

GNAC SPORTS REGULATIONS

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Updated August 2021



1. PARTICIPATION

- 1.1. Member institutions shall observe the NCAA starting date for pre-season practice.
- 1.2. All member institutions fielding teams shall agree to participate for the championship.

2. SCHEDULE

- 2.1. Member institutions shall observe the NCAA starting date for pre-season practice.
- 2.2. Modification to the approved conference schedule may be made by filing a CHANGE OF SCHEDULE REQUEST with the conference office, signed by both participating athletic directors.
- 2.3. Starting times shall be determined by the host institution.

3. NCAA REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REPRESENTATION

- 3.1. Any conference member selected by the NCAA can participate regardless of conference standing.

4. CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS

- 4.1. See GNAC Bylaw Article 10, Section 1 in [Appendix B](#).

5. PLAYING RULES

- 5.1. Governed by current NCAA Soccer Rule Book.
- 5.2. All conference soccer matches shall be played on fields that meet the specifications of the NCAA Soccer Rule Book.

6. OFFICIALS

- 6.1. Assigned by the conference assignor(s).

7. EQUIPMENT

- 7.1. Host institution shall provide six game balls.
- 7.2. **Game ball:** for the 2021 season, the 2019, 2020 2021 Nike Merlin ball is acceptable for GNAC contests. Further, it is permissible to have a mix of the three versions utilized in any conference match.

8. GAME MANAGEMENT/CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

- 8.1. All teams are required to use the GNAC official visiting team travel form developed in the spring of 2013. The host institution shall make every effort to accommodate visiting team practice requests on the game field. **(Revised 4/13)**
- 8.2. All conditions for halftime shall be equitable (for example if during the halftime, the home team utilizes a locker room or tent, the visiting team shall be provided the same type of space). **(Revised 4/13)**
- 8.3. The game administrator shall introduce themselves to visiting coach during pre-game activities and advise coach of their location during the game. **(Revised 4/13)**
- 8.4. The rule to prevent fans from encroaching on participants along the sideline during the game shall be strictly enforced by game management. **(Revised 4/13)**
- 8.5. Host institution shall provide game staff. Staff shall include an official scorer, and staff member(s) located on the field at the half line to record game stats and signal (horn) for substitutes.
- 8.6. When two teams are present, each shall warm-up in the half of the field closest to their assigned team bench.
- 8.7. Teams involved in the second game of a doubleheader at GNAC sites are to have 30 minutes of warm-up on the game field prior to the start of introductions (this time period can be reduced by mutual agreement of the head coaches).
- 8.8. Pre-game protocol is according to the NCAA Soccer Rule Book (see [Appendix D and E](#)).

9. CONFERENCE CHAMPION INFORMATION

- 9.1. Championship trophies will be awarded to the regular season champion and the tournament champion. If two or more teams finish in a tie at the top of the regular season conference standings, co-champions will be declared and each team will be awarded a regular season trophy.
- 9.2. The winner of the post-season tournament will earn the conference AQ to the NCAA tournament.
- 9.3. Conference standings will be computed on a basis of three points for a win and one point for a tie. The top four teams (based on total points) will advance to the conference postseason tournament.
- 9.4. Seeding tiebreakers for the conference tournament are listed in [Appendix A](#).

10. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- 10.1. The host institution is responsible for game stats. Completed stats shall be made available immediately following the game and a copy of the electronic game file should be e-mailed to the visiting institution SID and the conference office as soon as possible at the conclusion of the contest.

11. ON-SITE VIDEO EXCHANGE AND SCOUTING REPORT POLICY

- 11.1. In-person scouting is allowed. **(Section originally added 5/09; Amended 5/10; 5/11)**
- 11.2. See [Appendix C](#) for the GNAC's video exchange protocol.

Appendix A

Seeding Tiebreakers for GNAC Championships

Two-Team Tiebreaker

1. Points won in head-to-head matches.
2. Aggregate scoring between the tied teams in head-to-head matches.
 - The two tied teams as a pair play each other twice. The winner is decided by adding together the scores from the two games – the aggregate score. If the aggregate score is tied, then the winner is the school that scored more goals on its opponent’s field (usually referred to as the “away goals rule.”).
3. Goal differential in all conference matches.
4. Goals against in all conference matches.
5. Goals for in all conference matches.
6. Points won against conference teams with a .500 win percentage or better.
7. Points won against conference teams with a .750 win percentage or better.
8. Start at the top of the standings and compare points won in head-to-head results with each team in the standings, working down the list until an advantage is gained.
 - When coming across a group of tied teams, total the points earned in all matches against the teams in that group before comparing.
9. Coin flip conducted by the conference office.

