

GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 **RECOGNIZED SPORTS**

Section 1.1 **Required Core Sports.**

1.1.1. Each member institution is required to compete in the following sports:

Women: Basketball, Cross Country, Volleyball

Men: Basketball, Cross Country

Section 1.2. **Official Conference Sports.**

1.2.1. Official Conference sports are those sponsored by at least six member institutions. A waiver to the six-member rule may be granted by approval of a majority vote of the Management Council. See sponsored sports list in Appendix B of the GNAC Constitution. **(Revised 10/04).**
Note: Currently football, baseball and men's and women's golf have been granted waivers **(Revised 05/07; 05/10).**

1.2.2. All member institutions must compete in the Conference sports which the institution sponsors unless the Management Council grants an exception. A member institution desiring an exception to the conference sports participation rule shall submit a petition requesting an exception. An exception must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Management Council and is subject to reconsideration at the end of each calendar year.

1.2.3. Each member institution shall compete against member institutions as scheduled each season in each of the Conference sports in which it is participating.

1.2.4. Member institutions agree that their primary responsibility and loyalty are to this Conference, including priorities in the scheduling of athletic events, participation in Conference championships and events, and as representatives of this Conference to NCAA-sponsored championships and extra events.

Section 1.3. **Elimination of Sports.**

1.3.1. A member institution may not drop a currently sponsored NCAA conference sport without prior approval, requiring two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Management Council and CEO Board. **(Revised 4/06; Revised 10/07).**

1.3.2. Should the elimination of a sport by a member institution affect the Conference sports championships criteria, the minimum sports requirements for championships, the minimum number of championships required, or automatic qualification for national championships, it is imperative that formal discussions occur at a regularly scheduled Conference meeting prior to final institutional action. The Commissioner may initiate such discussions.

Section 1.4. **Exclusivity.** A Conference institution may not participate as a member in any other conference in a sport recognized and sponsored by the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

Section 1.5. **Championships.**

1.5.1. The GNAC Champion will be the team with the best won-loss record in GNAC play unless otherwise designated by the Management Council.

- 1.5.2. A conference champion will be named in each GNAC sponsored sport.
- 1.5.3. In sports where automatic berths are awarded for national postseason play, the NCAA representative for postseason play shall be the GNAC champion as outlined in the respective Sport Regulations.
- 1.5.4. Playing rules, tiebreakers, and conditions for all conference championships shall be governed as set forth in the Sports Regulations.
- 1.5.5. The Conference Office shall approve the site for all conference championship events. The host institution will submit information concerning the proposed site to the Management Council at least 18 months prior to the event. **(Added 10/07)**

ARTICLE 2 CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER

Section 2.1. Selection and Terms of Employment.

- 2.1.1. The Conference shall employ a Chief Administrative Officer known as the "Commissioner."
- 2.1.2. The CEO Board shall approve the contract terms and the selection of the Commissioner.
- 2.1.3. The Commissioner shall be employed on a two-year contract unless otherwise provided by agreement, with tenure in office continuing for a period such as the CEO Board may determine.
- 2.1.4. The term of employment of the Commissioner shall commence July 1, unless otherwise provided by agreement.
- 2.1.5. The Management Council shall evaluate the Commissioner annually with the results forwarded to the CEO Board for review.
- 2.1.6. Prior to the expiration of the Commissioner's contract, the CEO Board shall determine whether the contract shall be renewed, unless otherwise provided by agreement.

Section 2.2. Acting Commissioner.

In the case of a vacancy prior to the expiration of the term of the contract held by the Commissioner, a special meeting of the Management Council shall be called by the President, within four (4) calendar weeks, to consider and recommend to the CEO Board the appointment of an acting Commissioner.

Section 2.3. Responsibilities of the Commissioner:

- 2.3.1. Serve as chief administrative officer of the Conference under the authority of the CEO Board.
- 2.3.2. Serve as the principal enforcement officer of the Conference rules, regulations and agreements, and is responsible to initiate investigations of any member or institution when there is sufficient evidence presented of potential NCAA or Conference violations, or if they have been officially notified by the NCAA, or by another institution, of alleged violations.
- 2.3.3. Serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Conference, including but not limited to preparing a semi-annual financial report and providing for an annual audit of Conference records.
- 2.3.4. Serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the CEO Board, the Management Council, all advisory groups, all standing and ad hoc committees, and sports' committees, unless otherwise specified.

