

BASEBALL

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

Section I – Sport Committee

- A. A baseball 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 coach’s conference call on the second Tuesday after the conference championships (Operating Procedures, Article III, Part C, page 3).

Section II – Conference Organization

MAC Commonwealth	MAC Freedom
Albright	Arcadia
Alvernia	Delaware Valley
Eastern	DeSales
Hood	Fairleigh Dickinson-Florham
Lebanon Valley	King’s (Pa.)
Messiah	Lycoming
Stevenson	Misericordia
Widener	Stevens
York (Pa.)	Wilkes

Section III – Championships

- A. Conference Standings
 - 1. Conference standings are determined with a three-game round-robin (one nine inning game and a seven-inning doubleheader) to be completed by the cut-off date (Executive Regulations, Article V, page 5).
 - 2. There are no playoffs for conference ties. Use the following tiebreaking system in descending priority order to qualify team(s) for the MAC championships.
 - a. 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 ii). The progression through a procedure stops at any point where teams cannot be ranked.
 - b. 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.
 - c. When more than two teams are tied, that ranking, based on wins and losses against each other, qualifies the needed teams (for example: #1 King’s 3-1, #2 Wilkes 2-2, #3 DeSales 1-3). If that win/loss ranking can’t be determined (for example, all three teams are 2-2 against each other),

BASEBALL

and in the case of two or more tied teams, procedures (i) through (iv) are used to qualify a team or teams. The remaining teams revert back to the criteria in rank order.

- i. Head-to-head results between and among the tied teams in traditional season conference contests.
- ii. Tied teams' traditional season won-loss records versus conference teams starting with #1, then #2, etc.
- iii. Run differential between and among the tied teams, with a maximum differential of five runs.
- iv. Tied teams' run differential in conference contests starting with #1, then #2, etc. with a maximum differential five runs.

B. Conference Championship (Executive Regulations, Articles IV and V, pages 5-8).

1. The top five MAC Commonwealth teams qualify for the tournament. #5 vs. #4 on Tuesday (single game). Semifinals Saturday #1 vs. winner of #5 and #3 vs. #2. Best of three series at the site of the higher seed. Game one on day 1, and game 2 and if necessary game on day 2. Finals the following Saturday at the site of the higher seed, best of three series, game one on day one and game two and if necessary game on day two (Presidents, June 2021).
2. The top four MAC Freedom teams qualify for the tournament. Semifinals Saturday #1 vs. #4 and #2 vs. #3. Best of three series at the site of the higher seed. Game one on day one, and game two and if necessary game on day two. Finals the following Saturday at the site of the higher seed, best of three series, game one on day one and game two and if necessary game on day two (Presidents, June 2021).
3. The MAC Commonwealth and MAC Freedom tournaments will take place the Friday/Saturday immediately prior to the AQ deadline (finals), and the weekend prior to that (semifinals). The MAC Commonwealth #4 vs. #5 single game will take place the Tuesday immediately preceding the semifinals.
4. The winner of each conference championship receives the NCAA automatic qualifier bid.
5. All championship games are nine innings. Championship games that cannot be completed are suspended and resumed until nine innings have been played. No game is to start after 9:30 PM.
6. The MAC Office books three umpires for each game with Dennis Helmstetter through 2024.
7. If the championship cannot be determined by the NCAA cutoff date, the following criteria will be used to determine the conference AQ:
 - a. The highest seed remaining in the tournament receives the conference AQ.
8. No team may play more than two official games (over five innings) in one day.
9. Criteria in Section VI apply.

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

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

BASEBALL

- A. The team includes eight players (one catcher, one first baseman, one second baseman, one shortstop, one third baseman, three outfielders), three pitchers, two relief pitchers, a designated hitter, and a utility player, all of whom are voted by position. (Amended, 2022)
- B. A coach may only nominate a player for one position, except for a pitcher who can also be nominated as a field player (including utility); a utility player cannot be nominated as a field player.
- C. The honorable mention team may have up to 15 players.
- D. A player, pitcher, rookie and coach of the year are selected.
- E. The coaches will conduct a conference call to present their players and vote for major awards.

