

# SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

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## FIELD HOCKEY REGULAR SEASON

### **Regular Season Format**

Each member participating in the Conference field hockey league competes in a single round-robin format, playing each opponent once per season.

### **Regular Season Services**

1. The Conference staff designates game sites and handles any scheduling conflicts between institutions and approves the finalized schedule.
2. A publicity release, naming an Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week, 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 the Conference staff.
3. The Conference staff coordinates and publicizes a preseason coaches' poll that predicts the order of team finish, an All-Conference Team, an Offensive Player of the Year and a Defensive Player of the Year.

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

1. Coaches will schedule as many top 20 non-conference opponents as possible.
2. The Video Exchange Policy is mandated as follows:
  - a. A coach may request one recorded regular season game from each Conference opponent.
  - b. All requests must be made by the second Friday in August.
  - c. Each school is responsible for copying the requested video and forwarding it to the opposing school. All videos must be DVD and received by the requesting coach within three business days of the game date. For example:
    - If the game requested is played on a Saturday or Sunday, the video must be received **NO LATER** than the following Wednesday.
    - If the game requested is played on Wednesday, the video must be received **NO LATER** than the following Monday.
    - Overnight mailing is strongly recommended.
  - d. Additional games may be exchanged on a one-for-one basis. The number of videos exchanged beyond the required one per opponent is up to the discretion of each coach.
  - e. If a requested video cannot be provided or delivered on time, a phone call to the opposing coach is required as soon as the problem becomes apparent.
3. Scouting reports, videos, etc. regarding Conference schools shall NOT be provided to non-conference opponents.
4. For Conference games, the home team must provide a DVD copy of the game record to the visiting team post-game (i.e. before the team leaves the site). If the DVD is unavailable immediately after the game (for unforeseen reasons), a copy must be overnighted (i.e. FedEx-ed) to the visiting team the next business day.

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## FIELD HOCKEY (continued) REGULAR SEASON

### ***Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)***

5. The preferred playing surface is a non-filled flat artificial surface with an irrigation system. In addition, the playing surface should have clearly visible field hockey lines. Fields should be painted as determined by the institution. If an institution is hosting the league's championship, repainting may be necessary.
6. Home team bands are not permitted to be located behind the visiting team bench. Bands, artificial noisemakers, air horns, bells, whistles, electronic amplifiers, artificial clappers, and/or similar items are not permitted to make noise during live action.
7. Bands, cheerleaders and mascots are prohibited from traveling to away contests.
8. 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.
9. Host Institution must generate game contracts for all Conference regular season games.
10. An administrator from the host institution must be on site during all Conference regular season games. The on-site administrator may NOT have other primary game functions (i.e., PA announcer, scorekeeper, field preparation, etc.).
11. In game situations where weather is a determining factor and game times must be adjusted (either earlier or later on the actual game date, or to a later play date), the home game administrator will gather pertinent information (i.e. pre-game meals, pre-game arrival, arrival time and availability of umpires, etc.) directly from both the home-team and visiting-team coaches. The home game administrator will directly advise the home-team and visiting-team coaches of the suggested rescheduled game time. If the three parties cannot arrive at a mutually agreeable start time, then the home game administrator will call Conference staff to arbitrate the situation. The visiting team administrator may be advised as to the progress of the rescheduling discussions at any time during the aforementioned process.
12. Where possible, host institutions are encouraged to schedule visiting team practice times one year in advance with a minimum practice time of one hour and thirty minutes.
13. Host school MUST notify opposing coach of officials' names.
14. Host school MUST provide visiting team with seventy-five (75) current NCAA Championship balls for practice and pregame warm-up, two (2) ball buckets and twenty (20) cones.

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## FIELD HOCKEY (continued) REGULAR SEASON

### **Regular Season Policies & Regulations (continued)**

15. Standardized pregame timing format

- a. Host school MUST notify opposing coach of any changes to the timing format listed below.
- b. This protocol is for regular season games only and the NCAA pregame protocol reflected in the NCAA Championship Handbook will be utilized for BIG EAST post-season play.
- c. The field will be available for warm-up 60 minutes prior to game time with 52 minutes showing on the game clock.
  - The horn will sound to clear the field at the end of the 52-minute warm-up (8 minutes prior to game time).
  - Starting lineups will start immediately following the clearing of the field.
  - The National Anthem will be played 3 minutes before game time.
  - The push back will occur at the listed game time.

