

This handbook is for the use of football coaches who are to be familiar with its contents. Any comments regarding the contents should be brought to the attention of the sport committee chair or administrative liaison.

Section I – Sport Committee

- A. A football sport committee, composed of up to five persons, is appointed by the MAC executive director.
- B. The sport committee is responsible for the conduct of all conference games under approved conference policies (Operating Procedures, Article III, Part B, page 2).
- C. The sport committee chair conducts the annual football coach’s conference call the second Monday after the last regular season game (Operating Procedures, Article III, Part C, page 3).

Section II – Conference Organization

Middle Atlantic Conference

Albright

Alvernia

Delaware Valley

Eastern University

Fairleigh Dickinson-Florham

King’s (Pa.)

Lebanon Valley

Misericordia

Stevenson

Widener

Section III – Championship

- A. The conference champion is determined by the best record in the nine conference games and is awarded the Automatic Qualifier. In case of a tie, the tied teams are co-champions. The following tie breaking system, in descending priority order, is used to qualify team(s) for the NCAA automatic qualifier and Centennial-MAC Bowl Series.
 - 1. Ties are to be broken from the top of the standings to the bottom, with the exception of head-to-head results in regular season conference contests (these are to occur prior to applying procedure b). The progression through a procedure stops at any point where teams cannot be ranked.
 - 2. If more than two teams are tied, and one of the teams has not played a team in a specific tiebreaker, that particular tiebreaker does not count.
 - 3. When more than two teams are tied, that ranking, based on wins and losses against each other, qualifies the needed teams. If that win/loss ranking cannot be determined, and in the case of two tied teams, procedures (a) through (f) are used to qualify a team or teams. The remaining teams revert back to the criteria in rank order.

- a. Head-to-head results between and among the tied teams in conference games.
 - b. Tied teams' won-loss records versus conference teams starting with #1, then #2, etc.
 - c. Conference winning percentage of teams beat in nine MAC games.
 - d. Point differential between and among the tied teams, with a maximum differential of 17 points.
 - e. Tied teams' point differential in conference games starting with #1, then #2, etc. with a maximum differential of 17 points.
 - f. Preseason draw to rank teams 1-10. This will be used to break ties that cannot be determined in any other way.
- B. The three teams with the best records not selected for the NCAA tournament, compete in bowl games with the Centennial Conference.
1. The top seed in each conference will host the second seed from the other conference. Regular season contests will have no bearing on seeding. (Amended May 2023)
 2. The Centennial Conference will host the third seed games in odd years and the MAC in even years (AD, Aug. 2021).
 3. If members, teams not selected for the NCAA tournament or MAC/Centennial bowl games are eligible for ECAC bowl games.
 4. Standard film exchange must occur between participating teams by 9 p.m. Sunday night. The opposing team has the choice of three games for film exchange.
 5. There is a participant call on Monday morning at 9 a.m.
 6. Eight officials are assigned for postseason contests.

Section IV – Awards (Executive Regulations, Article II, page 1).

All coaches must be members of the association that names regional and national all-America teams and participate in the process.

Section V – All-Conference Selection (Executive Regulations, Article II, Part E, page 1)

- A. The team consists of an offense (quarterback, two running backs, fullback, tight end, three wide receivers, and five linemen) and a defense (four linemen, four linebackers, and four backs) plus a special team's player, punter, returner, and kicker.
- B. Honorable mention may include up to 29 players.
- C. An offensive and defensive player of the year, rookie and coach of the year are selected.
- D. A conference call will take place after the all-conference team is determined to vote for major awards. (Amended, May 2023; Coaches, Aug 2024)

Section VI – Regular Season

- A. NCAA rules apply unless superseded by MAC rules.