- 2.3.5. Promote the general welfare of the Conference at all times, studying the problems of the Conference and offering advice and guidance to the members in the solution of those problems.
- 2.3.6. Conduct, through the press, radio, television, periodicals, meetings, and the general service of this office, on-going educational programs looking toward the development of scholarship, sportsmanship, and understanding of the values of competitive athletics, and exert all reasonable effort to acquaint the public with the ethics and high ideals which motivate the Conference in its conduct of intercollegiate athletics.
- 2.3.7. Interpret and enforce NCAA and Conference rules and regulations, as well as interpret and rule upon Eligibility Regulations, sending copies of the Commissioner's interpretations and rulings to the Faculty Athletic Representatives and athletics administrators. In addition, the Commissioner shall:
 - a) Manage the Letter of Intent program.
 - b) Recommend changes deemed advisable in the Bylaws and Sports Regulations.
- 2.3.8. Act as the liaison between the Conference and representatives of the media, taking responsibility for the administration of Conference policies involving television, radio, and related programs.
- 2.3.9. Schedule and supervise all Conference championships.
- 2.3.10. Represent the Conference in external affairs, maintaining a liaison with, and assuming a leadership role in, organizations that promote the continued growth and development of men's and women's athletics, and serve as the official delegate of the Conference to the NCAA Convention.
- 2.3.11. Perform such duties as directed by the CEO Board, the Management Council, or the President within their specific roles.
- 2.3.12. Exercise all powers necessary for the effective performance of the Commissioner's duties, including, but not limited to:
 - a) The disqualification of players, coaches, officials, and/or administrators.
 - b) Ruling on all hardship cases as required.

Section 2.4. Administrative Duties of the Commissioner:

- 2.4.1. Issue the call for meetings.
- 2.4.2. Provide for the keeping and distribution of the minutes of all CEO Board, Management Council, and committee meetings.
- 2.4.3. Maintain and distribute historical and statistical records to Conference members for all Conference athletic competition, and provide for the performance of all duties associated with the sports information function of a conference office.
- 2.4.4. Supervise the training, selection, and assignment of game officials for conference sports as directed by the membership.
- 2.4.5. Maintain a compilation of precedents and interpretations of NCAA and Conference rules and regulations.
- 2.4.6. Prepare the regular season Conference schedules as directed by the membership and in accordance with prescribed Conference guidelines, with the assistance of coaches, administrative, and ad hoc committees as required.

- 2.4.7. Arrange for the fall, winter, and spring Conference meetings, and for other meetings authorized by the Management Council.
- 2.4.8. Prepare and distribute the reporting forms required by Conference rules and regulations.
- 2.4.9. Prepare the annual budget of the Conference Office and related fiscal data at the direction of the Budget and Finance Committee.
- 2.4.10. Select, employ, and supervise the Conference Office staff.
- 2.4.11. Annually evaluate staff with input from the Management Council.
- 2.4.12. Present an annual report to the Management Council.

ARTICLE 3 COMMITTEES

Section 3.1. Standing Committees.

- 3.1.1 Appeals Committee. The committee shall be composed of five or six athletic directors and five or six faculty athletic representatives selected by the Management Council for a two-year term (**See Appendix C of GNAC Constitution**). During each term, each GNAC member school will be represented on the committee either by its athletic director or its FAR. Each institution's representative will rotate between its athletic director and FAR during each subsequent term of the committee. The committee shall also include two Compliance Coordinators selected out of the current rotation. The Compliance Coordinators shall serve in an advisory, non-voting capacity. The committee shall rule on cases submitted to it by the Conference office, including waiver requests related to satisfactory progress, appeals of rulings on unsportsmanlike conduct and in cases of GNAC or NCAA rules violations in which the committee may determine which teams and/or individuals will represent the conference in post-season play. The institutional representative of the accused or petitioning institution shall present the appeal and be available to answer questions from the Appeals Committee but will be recused from further Committee discussion and any voting. Rulings of the committee shall be by majority vote of those present and eligible to vote, and shall be final. In case of a tie, the Commissioner will cast the tie-breaking vote [**Revised 10/04; Revised 10/07; Revised 5/13**].
 - 3.1.2 Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall consist of at least three athletic administrators. The Committee shall audit expenditures annually, make recommendations for future year budgets, and make recommendations on all financial issues to the Management Council. (Constitution 3.3.7.2.)
- (**Note:** Original Section 3.1.3 concerning Scheduling and Championship Committee was deleted 10/04).
- 3.1.3 Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall consist of at least one faculty athletic representative and two athletic administrators. The Committee shall study the rules and regulations and recommend necessary revisions to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Sports Regulations, as directed by the Management Council and the NCAA.

Section 3.2. Advisory Groups.