| <u>Actual Time</u> | <u>Clock Time</u> | <u>Action</u>   |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| 60:00              | 52:00             | Team may begin warm-ups.  |
| 13:00              | 5:00              | Captains and officials meet.  |
| 8:00               | 0:00              | Game rosters submitted and exchanged.<br>Teams clear field. Public address, welcome.<br>Introductions of officials and players. |
| 3:00               | 0:00              | National Anthem<br>Game Begins  |

16. During Conference games, the home team will wear light-colored uniforms and the visiting team wears dark-colored uniforms
17. During Conference games the NCAA pre-game introduction protocol will be implemented, whereas all players are led onto the field by the three officials; however, with the modification that only starters are announced.
18. On weekends where multiple games are played at the same site, the Conference game must be played first, unless mutually agreed upon by both institutions (administrators and coaches).
19. 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.
20. Thunder and Lightning Safety Policy: The Conference has adopted as policy NCAA Guideline 1D for Lightning Safety. You may find the policy online at:  
[http://www.lightningsafety.com/nlsi\\_pls/Sports\\_Medicine\\_Handbook\\_lightning.pdf](http://www.lightningsafety.com/nlsi_pls/Sports_Medicine_Handbook_lightning.pdf)
21. The BIG EAST Conference Field Hockey Coaches Association holds its official annual meeting each January. These meetings are at the Conference office headquarters in odd years and via conference call in even years. 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.

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## FIELD HOCKEY (continued) REGULAR SEASON

### **Regular Season Awards**

1. Regular Season Team Champion (trophy and individual awards)
2. Offensive Player of the Year \*
3. Defensive Player of the Year \*
4. Goalkeeper of the Year \*
5. Coach of the Year \*
6. First Team All-Conference (11 spots; 1 goalkeeper, 2 backs, 2 midfielders, 2 forwards, 4 at-large) \*
7. Second Team All-Conference (11 spots; 1 goalkeeper, 2 backs, 2 midfielders, 2 forwards, 4 at-large) \*

\* Selection Process

- Coaches nominate their own players in preferential order.
- Nominees are forwarded to each coach on a ballot.
- Coaches submit choices (via the Conference's website) from the nominee list, but cannot select their own players.
- A player may be nominated for both Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year.
- Conference staff approves final selections.

## CHAMPIONSHIP

### **Championship Format**

1. Four-team, single-elimination. The event is conducted in two days with the schedule as follows:

|       |              |                   | <i>Saturday/Sunday Format</i> | <i>Friday/Sunday Format</i> |
|-------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|       |              |                   | (2009)                        |                             |
| DAY 1 | Semifinal 1  | 4 vs. 1           | 11:00 a.m.                    | 5:00 p.m. ^                 |
|       | Semifinal 2  | 3 vs. 2           | 1:30 p.m.                     | 7:30 p.m. ^                 |
| DAY 2 | Championship | Semifinal Winners | 1:00 p.m.                     | 1:00 p.m.                   |

- Semifinal doubleheader begins at 11:00 a.m. (Sat/Sun Format) or 5:00 p.m. (Fri/Sun Format) with the second game beginning no earlier than 1:30 p.m. (Sat/Sun Format) or 7:30 p.m. (Fri/Sun Format). Teams in the second game will have a full pregame warmup. Game times are subject to change due to institutional limitations.
  - Friday/Sunday Format is contingent upon host institution's ability to accommodate (home football game).
  - 2009 Championship will be conducted using the Saturday/Sunday format with noted times.
- ^ The highest seed will be scheduled in the first semifinal game in the Sat/Sun championship format for rest and recovery purposes. In the Fri/Sun format, when the host institution is in the tournament field, the schedule may be adjusted for attendance purposes.

2. A tournament meeting is conducted for the four (4) participating head coaches the evening preceding the start of the championship.

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## FIELD HOCKEY (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

### ***Championship Format (continued)***

3. A dinner honoring the four (4) participating teams is scheduled the evening preceding the start of the championship. Head Coaches and Administrators may each bring one guest, at their respective institution's expense.
4. The tournament champion earns the Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The highest seeded team remaining will be the automatic bid representative should the tournament not be completed. In the event that the Championship is not completed, no champion will be declared.

### ***Championship Seeding Requirements/Procedures***

The top four teams are selected and seeded according to Conference game winning percentage at the conclusion of the regular season.