Three-Team Tiebreaker

1. Points won in all matches played between the teams involved in the tie.
2. Aggregate scoring between the tied teams in head-to-head matches.
 - The two tied teams as a pair play each other twice. The winner is decided by adding together the scores from the two games – the aggregate score. If the aggregate score is tied, then the winner is the school that scored more goals on its opponent’s field (usually referred to as the “away goals rule.”).
3. Goal differential in all conference matches.
4. Goals against in all conference matches.
5. Goals for in all conference matches.
6. Points won against conference teams with a .500 win percentage or better.
7. Points won against conference teams with a .750 win percentage or better.
8. Start at the top of the standings and compare points won in head-to-head results with each team in the standings, working down the list until an advantage is gained.
 - When coming across a group of tied teams, total the points earned in all matches against the teams in that group before comparing.
9. Random draw conducted by the conference office.

NOTE: If a tie involving three or more teams has separation, but two teams remain tied, use the two-team tiebreaker between those two teams. If a tie involving three or more teams has separation, but three or more teams remain tied, restart the tiebreaker process at the first step.

POINTS: Win – 3 pts.; Tie – 1 pt.; Loss – 0 pts.

Revised February 4, 2021

Appendix B

ARTICLE 10 CONDUCT AND SANCTIONS

Section 10.1. **Sportsmanlike Conduct.**

10.1.1. GNAC Code of Behavior

In upholding and acting upon the principles, traditions and responsibilities enunciated in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Statement of Philosophy, the Conference expects, and will insist upon, maintenance of commendably respectable standards of decorum and personal deportment of all players, coaches, officials and spectators at Conference contests. In this regard, Referees are recognized as fully in charge of such events, with full and undeniable authority to sustain such standards and take whatever enforcement or disciplinary actions, including declaration of game forfeiture, as are necessary and appropriate. Specifically; threatening, disruptive, unsportsmanlike, disrespectful, violent, harassing, and/or seriously distracting behavior will not be tolerated. In implementing this policy, the senior game official should, at the beginning of each game, clearly outline with the team captains and coaches the standards of behavior and decorum that will be upheld and enforced.

As a matter of Conference policy, all Referees have the full support of the Conference Commissioner's authority, as authorized by the Management Council and the CEO Board.

The Great Northwest Athletic Conference wishes to exemplify behavior of a kind that will deserve and command the respect and support of the public and campus communities which they represent and with which they relate, as well as the NCAA at large.

10.1.2. It shall be the responsibility of each institution to ensure that all individuals employed by or directly associated with the athletic programs of that institution conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner when representing their institution, especially at intercollegiate athletic contests.

10.1.3. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall subject the individual to disciplinary action. The institution with which the offending individual is associated may also be subject to disciplinary action if it is found that the institution's policies, action, or failure to act substantially contributed to the individual's misconduct.

10.1.4. Acts of Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Individual Penalties.

10.1.4.1. Acts of unsportsmanlike conduct shall include, but not be limited to: any person who strikes or physically abuses an official, opposing coach, player, or spectator. This person may be ejected from the contest and may be suspended for additional contests, as the Commissioner deems appropriate.

10.1.4.2. The following actions shall be subject to a public reprimand for the first offense and a suspension for one contest for an additional offense (a flagrant offense is subject to suspension on the first offense):

- a) Intentionally inciting participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
- b) Using obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action toward officials, opponents, or spectators.
- c) Publicly criticizing any game official, Conference personnel, another institution or its personnel.
- d) Acts of unsportsmanlike conduct not specifically described herein.

10.1.4.3. Any person who engages in negative recruiting by making statements to a prospective student-athlete, his/her parents, high school coach, or other persons interested in the prospective athlete which are derogatory of another member institution, its personnel, or its athletic program shall be subject to a public reprimand for the first offense, and to the suspension of the privilege of recruiting for one season for an additional offense.

10.1.5. Penalty Imposition and Appeal Procedures.

10.1.5.1. Whenever the Commissioner concludes that there has been a violation of this regulation, he/she shall impose the penalty prescribed above or, where he/she is given discretion as to penalty, he/she shall impose a penalty that he/she deems appropriate.

10.1.5.2. Whenever the Commissioner decides to impose a penalty, he/she shall first give notice of the decision to the individual and the institution involved. **(Revised 10/06)**

10.1.5.3. In the event that the individual or the institution feels that the penalty is inappropriate because the violation did not occur or because the penalty is excessive, there shall be the right to appeal the matter to the Appeals Committee. An intent to appeal must be filed in writing to the Commissioner's office within one working day of receipt of notice of the penalty imposed. Once notice of intent to appeal has been filed, the official, written appeal documents and supporting information must be received in writing by the Commissioner's office within two working days of receipt of notice of the penalty imposed. **[Revised 5/13]**

10.1.5.4. The Appeals Committee shall conduct a prompt hearing, giving the individual or institution opportunity to be heard. The Committee may reaffirm, set aside, or increase the penalty as is deemed appropriate, giving the individual or institution written notice of its decision and its reasons.