- 3.2.1. Faculty Athletic Representatives (FAR) Group. The FAR Group shall consist of the NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative from each institution. The Chair of the FAR Group shall be selected by the FAR Group and shall serve on the Management Council as an ex-officio non-voting member per Constitution 3.3.6.1. The FAR Group shall address academic concerns and the welfare of student-athletes and make recommendations to the Management Council.
- 3.2.2. Senior Women's Administrators (SWA) Group. The SWA Group shall consist of a senior woman administrator from each institution. The Chair of the SWA Group shall be selected by the SWA Group and shall serve on the Management Council as an ex-officio non-voting

member per Constitution 3.3.6.2. The SWA Group shall address issues and concerns deemed appropriate by the group and make recommendations to the Management Council.

- 3.2.3. Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee shall consist of one qualified undergraduate student-athlete from each institution. The Chair of the Committee shall be selected by the SAAC Group and shall serve on the Management Council as an ex-officio non-voting member per Constitution 3.3.6.3. The Committee shall address the issues and concerns of the student-athletes at their institutions and as competitors in the Conference and make recommendations to the Management Council.
- 3.2.4. Compliance Coordinators Group. The Compliance Coordinators Group shall consist of the NCAA compliance coordinator from each institution. The Chair shall be selected by the Compliance Coordinators Group. The Group shall address eligibility concerns and the welfare of student-athletes and make recommendations to the Management Council.
- 3.2.5. Sports Information Directors (SID) Group. The SID Group shall consist of the Sports Information Director from each institution. Members of the committee shall name the Chair of the Sports Information Group. The SID Group shall address conference concerns in the area of sports information and make recommendations to the Management Council.
- 3.2.6. Athletic Trainers Committee. The Athletic Trainers Committee shall consist of the head certified athletic trainer (ATC) or designee from each institution. Members of the committee shall name the Chair of the Athletic Trainers Committee. The chair shall serve for a two-year term. The Committee shall address medical issues, competitive safeguards, and other athletic training concerns and make recommendations to the Management Council. (**Revised 10/04; Revised 10/07**).

Section 3.3. **Ad Hoc Committees**.

- 3.3.1. The CEO Board or the Management Council may establish ad hoc committees as needed to conduct the business of the Conference.
- 3.3.2. The CEO Board Chair or the Management Council President shall appoint members of ad hoc committees, name the chair, define the goals of the committee, specify the term of appointment, and establish the reporting procedure for special committees.
- 3.3.3. An Ad Hoc Committee shall become a Standing Committee if, by a two-thirds vote of the Management Council, that committee is deemed appropriate to the continuing operation of the Conference.

Section 3.4. **Sport Committees**.

- 3.4.1. Each Conference-sponsored sport shall have a Committee. Membership on each committee shall be the head coach of the respective sport.

ARTICLE 4 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Section 4.1. **Official Meetings**.

- 4.1.1. **Sites and Dates**. The sites and dates of official meetings of the Management Council for the next year shall be determined at the spring meeting of the Conference.
- 4.1.2. **Agenda**. The Commissioner shall request items for the agenda of official meetings, prepare and distribute the agenda for such meetings three weeks prior to the date of the meeting.
- 4.1.3. **Minutes**. Minutes of official meetings shall be distributed to the CEO and the institutional representatives of each member institution and filed in the Conference office.

- 4.1.4. **Order of Business.** The order of business at each official Management Council meeting of the Conference shall be:
1. Roll Call
 2. Approval of the agenda
 3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
 4. Report of CEO Board Chair
 5. Report of the President
 6. Report of the Commissioner
 7. Report of the Advisory Groups
 8. Report of Sport Committees
 9. Report of Standing Committees and Ad hoc Committees
 10. Unfinished business
 11. New business

Section 4.2. **Representatives.** Voting representatives for each of the following groups are designated as follows:

- 4.2.1. **Management Council.** Delegates are normally the Director of Athletics at the member institution. The institution may designate another athletic department administrator.

Section 4.3. **Rules of Order.** The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Conference in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Conference.

Section 4.4. **Types of Meetings.** Meetings may be held in person, on a conference call or via other electronic medium. Voting may be verbal, by roll call, by fax, or by other electronic medium.

Section 4.5. **Sport Committee Meetings.** (Revised 10/03)

- 4.5.1. Unless specified otherwise in a Sports Regulation, each of the sport committees shall meet twice annually, including at least one face-to-face meeting. (Revised 10/04).

- 4.5.2. The chair of each of the sports committees shall be elected by the Conference coaches of that sport and serve for a period of two years. Sport chairs whose terms have expired are not immediately eligible for re-election. (Revised April 2012)

Section 4.6. **Expense of Meetings.** The expense of delegates to official meetings of the Conference shall be paid as prescribed in Article 5 of these Bylaws.

Section 4.7. **Meeting Format.** The format for conducting Conference business is intended to accommodate a wide variety of organizational structures as might be deemed appropriate on the campuses of various institutions. In no case should the organization and method of conducting Conference business be deemed as dictating organizational structure to member institutions.