### ***Tie-Breaking Policies***

The following policies are set up to break ties at the end of the regular season for selection/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, the Commissioner will conduct a coin flip.

1. Regular season head-to-head results. If three or more teams are tied, they are viewed as a "mini-conference" when comparing head-to-head results. The team or teams with the best combined record versus the other teams in the mini-conference gain the advantage.
2. Each team's record versus the team occupying the highest position in the standings, continuing down through the standings until one team gains an advantage.

NOTE: When arriving at another pair of tied teams while comparing records, use each team's record against the tied teams as a group rather than the performance against the individual tied teams.

3. Each team's Conference seasonal goal differential (maximum of three goals per game).
4. Each team's Conference seasonal goals for (maximum of three goals per game).
5. Each team's Conference seasonal goals against (maximum of three goals per game).

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

1. All tournament games must be played with the NCAA tournament ball.
2. The Conference staff contracts officials based upon recommendations by the independent assignor.
3. Weather permitting, the tournament field is available for practice for all participating teams on the day preceding the start of the tournament. The #1 seed is given first choice of seventy-five minute (75) practice slots, the #2 seed is given second choice, etc. Consideration will be given, however, to teams traveling further distances in an effort to insure that every team is allotted a practice slot.
4. If an institution waters its field as normal practice during the regular season, that institution is required to water the field for the BIG EAST Championship. Conversely, if an institution does not water its field as normal practice during the regular season, that institution may not water the field for the BIG EAST Championship.

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## FIELD HOCKEY (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

### *Championship Policies & Regulations (continued)*

5. Benches are limited to a maximum of 22 players in uniform and a total of 28 persons on the bench. Active players must be submitted on a declaration form at the Championship meeting. No replacements will be permitted. Conference staff may provide additional chairs for the tournament doctor and a security representative.
6. The higher seeded team (home team) will wear light-colored uniforms and occupy the bench to the right of the scorer's table when facing the team benches. The lower seeded team (visiting team) will wear dark-colored uniforms and use the bench to the left of the scorer's table when facing the team benches. All teams should bring both sets of uniforms. The goalkeeper shall wear a numbered game shirt in a different color than either team.
7. A 30-minute walk-through will be provided to the championship teams on the morning of the championship game (i.e. Sunday).
  - The field will be un-watered, as the walk-through will occur prior to field watering for the championship pre-game protocol;
  - Sticks and balls may be utilized during the 30-minute walk-through.
  - With a 1:00 p.m. championship game time, the winner of semifinal #1 will have access to the game field beginning at 9:00 a.m., and the winner of semifinal #2 will have access to the game field beginning at 9:35 a.m. (times may be adjusted accordingly if the championship game time is moved to accommodate possible TV production).
8. The BIG EAST Field Hockey Committee, in conjunction with the on-site BIG EAST administrator as chair, will serve as the Games Committee to handle any act of dishonesty, unsportsmanlike conduct, unprofessional behavior, etc. This committee is not in place to dispute officials' calls.
9. During the BIG EAST Championship, F.I.H. Rules with NCAA modifications regarding the carding system will be followed.
10. The following NCAA policies shall be used when a game is tied at the end of regulation. The game will be counted as a win and a loss for the respective teams.
  - At the end of two 35-minute regulation periods, two 15-minute sudden victory periods are played, consisting of seven (7) players.
  - If the score remains tied at the end of the second extra period, the penalty stroke tie-breaker shall be used to determine advancement or declare a champion.

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## FIELD HOCKEY (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

### *Championship Awards, Gifts & Services*

1. The championship team receives a trophy and individual awards.
2. The runner-up team receives a trophy.
3. A Most Outstanding Player receives an award and is selected by a vote of qualified persons as determined by the Conference staff.
4. An all-tournament team will be selected from among the four (4) participating institutions at the site of the championship. Eleven (11) players will be selected – 10 at-large field players and a goalkeeper. One of the eleven will be designated Most Outstanding Player. A selection committee shall be comprised of the Sport Committee, staff and select media, with input from the sports information representatives of the four participating institutions.
5. The Conference staff produces a championship program. A press release previewing the tournament field is distributed a week prior to the championship.
6. Each Field Hockey student-athlete competing in the championship receives a gift from the Conference office, which is shipped to each head coach after the Field Hockey Championship.