Section 5.

Members of the Conference shall abide by the following in interrupted athletic contests:

All personnel, including Athletic Directors, game officials, coaches, and game management personnel, shall use their best effort to ensure each Conference game is played to its conclusion. The Conference recognizes, however, emergencies and other unavoidable situations may arise that make a contest’s completion impossible or inadvisable. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, severe weather, natural or man-made disasters, power failure and spectator interference. When circumstances exist such that commencement or continuation of play would pose a threat to the safety of game participants, contests should be delayed, relocated, suspended, canceled, postponed or terminated (see definitions below).

1. Definitions:
2. Delay – to delay the start of a game until a later time. The home team Athletics Director or designee shall determine whether a game should be delayed to a later time on the same date.
3. Relocate – to change the location of competition. The home team Athletics Director or designee shall determine whether a game should be relocated on the same date. The decision shall be made in consultation with the visiting team. The alternate site must be in full compliance with all playing rules and regulations governing that sport, unless both institutions agree.
4. Suspend – to temporarily halt play for a short period of time once competition has begun. The decision to suspend a game and when to resume play shall be made by the game officials, in consultation with the game administrator.
5. Cancel – to nullify the game before or after it begins, to make no provision for rescheduling or for including the score or other statistics in team records. To declare a “no contest.”
6. Postpone – deferring the starting time to a later date, or suspending a contest after play has begun with a provision to resume at a later date with all scores and other statistics (point of interruption) carried forward when it is resumed.
7. Terminate – to end short of a designated time of play, officially record the final score and other statistics as a completed game, and make no provision to resume it at a later date.
8. All decisions to delay or relocate prior to the start of the contest shall be made by the home team Athletics Director or senior level administrator, in consultation with the game officials. All decisions to suspend a contest shall be made by the referee, in consultation with home team game management. Decisions to cancel, postpone or terminate a contest shall be made by the Commissioner in consultation with the Athletics Directors of involved teams.
9. In the event that a contest must be delayed, relocated, cancelled or postponed, every consideration shall be given and, if possible, decisions shall be made with the interest of the visiting team in mind so as to avoid unnecessary travel or expense by the visiting team.
10. If extenuating circumstances occur that prevent a contest from commencing or necessitate a contest be moved to an earlier start time, an earlier start date, and/or relocated within the same city, Athletics Directors of the participating institutions shall determine the date, time, and location of the contest by mutual agreement, subject to approval of the Commissioner, unless sport guidelines specify otherwise. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team’s refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
11. If a contest has been suspended, it must be resumed within two hours (or longer by mutual consent of the Athletics Directors of participating teams), otherwise it will be canceled, postponed or terminated at discretion of the Commissioner. Sports may have specific exceptions to this policy if provided in the playing rules. A suspended game shall not be resumed after midnight local time, or two hours following the point of suspension, whichever is later.

1. If a contest has been interrupted and cannot be resumed, a winner may be declared at discretion of the Commissioner if the contest has progressed to a "reasonable point of conclusion," which shall be based on the following:
	1. Football: Three quarters.
	2. Men’s and Women’s Soccer: 70 minutes.
	3. Volleyball: All completed sets in a game shall count toward the final result, as well as a partial set if a team has scored at least 20 points*.*
	4. Men’s Basketball: 30 minutes*.*
	5. Women’s Basketball: Three quarters*.*
	6. Baseball and Softball: Five innings.
2. If a forfeit is declared while a contest is in progress or a situation that forces premature end to the contest, all statistics (other than won/lost and coach's records) are voided unless the contest has progressed to a "reasonable point of conclusion."
3. In the event of spectator disruption, game officials have authority under the playing rules to suspend play for any reason. In the event of a disturbance of such character and proportions that it disrupts the game, the following actions should be taken:
4. The referee shall call a halt to the game (official's time out) and instruct each team captain to send his teammates to their respective benches. Coaches will make special efforts to see that players do not become involved in the disturbance by holding them in their respective team areas, or upon instruction, taking them to their respective locker rooms.
5. The referee will make note of the time and ball possession. The clock operator will freeze the game clock at that point. This being accomplished, the officials will return to the sidelines. The referee must make himself available to the game administrator for further instruction.
6. The game administrator will assume responsibility immediately after teams and officials have cleared the court. Under no circumstances are players, coaches or officials to become involved in the action.
7. Should the disturbance be of such proportions that a long delay is imminent, or such that it threatens the involvement and safety of players, coaches or officials, the teams and officials will be instructed by the game administrator to return to their respective locker rooms.
8. Teams and officials will remain in their respective locker rooms until the disturbance has been brought under control.
9. The game administrator will notify the referee after order has been restored, making play possible. If not, the facility will be cleared of spectators and the doors locked so that the game may resume.
10. The teams when returning to the floor/field will be allowed a 5-minute warm up period. Following that, the game will resume from the point it was stopped.
11. Should the disturbance be of such proportions that further play would be impossible, status of the game shall be determined by the Commissioner in consultation with Athletics Directors of the involved teams.
12. Football Specific Guidelines.
13. Prior to the Contest.
	1. If a football game is postponed prior to its start for any reason, it should be rescheduled for the following day (e.g., a Saturday game rescheduled for Sunday or Monday), if possible and when feasible. The two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest or cancel the contest as necessary. A team’s refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
	2. Prior to 60 minutes before scheduled kick-off, the home team Athletics Director or designee shall have authority to determine whether a contest should be delayed until a later time on the same date.
	3. At 60 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off, the decision to delay or suspend play shall become responsibility of the game officials.
14. Once the Contest Has Begun. If a football game is suspended after play has begun:
	1. The referee shall immediately stop the game and inform both coaches that the game is being suspended at the point of interruption.
	2. The referee shall inform the home team, and the umpire shall inform the visiting team, that ALL team personnel are required to go immediately to their respective locker rooms. This includes players, coaches, trainers, managers, cheerleaders, mascots, bands and any other persons who are responsibility of these particular institutions.
	3. Play may be resumed only when conditions are deemed safe by game officials in consultation with game management personnel (e.g., tornado warning has been lifted or lightning has abated in accordance with SAC Lightning Policy).
	4. If a contest is unable to be resumed, initial consideration should be given to the contest being resumed the following day (e.g., a Saturday game resumed on Sunday or Monday), if possible and when feasible. The two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have authority to either direct the contest to be resumed on a particular date and/or relocate, cancel or terminate the contest as necessary. A team’s refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
15. In the event a contest is delayed or suspended and it does not appear play will be resumed on that date, the Athletics Directors (or designee) of both participating institutions, game management personnel and the Conference Commissioner (if available) shall meet with the game officials in the officials’ locker room, or another suitable location nearby. The Commissioner has sole authority to declare a game canceled, postponed or terminated. If the Commissioner is not on site, the home team Athletics Director or designee shall contact the Commissioner. The home team game management, in consultation with the Commissioner, is responsible for disseminating information regarding such a decision to the teams, media and general public.