Section 4.8. **Sport Chair Responsibilities.**

1. Serve as a facilitator and advocate for your sport and peers.
2. Assist commissioner's office in developing agenda for coaches' meeting(s).
3. Assist commissioner's office with paperwork required by conference and national organizations.
4. Keep commissioner's office and AD liaison informed of current issues in your sport.

ARTICLE 5 FINANCES

Section 5.1. **Annual Dues.**

- 5.1.1. Prior to the winter meeting, the Commissioner shall submit to the Finance Committee a proposed budget showing the income projections and the general operating expenses of the Conference for the subsequent fiscal year. The Finance Committee shall review the proposal and submit its recommendation to the Management Council for review and approval during the

winter meeting. Upon endorsement of the CEO Board, this budget shall be the basis for the annual dues to be paid by each member institution.

- 5.1.2. The annual dues from each member institution will be invoiced on July 1 and are due August 15. The penalty for late payment of the annual dues is one percent each month, assessed for any portion of a month beyond October 1.

Section 5.2. **Special Assessments.** Special assessments may be levied by the Management Council to cover the expense of special projects or for any other purpose approved by a majority of the CEO Board.

Section 5.3. **General Fund.**

- 5.3.1. All income from dues, the NCAA enhancement funds, or from other Conference activities shall be placed in a general fund and be available to pay the expense of Conference operations.
- 5.3.2. The Commissioner is authorized to pay the expenses of the operation of the Conference as authorized by budget appropriations from the general fund. Written approval by the Management Council President is required for an expenditure exceeding \$5,000.
- 5.3.3. Any part of the general fund not needed for current operating expenses of the Conference shall be placed in an interest-bearing account with the interest income added to the general fund.

Section 5.4. **Audit.** Per NCAA requirements, the financial records of the Conference shall be annually audited by a Certified Public Accountant. The Finance Committee shall review the audit and make recommendations deemed appropriate. [Revised 5/08; 5/13]

Section 5.5. **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the Conference shall be from July 1 to June 30 inclusive.

Section 5.6. **Conference Meeting Expense.**

- 5.6.1. The expenses of the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners, and the Conference Information Director to attend designated official Conference and sports meetings shall be paid by the Conference, if attendance is requested. (Revised 10/03)
- 5.6.2. All expenses incurred for attendance at official meetings by institutional representatives and coaches shall be paid by the institution.

Section 5.7. **Apportionment of Income from NCAA National Events.** The participating team in an NCAA National Championship event may receive expenses as provided by the NCAA Regulations without sharing these funds with other Conference members.

ARTICLE 6 ELIGIBILITY AND HARDSHIP

Section 6.1. **Eligibility Rules.**

- 6.1.1. All member institutions will conduct their intercollegiate athletic programs in compliance with all eligibility rules adopted by the NCAA and the Conference.
- 6.1.2. Following the completion of 24 semester or 36 quarter hours, a student-athlete must achieve a cumulative 2.0 GPA to be certified eligible for competition each year (Revised 10/05)
- 6.1.3. The Conference will use NCAA eligibility ByLaws except as modified by 6.1.2. (Revised 10/05)

Section 6.2. **Hardship and Conference Transfer Waiver Review.** The Commissioner shall receive requests for medical hardships and conference transfer waivers on a Conference form. The FAR executive committee shall act upon all such cases submitted and the Commissioner shall subsequently report the decisions to the membership.

Section 6.3. **Eligibility Sanction.** After an investigation by the Commissioner, a student-athlete who may be ineligible will be withheld from further competition until his/her eligibility is resolved.

6.3.1 In addition to NCAA sanction, any contests, individual or team, in which an ineligible student-athlete participates, may be forfeited and the individual and team standings will be revised as timely and necessary.

6.3.2 A student-athlete may be declared ineligible for the same number of contests in which the student-athlete competed while ineligible under the rules of the Conference and the NCAA. Such penalty shall take effect the first season in which the student-athlete becomes eligible following the ineligible competition.

Section 6.4. **Appeals.**

6.4.1 In the event a member institution or an individual student-athlete is dissatisfied with the disposition of a conference ruling, the institution or student-athlete may appeal the disposition by requesting a hearing via a conference call with the Appeals Committee. The request for appeal shall be made in writing to the Commissioner within 10 days of the decision. The Committee will schedule the appeal hearing within a reasonable period of time. The institution or student-athlete may be represented by counsel or other advisor. The counsel or advisor is allowed to address the Committee. The Commissioner shall explain the decision and the basis for it. The formal rules of evidence do not apply. The proceedings are closed to the public. The Committee shall decide whether to affirm the original decision or modify it. The Committee's decision shall be final. The penalty will not be enforced until the resolution of the appeal. (Revised 10/07)

6.4.2 It shall be the responsibility of the Commissioner to provide the institution and/or the student-athlete with a written statement indicating the basis for the Appeals Committee's action within ten (10) calendar days of the appeals hearing.