- B. The home team wears its colors and the visiting team wears white.
- C. John Shigo assigns seven officials for all games through the 2027 season (Executive Regulations, Article VI, Part L, page 8).
- D. MAC games are played on Saturday starting at Noon or 1:00 p.m., unless the participating schools agree to a change.
- E. Security keeps the visiting team's sideline completely free of non-essential personnel. Fans are never permitted inside a fenced-off area.
- F. If a game cannot be resumed within two hours, and it hasn't reached the fourth quarter (at least one play in last period), it must be completed at a date convenient for both schools. A suspended game that is in the fourth quarter is an "official" game and will be recorded in the conference standings as such.
- G. For varsity games, an ambulance and physician are required.
- H. Cold Weather Policy
 - 1. Because the duration of a contest, including warmups, vary, and levels of activity differ with each position, the potential for injury is not consistent between and among sports or sites. Equipment such as bats also is more vulnerable to defects as well. It is for these reasons that temperature needs to be considered as a major factor in the safety and well-being of all participants.
 - 2. These are minimal standards. Institutions may agree to use more stringent criteria (these must be publicly posted), but if the host wants to employ the minimum guidelines outlined here, the visitors must oblige.
 - 3. The language in this document relates to competition, but the temperature criteria are also applicable to all practices.
 - 4. Besides the coaches and teams, these guidelines apply to support staff, officials, and other personnel involved in the event.
 - 5. The decision to postpone a contest must be made prior to the visiting team's departure and a mutually agreed upon make-up date will be set at that time. After the visiting team is in transit, the competition will proceed as scheduled.
 - 6. These guidelines are for temperature projections and do not account for the playing surface and weather conditions. Temperature conditions may allow for competition, but it is up to the home site to determine the competitor's safety based on other elements like field conditions, precipitation, etc.
 - 7. The forecast should be attained and compared from <http://www.weather.com> and <http://www.accuweather.com/> to make the most accurate prediction.
 - a. If the temperature (real or wind chill) is below 25° F, the school is to ensure that competitors have apparel that protects as much skin as possible and can access a warming area.
 - b. If the temperature (real or wind chill) is between 1 – 15° F, competitors must spend at least 15 minutes in a warm area after a maximum of 45 minutes of outdoor exposure or space heaters need to be provided in the bench areas.
 - c. If the temperature (real or wind chill) is below 0° F, the event must be rescheduled.

- I. A maximum of four people shall be assigned to the chain gang with one ball person on the visiting team's sideline.
- J. The home team shall admit free of charge the immediate family of the opposing team's coaches.
- K. Regular Season Scheduling: The MAC football schedule will be a single round robin against all other MAC teams with week 5 reserved as a bye. (Amended May 2023) (Executive Regulations, Article V, page 5). The conference schedule starts in week #2. The last game of the season is for rival games (Albright/Lebanon Valley and Delaware Valley/Widener).
- L. SID's will provide six copies of statistics for coaches at half-time.
- M. The tie breaking procedure will "withdraw" games when a contest cannot be completed due to circumstances beyond the institution's control.
- N. If a player is disqualified in the first half, during the halftime intermission, an assistant coach will provide a video of the play in question to the referee for his review in the officials' private, secure location. The referee will review the video to determine whether to reverse the disqualification. The decision of the referee is final. The video source and the location of the review will be determined prior to the game through mutual agreement of the teams and the referee.

Section VII – Filming Policies

- A. Live scouting of conference opponents is not permitted. After the regular season, coaches may attend postseason contests.
- B. Out-of-season exchanges between conference members are permitted with the approval of all concerned parties.
- C. After week #4, all regular season games will be available for film exchange. Postseason games will not be shared unless two conference teams are matched up.
- D. Prior to week #4, all exchanges are on a 1-1, 2-2, 3-3 basis.
- E. Wide and tight copies must be filmed with a digital camera.
- F. The home team must upload the game film no later than 12 AM (midnight) the morning after the game.
- G. Exchanges are full game intercut (O/D/K) in game order.
- H. If a school is unable to upload their film, they must hand deliver the film by 9 AM Sunday to the school that needs it.
- I. The home SID must have the game stats and play-by-play posted on their web site by 6 AM Sunday morning.
- J. The camera is to run for five minutes after the game, or until the field is cleared, to record post game incidents.
- K. Hudl is the vendor for film exchange.
- L. The following data are part of the exchange - down and distance, yard line, hash, quarter, gain/loss, O/D/K.
- M. All end-zone copy of film must be unobstructed.

- N. There is a \$100 fine for missing a deadline or not posting useable film; subsequent violations, and any in the last two weeks of the season, incur a \$300 fine.

Section VIII – Statistics (Sports Information Directors, Section III, page 2).

Section IX - Sportsmanlike Conduct (Executive Regulations, Article VII, pages 11-12).

The Code of Ethics of the American Football Coaches Association has been developed to protect and promote the best interests of the game of football and the coaching profession. This should be a guide to all coaches in the conduct of their football programs.

Section X – Dispute Resolution (Operating Procedures, Article VII, page 5).