

Bylaw 10

Awards – Honors - Championships

10.1 Awards. The Commissioner shall arrange for the budgeting, design, and distribution of all awards.

- A. Only Conference-approved awards, managed by the Commissioner, shall be permitted.
- B. Plaques. A championship plaque will be awarded to the following:
 - 1) The team winning the Conference Championship in each Conference sport.
 - 2) A Most Valuable Player shall be named in each Conference sport.
 - a) In select sports, the Conference will present multiple awards:
 - a female and male swimmer of the year
 - a female and male diver of the year
 - a female and male track athlete of the year
 - a female and a male field event athlete of the year.
 - b) In case of Co-MVP's, the Conference will pay for one MVP award except when there is a tie in a sport where points are the determining factor. In this case, the conference will provide for Co-MVP awards.
- C. Certificates. Certificates will be awarded for:
 - 1) All-Conference teams in each sport. Each certificate shall include the names of all athletes chosen for that sport.
 - 2) Honorable mention will not be included on award certificates.
 - 3) The Sports Representative shall complete and distribute the certificates.
- D. Coach of the Year. The Conference's voting representatives shall select two Coach of the Year recipients at the final Conference meeting of each year.
 - 1) A Coach of the Year shall be selected from among the women's and men's sports respectively. The gender of the coach shall not be considered.
 - 2) The voting representatives shall vote for each Coach of the Year from a slate of those nominated by their institution.
 - 3) Each college may submit one "Coach of the Year Nomination" form (see Appendix C) for each award. The form and any supporting information shall be submitted to the Commissioner at least seven days prior to the final Conference meeting of the year.
 - 4) Criteria for Selection.
 - a) Inspiration to athletes;
 - b) Leadership to athletes;
 - c) Integrity;
 - d) Sportsmanship;
 - e) Competency as a coach, not necessarily a winner, but one who best utilizes available material.

- f) Coaching in one or more Conference sports;
 - g) Only current year records will be considered;
- E. Character Champion Award. The Conference's voting representatives shall select two Character Champions of the Year at the final meeting of each year.
- 1) A Champion shall be selected from among the women's and men's sports respectively.
 - 2) The voting representatives shall vote for each Champion from a slate of those nominated by their institution.
 - 3) Each college may submit one "Character Champion Nomination" form (see Appendix C) for each award. The form and any supporting information shall be submitted to the Commissioner at least seven days prior to the final Conference meeting of the year.
 - 4) Criteria for Selection.
 - a) Sportsmanship, respect, caring, fairness, civility, honesty, integrity and responsibility shown through a specific action, ideally directed toward an opponent during competition.
 - b) Putting the team and teammates before oneself.
 - c) Acts as a positive role model.
 - 5) All nominations shall be named to the All-Conference Champion Character Team.
- F. Athletic Supremacy Award. The Conference shall annually recognize one of its members for athletic supremacy. The selection process and scoring shall be as follows:
- 1) The team's won/loss record in the Conference schedule shall determine the team's place, except in the sports of Cross Country, Swimming and Diving, and Track and Field in which placefinish at the Conference championship meet will determine each team's place.
 - 2) Points will be awarded to each participating college with ten (10) points awarded for first, eight (8) points for second, seven (7) points for third, etc. Colleges which do not field a team in that sport receive 0 points.

a) 1 st place	10 points
b) 2 nd place	8 points
c) 3 rd place	7 points
d) 4 th place	6 points
e) 5 th place	5 points
f) 6 th place	4 points
g) 7 th place	3 points
h) 8 th place	2 points
i) 9 th place	1 point
j) No team	0 points

3) In the sports of men's and women's water polo, that sport supplement dictates that the conference tournament will count twice that of the head-to-head conference games. Those totals (example below) will be tabulated to determine the regional playoff seeding and the order of finish for Athletic Supremacy tabulation using the table in subsection E.2) above:

<u>Head-to-head finish</u>		<u>Conference tournament finish</u>	
a) 1 st	8 points	1 st	16 points
b) 2 nd	6 points	2 nd	12 points
c) 3 rd	5 points	3 rd	10 points
d) 4 th	4 points	4 th	8 points
e) 5 th	3 points	5 th	6 points
f) 6 th	2 points	6 th	4 points
g) 7 th	1 point	7 th	2 points

- 4) When Conference colleges are hosted by another conference, those sports earn points on a similar scale depending on placefinish in that conference.
- 5) When the Conference hosts colleges from other conferences, those colleges shall occupy a placing and no points are awarded for the placing.
- 6) In case of ties, the points of the places where the tie occurs shall be added and divided equally between the tied teams.
- 7) The Conference shall provide a perpetual trophy symbolizing the award.
- 8) Football teams from the Conference are currently participating in three separate conferences. Placefinishes in each of the three conferences shall be tabulated according to subsections E.2) and E.3) above, with conference champions earning ten (10) points, eight (8) points for second, seven points (7) for third, etc.

10.2 All-Conference Selections. The Conference will honor those student-athletes who have achieved at the highest levels during Conference competition.

A. Each college's head coach or their designee shall meet with their sport's colleagues following the last scheduled Conference game to select an All-Conference Team and an Athlete of the Year. The All-Conference Team will consist of a first and second team and receive a certificate, while the Most Valuable Player will receive a plaque. The results shall be forwarded immediately to the Conference Commissioner by the Sport Representative. Final selections will be made by secret ballots.

10.3 Championships

A. Championships in all sports shall be determined on a winning percentage basis. Tie games shall be counted as one-half won and one-half game lost, unless a specific rule applies to the sport.

B. Conference Tie-Breaking Procedure for postconference berths:

- 1) No contests, other than COA postconference contests, may be played after the conclusion of the conference season. This includes a contest designed to break a tie in the Conference standings.
- 2) All sports must have a written tie-breaking procedure in their Sport Supplement to determine the conference representative(s) for postconference play.
- 3) For purposes of Conference honors and awards, co- or multi-champions shall be declared and the sport tie-breaking shall determine the Conference representative for postconference play. All teams tied for the championship shall receive awards.

C. Swimming and Track & Field may each conduct both a dual meet competition and Conference championship competition to determine a Conference champion in the two categories. If the same team wins both championships, only one set of awards shall be presented.