ARTICLE 7 RECRUITING

Section 7.1. **Rules Governing Recruiting.**

7.1.1. Member institutions shall abide by all sections and interpretations of Article 13 of the Bylaws of the NCAA, Division II, governing the recruitment of student-athletes.

7.1.2. Any intra-GNAC transfer must fulfill a residence requirement of one full academic year at the institution to which they transfer to before they are eligible to compete for the institution and are not eligible to receive athletic financial aid during their year of academic residency. This year of residency applies even if the student-athlete graduates prior to transferring. However, all exceptions listed in NCAA Bylaw 14.5.5.3 may be applied except 14.5.5.3.9 (One-Time Transfer Exception). For purposes of the GNAC transfer rule, signing a national letter-of-intent, signing an institutional athletics aid agreement, or participation in one or more team practices constitutes identification with the institution. If an institution releases an athlete from a letter-of-intent prior to the athlete participating in one or more practices, the athlete is not subject to the conference transfer rule (Revised 10/05; 10/07; 11/08; 5/13)

7.1.2.1. Exemption: Student-athletes may be exempted from this bylaw if they wish to transfer to another institution within the conference to participate in a sport not offered at their present institution.

7.1.2.2 Waivers to Bylaw 7.1.2 may be granted under exceptional circumstances (e.g., death of a family member, exceptional health needs, etc). In addition to any exceptional circumstance, appeals will be considered for the following circumstances: (a) educational exchange, (b) discontinued academic program, (c) discontinued or non-sponsored sport, (d) two-year non-participation, and (e) return to original institution without participation. If an individual feels as though his or her situation is an exceptional circumstance and is not listed above, the individual may apply for a waiver. A letter from the student-athlete stating specific reasons for the

transfer request and accompanied by appropriate letters of support shall be submitted to the Commissioner. The Commissioner will submit for approval all waiver requests to the FAR executive committee. (Revised 10/04; 5/05; 5/13)

Section 7.2. **Letter of Intent.**

- 7.2.1. The Conference shall participate in the National Letter of Intent program.
- 7.2.2. It shall be the responsibility of the institution to forward one copy of the signed Letter of Intent and the institution's financial aid offer to the Commissioner. (Revised 10/04).
- 7.2.3. The Commissioner shall compile a list of all student-athletes signing letters of intent and post the list on the conference web site in a timely manner. (Revised 10/04)
- 7.2.4. If a prospective student-athlete fails to meet the entrance requirements or the academic requirements for financial aid of the institution with which he/she signed the letter of intent, the student-athlete and the conference office shall be so notified immediately by the member institution that the agreement is null and void. (Revised 10/04).

ARTICLE 8 CONDUCTING CONFERENCE EVENTS

Section 8.1. **Schedules.**

- 8.1.1 The Sports Regulations shall stipulate scheduling procedures for each sport.
- 8.1.2 The Management Council shall approve conference schedules. Once approved, changes of any schedules require the consent of participating schools and approval of the Commissioner.

(Note: Section on contracts, previously numbered, 8.2, eliminated 5/04)

Section 8.2. **Delay or Termination of Conference Events.** (Revised 5/05)

- 8.2.1. The following are recognized as legitimate causes for delay or termination of a Conference contest:
 - a) Weather or other travel conditions causing delay in timely arrival at the game site.
 - b) Failure of electrical power or other services necessary for the continuance of a contest.
 - c) Conduct or condition of any persons is such that the health or safety of persons in attendance is in jeopardy.
- 8.2.2 The host athletic administrator and/or the chief game official shall determine when a contest is to be delayed, terminated, or resumed.
- 8.2.3 A contest delayed by conditions presented in Bylaw 8.2.1 shall be played on the date scheduled regardless of the length of the delay unless it cannot be resumed by a reasonable time as determined by the host athletic administrator in consultation with the chief game official. (Revised 10/05)
- 8.2.4 If a contest cannot be completed on the date scheduled or on a date agreed to by both members, the contest shall be terminated and not count as win, loss, or tie for either team, unless specified otherwise in the sports regulations.

Section 8.3. **Responsibility of Home Management.** It is the responsibility of the host institution to provide conditions and facilities conducive to the proper administration of the Conference contest and consistent with the highest standards of sportsmanship.

