

GNAC SPORTS REGULATIONS

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Updated Aug. 8, 2023



1. PARTICIPATION

- 1.1. 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.
- 2.4. For conference doubleheaders, there must be a mandatory 2.5 hours between listed start times (and a minimum 30-minute warmup for the teams in the second game unless reduced by mutual agreement of the head coaches).
- 2.5. Conference schedules will be developed by the conference office.

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 C](#).

5. PLAYING RULES

- 5.1. Governed by 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. The game ball for the 2023 season is the Wilson Vivido.

8. GAME MANAGEMENT/CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

- 8.1. 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)**
- 8.2. 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)**
- 8.3. 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)**
- 8.4. Host institution shall provide game staff. Staff shall include an official scorer, and staff member(s) located between the benches to operate the substitution table.
- 8.5. When two teams are present, each shall warm-up in the half of the field closest to their assigned team bench.
- 8.6. 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).
- 8.7. Pre-game protocol is according to the NCAA Soccer Rule Book (see Appendices E and F).

9. CONFERENCE REGULAR SEASON CHAMPION

- 9.1. A championship trophy will be awarded to the regular season 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. Note: should there be at least one “no contest” the standings will not be ordered by the points system but by average points per game (see Appendix B).
 - 9.3.1. Prior to finalizing the conference regular-season standings, nullification penalties for the use of ineligible players will be applied according to GNAC Bylaw 6.4 (and the nullification penalty chart approved annually by the GNAC Management Council).
- 9.4. Seeding tiebreakers for the conference tournament are listed in Appendices A and B.

10. CONFERENCE POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT

- 10.1. The top four teams in the final regular season standings will qualify for the conference postseason tournament.

- 10.2. In the semifinals, the No. 1 seed will play the No. 4 seed and the No. 2 seed will play the No. 3 seed. If the host institution advances to the tournament, it will be slotted in the second semifinal game. If the host institution does not advance to the tournament, the No. 1 vs. Nov. 4 matchup will be the second semifinal game. The semifinal winners will meet in the championship game.
- 10.3. The winner of the post-season tournament will earn the conference AQ to the NCAA tournament and receive the conference tournament trophy.

11. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- 11.1. 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.

12. ON-SITE VIDEO EXCHANGE AND SCOUTING POLICY

- 12.1. In-person scouting is allowed. **(Section originally added 5/09; Amended 5/10; 5/11)**
- 12.2. See Appendix D for the GNAC's video exchange protocol.

Appendix A

Seeding Tiebreakers for GNAC Championships

Note: the tiebreakers below are used if the entire conference schedule is played

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

ORDERING OF GNAC STANDINGS IF THERE IS AT LEAST ONE 'NO CONTEST'

Note: tiebreakers below supersede the tiebreakers used when the entire conference schedule is completed

- In the event that not all conference matches are completed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances resulting in at least one “no contest,” the ordering of the final conference standings will be by average points per match (total points divided by the number of matches played).

EXAMPLE

Team A – 7-3-2 – 23 Points = 1.92

Team B – 6-3-1 – 19 Points = 1.90

Team C – 7-4-1 – 22 Points = 1.83

Team D – 6-4-1 – 19 Points = 1.73

Team E – 6-4-2 – 20 Points = 1.67

- If there is a tie between two or more teams for postseason advancement, the following tiebreakers shall be utilized in rank order:

1. Performance indicator in conference matches.
 - Performance indicator shall follow the formula utilized by the NCAA Championships Committee.
2. Points (3 for a win, 1 for a tie) against common conference opponents at common sites.
 - If Team A and Team B host Team C, that is considered both a common opponent and a common site even though the host site for Team A and Team B is different. Likewise, if Team C hosts both Team A and Team B at different sites, since Team C is still the host team, it will be considered a common site.
3. Goal differential against common conference opponents at common sites.
4. Head-to-head conference match results between the tied teams.
5. Coin toss.

NOTE: *If there is a separation of one or more teams, but two or more teams remain tied, then restart the tiebreaker process with the teams that remain tied to complete the rank order of all tied teams in the group.*

Approved By Soccer Tiebreaker Subcommittee, May 2020

Appendix C

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 D

VIDEO EXCHANGE PROTOCOL

Upload Deadlines

- The host institution is responsible for filming the contest and uploading it onto HUDL following the contest.
- All Conference Contests:
 - On-Site Video: It is preferred that the host institution provide the visiting team with a copy of the contest downloaded to a visiting team-provided flash drive, SD card, or external hard drive after the competition of the contest onsite. If the onsite exchange is not available coaches will have access to the video link provided post-game.
 - Coaches Video Link: Game film meeting the HUDL breakdown requirements will be emailed to the coaches via a link to YouTube or another online link within 4 hours after the conclusion of the contest. External hard drives/ SD cards will not be exchanged on site.
 - HUDL Upload: Game film meeting the HUDL breakdown requirements will be posted to HUDL within 12 hours after the conclusion of the contest.

Video Recording Requirements

- The host institution is responsible for making sure the match film is recorded in accordance with the “breakdown requirements” set forth by HUDL (See Attachment.)
- The video used for the coach’s video exchange can only be the same as the live stream if it meets the HUDL breakdown requirements. The rationale for the need to use two different cameras is that for a live stream the preferred filming view is 1/3 and zoomed in while for a HUDL/Coaches film 2/3 of the field needs to be viewed for accurate breakdown. It can not be guaranteed that the live stream will meet the requirements of HUDL.

Post Match Requirements

- 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.
- If there is an issue with the video itself or the ability to upload the video by the mandated deadline, the video coordinator shall notify the entire video exchange coordinator group of the issues and the steps being taken to remedy the issue.

Updated August 2, 2022

Appendix E

GNAC REGULAR SEASON TIMING PROTOCOL

60:00	Teams may begin warm-up on the field in front of their bench
30:00	Game rosters submitted to official scorekeeper Medical re-entry documentation submitted, if applicable Referee inspects game balls
10:00	Teams clear field Captains and officials meet for coin toss Introduction of officials, coaches and players (international walkout) <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*
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 pickup by host SID
0:00/45:00	Kickoff/second half

Overtime Procedure

Note: there is no overtime during the regular season.

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. If it is a doubleheader the anthem(s) will be played prior to the first game.*

Updated 7/17/22 from 2022-23 NCAA Soccer Rule Book

Appendix F

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 on the field in front of their bench
30:00	Game rosters submitted to official scorekeeper Medical re-entry documentation submitted Referee inspects game balls
15:00	Introduction of starting lineups (this occurs while teams continue with on-field pre-game warmup)
5:00	Teams clear field
	Captains and officials meet for coin toss National anthem(s) <ul 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*
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 pickup by host SID
0:00/45:00	Kickoff/second half

Note: effective in 2022, there is no overtime during the regular season.

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. If it is a doubleheader the anthem(s) will be played prior to the first game.*

Updated 7/17/22 from 2022-23 NCAA Soccer Rule Book