

2017-18 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Format

Each member participating in the Conference competes in a 10-week, one (1) division of twelve (12) teams, utilizing a travel partner system. The regular season format will consist of a single round-robin plus playing nine (9) of eleven (11) opponents for a total of 20-matches. Conference play will begin on the fifth weekend of competition with provides the first four available weekends for non-conference play. The two (2) travel partner matches will take place over Thanksgiving weekend and will be a home/home series competed on that Wednesday and Friday. All remaining weekend play dates are scheduled as Friday-Sunday.

Regular Season Services

1. A travel partner/wild card system is used. Travel partners are as follows:

Cincinnati-East Carolina	Houston-Tulane
UCF-USF	SMU-Tulsa
Connecticut-Temple	Memphis-Wichita State
2. A press release naming a Offensive Player of the Week, Defensive Player of the Week and a weekly Honor Roll (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 501-00 (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 RPIs.
 - b. All teams will be required to submit their non-conference schedules by February 1 using the scheduling form that will be provided by the conference liaison.
 - c. Each team will be asked to submit to the conference liaison their expected tier for the upcoming year and the expected tiers of the entire league. This information will be used as a guideline.

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Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

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 pod of four.
3. Host institutions will determine start times for Sunday matches. Matches may not begin before noon or after 2:00 pm local time.
4. 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.
5. Institutions are required to secure and use Certified Officials or Certified Line Judges to serve as 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.
6. Coaches must complete a universal referee evaluation form and line judge evaluation form online per the direction of the official assignor.
7. 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 VolleyMetrics 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) at least twice.
 - Visiting teams must be able to shoot for 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 preference of location for recording.

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Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

Video Exchange policy (continued):

- Matches for the entire week (both Conference and non-conference) may be uploaded to VolleyMetrics at any time upon conclusion but must be uploaded by Sunday at midnight.
 - Institutions are not allowed to download any opponent's matches until they have uploaded their own matches to VolleyMetrics by the deadline.
 - Institutions are allowed to download matches from VolleyMetrics starting at midnight on Sunday.
 - During non-conference tournaments, teams will be able to download all matches for the day/weekend versus match-by-match for each day.
 - If an institution is unable to upload matches to VolleyMetrics by the Sunday deadline for any reason, that institution must notify all other institutions and Conference staff. That institution is financially responsible to send a DVD copy of the matches to any institution that has requested the video. The DVD must arrive on-campus via express overnight delivery on Tuesday morning.
- d. Video exchange, scouting reports (e.g. statistical/analytical reports generated from either Data Volley or VolleyMetrics) etc. with anyone outside the Conference is prohibited.

8. Uniform Assignments:

- For Friday matches – The home team will wear light-colored uniforms and the away team will wear dark-colored uniforms.
- For Sunday matches – The home team will wear dark-colored uniforms and the away team will wear light-colored uniforms.
- For travel partner matches – The home team will wear light-colored uniforms.

9. An administrator from the host institution must be on site during all Conference regular season games to handle any and 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.).

10. Home Team Responsibilities

- a. The host school must email directly or have available online by the third Friday in August 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 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 10-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)

Home Team Responsibilities (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 must be provided towels and water in the locker room and team bench area.
 - 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 pre-match serve/pass time lighting must be the same lighting as the actual match lighting.
 - k. A minimum of 25 balls per team must be provided by the host institution for pre-match warm-ups.
 - l. There will be 10 minutes between sets 2 and 3 with or without promotional activities.
 - m. The host institution must secure three (3) ball shaggers and two (2) floor wipers at every home Conference match. These individuals must be available at least 30 minutes prior to the match start time.
11. Artificial noisemakers, including whistles, air horns, clackers and inflated sticks may not be used in the playing or spectator area. 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.
12. 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.
13. Institutionally sponsored bands, cheerleaders and mascots are prohibited from traveling to away contests.
14. Fans may not display signs or banners deemed as being offensive or inappropriate to particular institutions, players or coaches in the facility. These banners should be identified and removed by security personnel.
15. Each institution that charges admission for regular season games must offer 40 complimentary admissions to the visiting team. Admission procedures are to be handled by the host school.
16. The travel party size during Conference competition shall be set at 15 student-athletes. There are no limits for members of the coaching staff, administration, sports medicine, academics, etc. The 15 student-athlete limit only applies to the road/traveling team. The home team has no limits. These limits do not apply to non-conference contests.