- 8.3.1 Undergraduate students may not be employed to fill official positions at GNAC-hosted basketball games. (New Section 10/05)

- 8.3.2 GNAC shirts must be worn by anyone employed in an official position at GNAC hosted volleyball or basketball games. (New Section 10/05)
- Section 8.4. **Trainer and Training Room Services.** Training room facilities and the services of a certified athletic trainer will be provided by the host institution for all GNAC sports in accordance with conference guidelines. (See Athletic Training Regulations). Trainers from visiting schools shall not travel to GNAC events except for football unless special circumstances exist. (Revised 10/04)
- Section 8.5. **Pre-Game or Contest Information.**
- 8.5.1 The following standard starting times shall be in effect for all conference contests: **Volleyball** – 7 p.m. **Basketball (single game)** – 7 p.m. **Basketball (doubleheader)** – 5:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The host school shall designate which game begins at 5:15 p.m. Any changes to the standard time may be made by filing a CHANGE OF SCHEDULE form with the conference office, signed by both participating athletic directors. Starting times for non-conference contests and for sports not included in this section shall be determined by the host institution. (Revised 10/4; Revised 10/07; 11/08)
- 8.5.2 It is the responsibility of the athletic administrator of the host institution to provide information to the athletic administrator of the visiting team regarding access to the facilities, dressing room accommodations, starting time, and any special arrangements such as pre-game or contest ceremonies or other information important to the planning of the visiting team. This information shall be made available at least one week prior to the event.
- Section 8.6. **Courtesies to Visiting Groups from Member Institutions.** All requests for special consideration for groups from member institutions shall be made by the director of athletics of the visiting team to the director of athletics of the host institution.
- Section 8.7. **Conveying Information to Non-Conference Opponents.** Staff members of member institutions shall not provide or exchange information in any form with representatives of non-Conference opponents that may be used for scouting purposes or to the disadvantage of any member institution's athletic teams.
- Section 8.8. **Conference Publicity and Statistical Service.**
- 8.8.1 The Conference shall maintain a Conference publicity and statistical bureau and all releases regarding official business of the Conference shall be released at the discretion of the Commissioner.
- 8.8.2 It shall be the responsibility of the host institution to file statistical reports covering each Conference contest with the Conference information director (CID) immediately following each contest
- 8.8.3 Specific statistical and publicity responsibilities of member institutions shall be stated in the Sports Regulations for each sport.
- Section 8.9. **Complimentary Tickets.**
- 8.9.1 The Conference members will not provide complimentary tickets (Revised 10/07)
- 8.9.2 The Conference will issue GNAC ID cards that allow for admission to any Conference contest (including Conference Championship events). The ID cards will be issued to coaches, assistant coaches and athletic and university administrators (as requested) at each institution. (Revised 10/03; Revised 10/07)
- 8.9.3 Pass lists may not be used (except for certified media personnel) at Conference Championship events without prior approval of the Conference office. (New Section 10/07)
- Section 8.10. **Radio Policy.**

- 8.10.1 Conference institutions shall file with the Commissioner the name of their designated radio station one month prior to the start of the sport season to be broadcast.
- 8.10.2 Each member institution shall provide a courtesy line for radio broadcasts by visiting institutions when requested.

ARTICLE 9 **ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS, COACH OF THE YEAR, AND AWARDS**

Section 9.1. **All-Conference Teams.**

- 9.1.1 The balloting will be conducted by the Conference Office for all official conference sports.
- 9.1.2 There is no limit on the number of players coaches may nominate from their own team. (Revised 10/05)
- 9.1.3 In the selection of the All-Conference teams that are decided by a vote of the coaches, each coach will rank the nominees from his/her team, for example, 1 through 4 (if four nominees) and those rankings shall appear on the ballot to guide the other coaches in their voting.
 - 9.1.3.1. Nominations shall be solicited from coaches with two weeks left in conference play, with the coaches receiving the ballots during the last week of conference play, and returning them following the final weekend of regular-season play at a time to be determined by the conference information director.
- 9.1.4. The following criteria will be used for All-Conference selection: a) Participation in at least fifty percent (50%) of Conference contests.
- 9.1.5. Coaches may not vote for his/her own players.
- 9.1.6. The Conference Office shall distribute a ballot to the coaches.
- 9.1.7. Sport-specific balloting.
 - 9.1.7.1. Volleyball: Fourteen (14) players shall be named to the All-Conference Team with the remaining nominees receiving votes will be recognized as Honorable Mention. The first and second team shall each include one (1) libero.
 - 9.1.7.2. Men's Basketball: Twelve (12) players shall be named to the All-Conference Team with the first six (6) earning First Team honors and the second six (6) earning Second Team honors. The remaining nominees receiving votes will be recognized as Honorable Mention.
 - 9.1.7.3. Women's Basketball: Twelve (12) players will be named to the All-Conference teams with the top six making up the First Team and next six the Second Team. The remaining nominees receiving votes will be recognized as Honorable Mention.
 - 9.1.7.4. Men's and Women's Cross Country: The top ten finishers will be accorded All-Conference recognition.
 - 9.1.7.5. Men's Soccer: Twenty-two (22) players will be named to the All-Conference teams with the top 11 earning First Team honors and next 11 earning Second Team honors. Each team will be made up of three forwards, three midfielders, three defenders, one goalkeeper, and one wild card player. The remaining nominees receiving votes will be recognized as Honorable Mention.
 - 9.1.7.6. Women's Soccer: Twenty-two (22) players will be named to the All-Conference teams with the top 11 earning First Team honors and next 11 earning Second Team honors. Each team will be made up of three forwards, three midfielders, three defenders, one goalkeeper, and

