting institution requests more time, the host institution should try to accommodate.
- Day of competition: Teams are allowed a 1-hour morning practice slot on the competition floor in addition to the serve/pass time.
- Day of competition: Teams are allowed a 1-hour slot directly prior to the pre-match protocol. This hour will be split into 30 minutes for each team. There will be a 5-minute buffer between the two 30-minute sessions to allow team ample time to switch positions and organize. The home team will go first followed by the away team.
- Practices are considered a “closed practice” and ONLY the host operations crew and administration are allowed to be present in the court area.
- Visiting teams must request practice sessions with the host administrations one month prior to the scheduled contest.

20. The American Athletic Conference Volleyball Sport Committee holds its official annual meeting virtually during the month of January. Coaches will have an opportunity to meet informally at the AVCA Convention each December. The conference will secure a meeting room for this occasion. Attendance for the virtual meeting in January is mandatory. In extreme situations where the head coach cannot participate, the institution’s sport administrator or Director will determine the substitution.

21. Standardized pre-match timing protocol is as follows:

- Matches will begin at :02/:32 past the hour for television purposes.

EXAMPLE: 7:02 p.m. start. Adjust times accordingly for Conference matches.

NOTE: Referees will sound a whistle to warn the team on the court 15 seconds before their timed segment is ending.

Time Allotted	Actual Time	Visible Clock	Protocol
43:00	6:00 – 6:43 p.m.	60:00 – 19:00	Court available for shared warm-up
---	6:32 p.m.	30:00	Coin Toss
4:00	6:43 – 6:47 p.m.	19:00 – 15:00	Visiting Team Court
4:00	6:47 – 6:51 p.m.	15:00 – 11:00	Home Team Court
5:00	6:51 – 6:56 p.m.	11:00 – 6:00	Visiting Team Court
5:00	6:56 – 7:00 p.m.	6:00 – 1:00	Home Team Court
1:00	7:00 – 7:02 p.m.	1:00 – 0:00	Team Huddle/ Announcements
---	7:02 p.m.	0:00	National Anthem/ Player Introductions. Match begins

- Introductions during Conference play shall include only the starters.
- 5-minute time limit will be set for any special ceremonies (i.e., senior day) held prior to the start of the match. If the ceremony is scheduled to take more than the allotted time, that ceremony must get approval by the Conference office liaison or take place following the match.

Regular Season Awards

1. Regular Season Team Champion trophies, individual awards
2. Player of the Year *
3. Libero of the Year *
4. Setter of the Year *
5. Freshman of the Year * *Note: Nominees must be true freshmen (i.e. first-year students)*
6. Coach of the Year *
7. First Team All-Conference (12 spots) *
8. Second Team All-Conference (8 spots) *
9. All-Freshman Team (7 spots) * *Note: Nominees must be true freshmen (i.e. first-year students)*

Selection Process

- Coaches shall select 20 players and place them in rank order, in which each player will be given a point value for their respective rank. Staff will determine appropriate point values.
- The top 12 with the highest point total shall be named to the first team and the next 8 will be named to the second team.
- The top point receiver from the rank of 20 will be named player of the year.
- The top freshman point receiver will be named freshman of the year.
- If the libero and/or setter of the year are different from an already selected libero or setter, that individual will be added to the same all-Conference team (first or second). If no libero and/or setter are selected for all-Conference honors the voted 'of the year' individual(s) will be added to the second team all-Conference.
- Coaches submit choices via the Conference website, but cannot select their own players.
- AVCA statistical/selection criteria form and a statistical comparison chart will be provided as a guideline to aid in the selection process.
- Conference staff approves final selections.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Format

1. 8-team single elimination. The previous years' regular season champion will host the championship.

First Round Games (Friday, November 22)

Game #1	#1 seed vs. #8 seed	11:00am CT
Game #2	#4 seed vs. #5 seed	2:30pm CT
Game #3	#2 seed vs. #7 seed	5:00pm CT
Game #4	#3 seed vs. #6 seed	7:30pm CT

Semifinal Games (Saturday, November 23)

Game #5	Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2	11:00am CT
Game #6	Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4	2:00pm CT

Final (Sunday, November 24)

Game #7	Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6	12:00pm CT
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*No match will begin earlier than the scheduled time. Teams are entitled to full pre-match protocol.