Section VI – Regular Season

- A. If a conference game (completed five innings) is tied and cannot be finished on the first date of play, it is completed either on Saturday prior to the doubleheader or on Sunday. Ties that have a bearing on the conference standings must be completed at the end of the season.
- B. A team that does not follow the postponement and rescheduling rules will be declared ineligible for the MAC tournament for that year and the next year. Use Sundays to make up games in that weekend's series. If another conference game has been rescheduled for Sunday, playing postponed games in the weekend series takes precedence.
- C. Any conference game that is not official (fewer than five full innings if home team is not ahead), and all tied games called for some reason that did not finish the fifth inning, must be replayed in their entirety.
- D. For rescheduled games, weekend dates should be used to make up doubleheaders. For example, a rained-out Friday game does not "bump" the Saturday doubleheader; or, a rained-out Saturday doubleheader is played on Sunday rather than a single make-up game.
- E. Each team follows these guidelines:
 - 1. Prior to the game/s (at least a week), the home coach will send the visiting coach the time frame for pre-game practice, field preparation, etc.
 - 2. The home team must complete its batting practice 60 minutes before game time. When the home team is finished, the visiting team may hit for 30 minutes.
 - 3. At the conclusion of batting practice, each team has 10 minutes of fielding practice (home team takes the field first).
 - 4. The umpires and coaches determine the amount of time between games of a doubleheader, not to exceed thirty minutes.
 - 5. No later than twenty minutes prior to game time, each team is to provide the other team's coach, the plate umpire, and the official scorer a line-up card.
- F. Use NCAA sanctioned bats for all conference games.
- G. No school is allowed to impose curfews on conference games to accommodate food service hours.
- H. All MAC doubleheaders start no later than 1 PM. Prior to Daylight Savings Time, weekday games must be scheduled at 3 PM and weekend doubleheaders at noon.

BASEBALL

- I. If only one umpire shows up, the game is played and the single umpire works behind the plate. Additional umpire(s) may be supplied by either or both teams if they agree. Dennis Helmstetter assigns umpires for all conference games.
- J. The Diamond DI-CL is the official conference ball.
- K. With the exception of games postponed due to inclement weather, conference baseball games cannot be moved without consent of the MAC executive director.
- L. All doubleheaders will be two 7-inning contests. A make-up game from a double header (7 inning games) that is played as a single game must be nine innings. (Amended, 2022)
- M. If the home field is unplayable and the opponent's field is playable, the teams switch sites.
- N. Over Easter:
 - 1. DeSales, King's and Misericordia will be scheduled against each other.
 - 2. Games are to be completed between Thursday and Monday without missing class time or conflicting with a school's religious policies.
- O. Cold weather policy
 - 1. Because the duration of a contest, including warm ups, 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.
 - 8. Games are to be played when the temperature is above 38° F or the wind chill is above 30° F. If the forecast for the home team's area indicates that conditions will not reach the above minimums by a half hour before game time and maintained throughout the competition, the games will be rescheduled.
- P. A protested game that is upheld is to be played the next day.

BASEBALL

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

If the home SID cannot score the game, and the visitor's SID is in attendance, the visiting SID becomes the official scorer.

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

- A. Any blatant display of misbehavior will be grounds for game dismissal by the umpire.
- B. Friendly banter between players is allowed.
- C. Head coaches should emphasize that their base coaches must confine remarks to their own team. The "riding" of opposing players, and especially pitchers, is prohibited.

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

Section X – Postponements

- A. Without permission from the executive director, all teams must complete the conference schedule. Contracts with non-conference teams must stipulate that the conference schedule is to be completed and non-conference games may be canceled to accommodate that goal. Conference schools do not have to schedule more than two different conference opponents in a row (in a two-day period).
- B. Prior to a contest, the home team is responsible for delaying or postponing the start. After the contest starts, halting the contest is at the discretion of the officials, with the exception of extraordinary circumstances (lightning).
- C. If a contest is postponed because of inclement weather or other exigency after a visiting team arrives, or while it is enroute, the visiting team is required to travel on the make-up date.
- D. Rescheduled contests are set for the next date; on trips over 120 miles (one way) the first available weekend date is used.
- E. A delayed conference contest due to lightning must be resumed in one hour plus the half hour of no activity on the meter. If the contest reaches a reasonable point of conclusion, it becomes an official contest; if it does not meet these criteria, it is a "no contest" and must be rescheduled.
- F. Postponement dates: at least two days following the cut-off date shall be set aside for postponed contests for each sport. The cut-off date must be at least four days prior to the first day of the championship.
 - 1. Any postponements that occur 10 days or more prior to the cut-off date must be made up prior to the cut-off date.
 - 2. Any postponements that occur nine days or fewer prior to the cut-off date may be made up before the cut-off date, or during the two designated postponement dates.
 - 3. No games may be rescheduled past the cut-off date without the approval of the executive director and the sport committee chair.