one wild card player. The remaining nominees receiving votes will be recognized as Honorable Mention.

- 9.1.7.7. Women's Softball: Twenty-six (26) players will be named to the All-Conference team with the top 13 making the First Team and the next 13 the Second Team. Each team will be comprised of two pitchers, one catcher, a first baseman, a second baseman, a shortstop, a third baseman, a utility player, four outfielders, and one designated player or at-large selection (if no viable designated hitter is nominated). The remaining nominees receiving votes will be recognized as Honorable Mention.
- 9.1.7.8. Men's & Women's Outdoor and Indoor Track & Field: The top three finishers in each individual event and the first place team in relay events will be accorded All-Conference recognition. A male and female Athlete of the Meet will be selected during or immediately following the final event in a manner deemed appropriate by conference information director. (Revised 10/03)
- 9.1.7.9. Football: Fifty-four (58) players will be named to the all-conference team with the top 29 making the first team and the next 29 earning second team honors. Each team will be made up of one quarterback, two running backs, three wide receivers or slot backs, one tight end, five offensive lineman, four defensive lineman, four linebackers, four defensive backs, one kicker, one punter, one kick returner, one punt returner and one at-large selection.
- 9.1.7.10. Baseball: Twenty-eight (28) players will be named to the All-Conference team. The first team will be comprised of five pitchers including at least one relief pitcher, a catcher, a first baseman, a second baseman, a shortstop, a third baseman, a utility player, four outfielders and one designated player or at-large selection (if no designated player is nominated). The second team will be comprised of three pitchers including at least one relief pitcher, a catcher, a first baseman, a second baseman, a shortstop, a third baseman, three outfielders and a designated hitter or at-large selection (if no designated player is nominated). All other players who receive at least one vote will receive honorable mention recognition. (Revised 10/05)
- 9.1.7.11. Men's Golf: Coaches will select eligible golfers for first and second team All-Conference. In order to be eligible for All-Conference selection, the athlete must have played in a minimum of 7 events (minimum of 4 in spring) or 12 rounds (minimum of 6 in spring after January 1st) through the conference championships. In addition the top two finishers in the conference tournament will also receive first team All-Conference recognition. Coaches will also award the Golfer-of-the-Year, Newcomer-of-Year and Freshman-of-the-Year to the eligible players.
- 9.1.7.12. Women's Golf: Coaches will select eligible golfers for first and second team All-Conference. In order to be eligible for All-Conference selection, athlete must have participated in at least 2/3s of their varsity team matches.) In addition the top two finishers in the conference tournament will also receive first team All-Conference recognition. Coaches will also award the Golfer-of-the-Year, Newcomer-of-Year and Freshman-of-the-Year to the eligible players.
- 9.1.8. The student-athlete(s) receiving the most votes in each sport shall be named Player of the Year.
- 9.1.9. The Conference Office shall announce the conference awards following completion of the Conference season competition and prior to regionals or at a time chosen for maximum exposure.

Section 9.2. **Academic All-Conference Teams.**

- 9.2.1. Nominations will be requested by the Conference Office from each institution's Sports Information Director. There is no limit on the number of nominees from each institution.

- 9.2.2. A nominee must be competing in his/her second season at the member institution have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 on a 4.00 scale, and be a letter winner during the current season.
- 9.2.3. Only grades from the current GNAC member institution should be used for purposes of determining qualification for the Academic All-GNAC team.
- 9.2.4. All athletes that meet these requirements will earn Academic All-Conference recognition.

Section 9.3. **Conference Coach of the Year.**

- 9.3.1. The coaches of their respective sport shall select Conference Coach of the Year. Coaches may not vote for themselves, and ballots shall include 1st and 2nd choices to avoid ties and conflicts.
- 9.3.2. Coach of the Year ballots will accompany the All-Conference ballots.