10.1.5.5. The Appeals Committee shall stay the penalty imposed by the Commissioner pending the decision. No public announcement of the penalty shall be made until the individual or institution fails to give notice of the desire to appeal within the time period specified in 10.1.5.3.

10.1.5.6. Whenever a penalty of suspension is imposed at or near the end of a season of competition, the penalty may be carried over into the next season of competition.

10.1.5.7. Definition of terms used in this bylaw.

- a) Suspension in the case of a player means that the player cannot participate in the designated number of contests but may practice.
- b) In the case of a coach, suspension means that the coach cannot be present in the playing arena for the designated number of contests but may conduct practice sessions.

Appendix C

VIDEO EXCHANGE PROTOCOL

Upload Deadlines

Tuesday Contests: No later than 10:00 a.m. (Pacific time) on Wednesday.

Wednesday & Thursday Contests: No later than 10:00 a.m. (Pacific time) on Friday.

Friday & Saturday Contests: No later than 10:00 a.m. (Pacific time) on Monday.

- The host institution is responsible for filming the contest and uploading it onto InStat as soon as possible following the contest. The match will be filmed from the midline as high up as possible.
- All GNAC institutions are responsible for completing training with InStat and complying with InStat system film requirements.
- It is required that the host institution provide the visiting team with a copy of the contest downloaded to a visiting team-provided flash drive or external hard drive after the completion of the contest. *(Revised 8/2016 by Management Council)*
- Only conference matches are required to be shared.
- The visiting school is not responsible for uploading the contest.
- If the video uploaded by a team is not complete or otherwise not in compliance, the team that noticed the error will contact the conference office AND the team not in compliance. The conference office will also notify the uploading team about the problem with its video. That team shall then be responsible to correct the problem to the extent possible by checking the original video for errors and re-uploading the video. It may be necessary to burn DVDs and overnight them to conference members, with priority placed on sending them to host and visiting school's opponents for the upcoming week. When overnighting DVDs, schools must ensure that they arrive the next day. Do not use campus mail.

Updated July 23, 2019

Appendix D

GNAC REGULAR SEASON TIMING PROTOCOL

Clock	Activity
60:00	Teams may begin warm-up
30:00	Game rosters exchanged (Medical Reentry information exchanged)
10:00	Captains and officials meet/ teams clear field
	Introduction of coaches and players
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Officials (to midfield)2. Visiting starters introduced (to midfield)3. Home starters introduced (to midfield)4. National anthem(s)<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. At U.S. venues, Canadian anthem first, U.S. anthem second*b. At Canadian venues, U.S. anthem first, Canadian anthem second*5. Teams shake hands<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Designated away team moves to shake designated home team's hands.
0:00	Game begins (45:00 on clock, counting down)
15:00	Halftime (start clock immediately when first half ends)
5:00	Second Half Lineups Ready for Pick up by SID
0:00/45:00	Kickoff/second half
Overtime Procedure	
5:00	Intermission after regulation time
2:00	Line up ready for pick up by SID
10:00	First overtime period (sudden victory)
2:00	Intermission
	Line up ready for pick up by SID
10:00	Second overtime period (sudden victory)

Warm-Up Time Between Games of Doubleheader

Per GNAC Management Council policy, teams involved in the second game of a doubleheader are guaranteed 30 minutes of on-field warm-up time prior to the field being cleared for pre-game introductions. (This 30-minute requirement can be reduced by mutual agreement between the participating head coaches).

**Both anthems are played only in matches involving Simon Fraser.*

8/20/21

Appendix E

GNAC SEVERE WEATHER TIMING PROTOCOL

To be used in cases of severe weather. Must be by mutual agreement of on-site game administrator, center referee and both head coaches.

Clock	Activity
60:00	Teams may begin warm-up
30:00	Game rosters exchanged (Medical Reentry information exchanged)
15:00 (this occurs while teams continue with pre-game warm-up)	Introduction of coaches and starters
5:00	Captains and officials meet/ teams clear field <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Teams/officials stand at attention on sideline2. National anthem(s)<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. At U.S. venues, Canadian anthem first, U.S. anthem second*b. At Canadian venues, U.S. anthem first, Canadian anthem second*3. Teams shake hands<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Designated away team moves to shake designated home team's hands.
0:00	Game begins (45:00 on clock, counting down)
15:00	Halftime (start clock immediately when first half ends)
5:00	Second Half Lineups Ready for Pick up by SID
0:00/45:00	Kickoff/second half
Overtime Procedure	
5:00	Intermission after regulation time
2:00	Line up ready for pick up by SID
10:00	First overtime period (sudden victory)
2:00	Intermission
	Line up ready for pick up by SID
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