** Live production – time subject to change

2. A conference call will be conducted for the 8 participating teams on Monday prior to the championship.
3. A practice day will be held on Thursday preceding the championship. Each team will be allotted a 55-minute practice session on the game court.

Championship Format (continued)

4. The tournament champion earns the Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Should the tournament not be completed the representative will be awarded to the highest remaining seed in the tournament, and no tournament champion will be declared.

Conference Tournament Qualifying and Seeding/Tie-Breaking Policies (NCAA rules and guidelines are followed unless otherwise noted; regular season game management policies, where applicable, apply to the championship)

Overall league winning percentage at the conclusion of the regular season is used to select and seed the top eight (8) teams that qualify for the championship. The Conference Office may evaluate tournament qualification and/or seeding if a team has played less than 16 matches.

Tie-Breaking Policies

The following policies are set up to break ties at the end of the regular season for seeding purposes. Follow the appropriate steps in order. Once one or more teams gain an advantage in the case of a multiple-team tie, revert to the beginning of the tie-breaking policies with the remaining teams. If the ties cannot be broken, a coin flip will be conducted by the Commission or his designee.

Two-Team Tie: In the event of a percentage tie between two teams, the following criteria will be used in the following order to determine which team will be awarded the higher seed in the American Women's Volleyball Championship:

1. Head-to-Head competition results in Conference matches
2. Number of sets won between the two teams
3. Most number of points scored between the two teams
4. Number of sets won in Conference matches
5. Number of points scored in Conference matches
6. Coin toss conducted by Conference administrator

Three or More Teams Tied: In the event of a percentage tie between three or more teams, the following criteria will be used in the following order to determine which team will be awarded the higher seed in the American Women's Volleyball Championship:

1. Head-to-head competition results in Conference matches
2. Number of sets won between all the tied teams
3. Number of points scored between all the tied teams
4. Number of sets won in all Conference matches
5. Number of points scored in all Conference matches
6. Coin toss conducted by the Conference administrator

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Championship Policies & Regulations

(NCAA rules and guidelines are followed unless otherwise noted; regular season game management policies, where applicable, apply to the Championship)

1. The Conference staff contracts an assignor for the Conference tournament. All referees assigned to the tournament must have a USAV or PAVO certification, with national certification recommended.
2. Electronic timeouts will be used for tournament matches regardless of television coverage.
3. In all matches, in a non-deciding set (sets 1 through 4), the media timeout is called when the leading team reaches 15 points (if no timeout has been called by a team before that point). In a deciding set (game 5), the media timeout is called at eight (8) points. Once one timeout has been called in a set, no other electronic timeouts may be requested. Each coach will be permitted to call two timeouts per set. All timeouts (electronic or coach-called) will be 75 seconds.
4. The event manager may provide additional chairs for the tournament doctor and a security representative.
5. Molten USA IV58L-N Super Touch NCAA blue/silver/white ball will be the official championship volleyball.
6. The higher-seeded team shall be designated the home team and shall wear light-colored uniforms. The lower-seeded team shall be designated the visiting team and shall wear dark-colored uniforms.

Championship Awards, Gifts & Services

1. The Championship team receives a trophy, hats and shirts, as well as individual awards.
2. A Most Outstanding Offensive Player receives an award and is selected by a vote of qualified persons as determined by the Conference staff. The two coaches who participate in the championship will provide input relative to this selection.
3. An all-tournament team consisting of seven (7) players will be selected from among the eight (8) participating institutions at the site of the championship. A selection committee shall be comprised of Conference staff and select media, with input from the sports information representatives of the eight (8) participating institutions.
4. A press release previewing the tournament field is distributed a week prior to the Championship.
5. Each Women's Volleyball student-athlete competing in the postseason Championship will have the opportunity to select a gift from an online gift suite. Appropriate information about the gift selection will be forwarded to each head coach, and gifts will be shipped after the conclusion of the championship.