Section 9.4. **Awards.**

- 9.4.1. Each Conference Champion (regular season and tournament) shall receive a championship trophy. In case of ties, duplicate trophies shall be awarded. The head coach should receive a Conference championship plaque.
- 9.4.2. The Conference Coach of the Year in each sport shall receive a Conference plaque.
- 9.4.3. A conference plaque shall be awarded to each student-athlete named to the All-Conference First Teams.
- 9.4.4. Conference certificates shall be awarded to each student-athlete named to the All-Conference Second Teams and Honorable Mention lists and to the Academic All-Conference teams including the winners of the Faculty Athletic Representatives award.
- 9.4.5. Conference plaques shall also be presented for the following special awards:

Football – Offensive Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year, Offensive Lineman of the Year, Defensive Lineman of the Year

Men’s Soccer – Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

Women’s Soccer - Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

Volleyball - Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

***Men’s Cross Country** - Athlete of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year (*Based on finishes at conference meet)

***Women’s Cross Country** - Athlete of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year (*Based on finishes at conference meet)

Men’s Basketball - Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

Women’s Basketball - Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

Men's Indoor Track & Field - Athlete of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

Women's Indoor Track & Field - Athlete of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

Baseball - Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

Softball - Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

Men's Outdoor Track & Field - Athlete of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

Women's Outdoor Track & Field - Athlete of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

Men's Golf - Golfer of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

Women's Golf - Golfer of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year

- 9.4.6. A Conference plaque shall be awarded to each of the student-athletes named to the All-Conference First Teams.

Section 9.5. **Player of the Week.**

- 9.5.1. A conference Player of the Week shall be named by the Conference SID for the particular sport.
- 9.5.2. Institutional sports information directors shall submit their nomination for Player of the Week each week.
- 9.5.3. Players of the Week certificates shall be sent to the student-athlete's institution.

Section 9.6. **Athlete of the Year**

- 9.6.1 The Conference shall select a Male and Female Athlete of the Year to be voted on by the athletic directors.
- 9.6.2 Each school may nominate one player in each gender. Nominations will be due to the conference office by May 20. Ballots will be distributed by May 25 and due back to the conference office by June 1.

Section 9.7. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**

- 9.7.1 The Conference shall select a Male and Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year to be voted on by the athletic directors.
- 9.7.2 Each school may nominate one player in each gender. Nominations will be due to the conference office by May 1. Ballots will be distributed by May 10 and due back to the conference office by May 20.

Section 9.8. **Sportsmanship Award** (New section 5/04)

- 9.8.1 The Conference shall select a Male and Female Sportsmanship award winner to be voted on by the athletic directors.

- 9.8.2 Each school may nominate one player in each gender using the official form provided by the NCAA.

Section 9.9. **All-Sports Awards** (New section 10/04)

- 9.9.1 The Conference shall select an overall champion, male champion and female champion All-Sports team award based on the final standings of each of the conference's officially recognized sports.
- 9.9.2 The Conference shall select an overall champion, male champion and female champion Academic All-Sports team award based on the cumulative grade point averages of each of the conference's officially recognized sports.

Section 9.10 **Faculty Athletic Representative Award** (new section 5/12)

- 9.10.1 All NCAA student-athletes listed on any sport squad list, regardless of whether the sport is an officially recognized GNAC sport, and with a cumulative GPA of 3.85 or higher at their current institution, will receive a certificate

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 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 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 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.

Section 10.2. **Protest Procedures.**

- 10.2.1. Allegations of violations of Conference rules or of conduct detrimental to the welfare of the Conference must be filed with the Commissioner and may only be filed by another member's athletic director. **(Revised 10/04).**
- 10.2.2. An allegation must be filed with the Commissioner within 60 days upon discovery of the alleged offense and include a description of the incident or violation and all other relevant facts. The source of the information will be confidential. **(Revised 10/04).**
- 10.2.3. The accused institution is required to investigate the charges and file a written report with the conference office in a timely manner, to be jointly determined by the institution and the Commissioner, but not to exceed 30 days. The Commissioner will determine if the school has conducted a thorough investigation. **(New Section 10/04).**
- 10.2.4. The Commissioner shall rule on the accusation and issue appropriate penalties. The accused institution may then appeal the commissioner's ruling to the Appeals Committee. **(Revised 10/04).**
- 10.2.5. If the accused institution appeals the commissioner's ruling, the Commissioner shall place the appeal on the agenda of the Appeals Committee for a full hearing of the charges **(Revised 10/04).**
- 10.2.6. The Commissioner shall present information concerning the allegations at the hearing, and the accused member shall have equal opportunity to reply to the charges. **(Revised 10/04).**
- 10.2.7. Following the hearing, the Appeals Committee may rule by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of those voting that the evidence is sufficient to justify disciplinary action. **(Revised 10/04).**

Section 10.3. **Disciplinary Action.** When the institutional representatives have determined the adequacy of the evidence as prescribed in Bylaw 10.2.6, action may be applied as indicated in Article 2.4 of the Constitution.