

## **BIG TEN SOFTBALL – TIEBREAK / SEEDING PROCESS AND PARAMETERS**

**Effective Date: Spring 2025**

### **Selection of Participants**

- A. All teams shall be seeded based on the ending conference standings.
- B. Tie games shall be counted in the conference standings as one-half win and one-half loss.
- C. If a team is on NCAA suspension, it shall not be eligible to participate in the conference tournament. If a team is not eligible for the tournament, then all eligible teams shall move up one place for the purpose of determining participant teams in the conference standings. *(Revised and effective 2/13)*

### **Tiebreaking Process and Parameters**

- A. Ties shall be considered separated when a team(s) emerges from the top, middle or bottom of the group and is awarded a seed(s).
- B. Once a seed is awarded, all remaining tied teams shall restart the tiebreak process at the first criteria.
- C. The first tiebreaker criteria shall be head-to-head results (as outlined below).
- D. A tie may be broken if not all teams competed against each other should one team beat all other teams within the tie (i.e. Team A is 2-0 versus Team B and C but Teams B and C did not compete against each other, Team A wins the tiebreaker).
- E. The higher winning percentage shall prevail when comparing records against a single team or group of teams, even if the number of games played against the team or group are unequal.

With consideration to the process outlined above, ties for seeding will be broken as follows:

- D. In case of a tie between two teams for any seed in the conference tournament, the tie breaker procedure is as follows *(Revised and effective 2/25)*:
  - 1. The winner of the game or series of games between the two teams shall receive the higher seeding spot.
  - 2. In the event these two teams divide a series between themselves or did not play, the team with the best winning percentage against all teams ending the season (tied or not) in positions 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12 for the tournament will receive the higher seeding spot. *(Revised and effective 2/18)*
  - 3. If the winning percentage of the two teams is still tied, seeding will be determined by the winner of the game or series of games between the team or teams in the number one seed first. If still tied, the number two seed. If still tied, the number three seed. This procedure will continue to be followed until such time as the tie is broken. *(Revised and effective 2/97)*
  - 4. If still tied, seeding shall be determined by utilizing the unpublished

national rankings (NCAA Softball RPI) available at the conclusion of all Big Ten play on the final Sunday of the regular season or by 7:00 p.m. CT, whichever occurs first. The team with the higher unpublished national ranking (NCAA Softball RPI) by the deadline will receive the higher seed. *(Revised and effective 2/25)*

- E. In the case of a tie between three or more teams for any seed in the conference tournament, the tie breaker procedure is as follows *(Revised and effective 2/25)*:
1. If three or more teams are tied, the best winning percentage in these head-to-head games determines the seeding for the softball tournament.
  2. If three or more teams are still tied, seeding will be determined by the best winning percentage against all teams ending the season (tied or not) in positions 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12 for the tournament including the first-place team. *(Revised and effective 2/13)*
  3. If three or more teams are still tied, seeding will be determined by the winner of the game or series of games between the team or teams in the number one seed first. If still tied, the number two seed. If still tied, the number three seed. This procedure will continue to be followed until such time as the tie is broken. *(Revised and effective 2/97)*
  4. If three or more teams are still tied, one team shall be eliminated from the three- way tie by utilizing the unpublished national rankings (NCAA Softball RPI available at the conclusion of all Big Ten play on the final Sunday of the regular season or by 7:00 p.m. CT, whichever occurs first. The team with the highest unpublished national ranking (NCAA Softball RPI) by the deadline will be awarded the seed. *(Revised and effective 2/25)*
- F. When determining seeding with three or more teams tied, when one team is eliminated from the group by the steps outlined in item E above then for the two remaining teams still tied, the order of seeding will be determined using the tie breaker procedure for two teams as outlined in item D above. In the event teams are separated by the steps outlined in item E above but there is still a tie(s) (i.e. two teams break away from two other teams in the case of a four-team tie), the initial tie is considered broken and the tie-breaker(s) shall begin again from the top (either with a two team tie or a repeat of a three or more team tie).