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Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)

17. 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's 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 scheduled contest.

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. Three-ball system must be used.

19. The American Athletic Conference Volleyball Coaches Association holds its official annual meeting at the AVCA Convention each December. Attendance is mandatory for all head coaches. In extreme situations where the head coach cannot attend, the institution's sport administrator or Director will determine the substitution.

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

EXAMPLE: 7:00 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
41:00	6:00 – 6:41 p.m.	60:00 – 19:00	Court available for shared warm-up
---	6:30 p.m.	30:00	Coin Toss
4:00	6:41 – 6:45 p.m.	19:00 – 15:00	Visiting Team Court
4:00	6:45 – 6:49 p.m.	15:00 – 11:00	Home Team Court
5:00	6:49 – 6:54 p.m.	11:00 – 6:00	Visiting Team Court
5:00	6:54 – 6:59 p.m.	6:00 – 1:00	Home Team Court
1:00	6:59 – 7:00 p.m.	1:00 – 0:00	Team Huddle/ Announcements
---	7:00 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 Sport Committee or take place following the match.

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Regular Season Awards

1. Regular Season Team Champion (trophy and 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) *

* Selection Process

- Coaches shall select 24 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 24 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.

NCAA Championship Automatic Qualification/Tie-Breaking Policies

The following policies are set up to break ties at the end of the regular season for NCAA Championship AQ purposes. Follow the appropriate steps in order.

Two-team tie:

1. Results of head-to-head match record during the regular-season.
2. Results of head-to-head set record during the regular season.
3. Results of head-to-head point differential during the regular season
4. Each team's record vs. the team occupying the highest position in the final regular-season standings (or in the case of a tie for the championship, the next highest position in the regular-season standings), continuing down through the standings until one team gains an advantage.
 - a. When arriving at another pair of tied teams while comparing records, use each team's record against the collective tied teams as a group (prior to their own tie-breaking procedures), rather than the performance against the individual tied teams.
 - b. When comparing records against a single team or a group of teams, the higher winning percentage shall prevail, even if the number of sets played against the team or group are unequal (i.e., 2-0 is better than 3-1, but 2-0 is not better than 1-0).
5. Won-loss percentage of all Division I opponents.
6. Coin toss conducted by the Commissioner or designee.

NCAA Championship Automatic Qualification/Tie-Breaking Policies (continued)

3+ team tie:

1. Results of head-to-head match during the regular-season.
2. Results of head-to-head set record during the regular season.
3. Results of head-to-head point differential during the regular season
 - a. When comparing records against the tied teams, the team with the higher winning percentage shall prevail, even if the number of sets played against the team or group are unequal (i.e., 2-0 is better than 3-1, but 2-0 is not better than 1-0).
 - b. After the top team among the tied teams is determined, the second team is ranked by its record among the original tied teams, not the head-to-head record vs. the remaining team(s).
4. If the remaining teams are still tied, the tied teams then begin the tie-breaking procedure from the beginning.
5. If the remaining teams are still tied, the tied teams' record shall be compared to the team occupying the highest position in the final regular-season standings, continuing down through the standings until one team gains an advantage.
 - a. When arriving at another pair of tied teams while comparing records, use each team's record against the collective tied teams as a group (prior to their own tie-breaking procedures), rather than the performance against the individual tied teams.
 - b. When comparing records against a single team or group of teams, the higher winning percentage shall prevail, even if the number of sets played against the team or group are unequal (i.e., 2-0 is better than 3-1, but 2-0 is not better than 1-0).
6. Won-loss percentage of Division I opponents.
7. Coin toss conducted by Commissioner or designee.