

GNAC SPORTS REGULATIONS

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF *Updated August 2021*



Section 1. Participation Requirement

- 1.1 All member institutions fielding teams in men's and women's golf shall agree to participate in the championship.

Section 2. Schedule

- 2.1 Each member institution shall determine its own playing schedule.
- 2.2 The length of playing the season and the number of dates of competition will be per the NCAA Division II Manual.

Section 3. Conduct of Participants – (See also GNAC Bylaw Article 10, Section 1)

Section 4. Conference Championship

- 4.1 For the men, a 54-hole, two-day tournament to determine the conference team and individual champion shall be held in the spring on a date and site to be determined by the conference office in consultation with the head golf coaches. For the women, a 36-hole tournament will determine the conference team and individual champions. Both the men's and women's tournaments will be played at the same site on the same days.

Men (54-hole tournament championship): If fewer than 36 holes (two full rounds) are played, there will be no champion declared and the GNAC's AQ contingency plan (effective in 2019) will be invoked (see 4.2). If at least 36 holes are played, and the final round is not completed, the low team after 36 holes will be declared the champion. If there is a tie, co-champions will be declared.

Women (36-hole tournament championship): If fewer than 18 holes (one full round) are played, there will be no champion declared. If at least 18 holes are played, and the final round is not completed, the low team after 18 holes will be declared the champion. If there is a tie, co-champions will be declared.

- 4.2 **AQ Contingency Plan (effective 2019):** In the event the conference championships are not conducted or does not reach the minimum length for men (36 holes) or women (18 holes), the AQ will be awarded to the highest-ranked team in the most recent NCAA RAC regional ranking entering the GNAC Championships. In the event a GNAC team is not listed in the most recent RAC ranking entering the GNAC Championships, the AQ will be awarded to the highest-ranked team in the most recent GolfStat regional ranking entering the GNAC Championships. **(April 2017)**
- 4.3 No practice rounds may be played on the GNAC Championship course within 10 days of the start of the GNAC championships (this does not include the official practice round held the day prior to the start of the championships). Teams are allowed to putt and use driving range prior to the official practice round.
- 4.4 Each institution may enter a total of five golfers in the conference championship. Five-person rosters must be submitted no later 3 p.m. Pacific time on the Thursday prior to the start of the championship.

The top four scores for each stipulated 18-hole round shall be used to determine the institution's team score in the championship.

- 4.5 In case of a tie for the individual championship, a sudden-death playoff will be held. In case of a tie for the team championship, a sudden death playoff shall be held in accordance with Appendix A of the NCAA Division II Golf Handbook.
- 4.6 On Day 1 of the tournament, the Nos. 3-, 2- and 1-ranked teams according to the latest Golfstat rankings will be paired and tee off in the second wave. The first wave of groups will be the Nos. 5- and 4-ranked teams in Golfstat. On Day 2 of the tournament, teams will be seeded based on Day 1 results. Teams in the 5 and 4 positions will tee off first, followed by the teams in the 3, 2 and 1 positions.
- 4.7 **Advice Rule.** In modification with the Note to Rule 8 of the Rules of Golf, each team may appoint **up to two persons** who may give advice to members of that team provided that:
- a) Such persons are designated by the institution's athletics department to perform coaching duties and who serve in that capacity on a volunteer or paid basis; and
 - b) They must be identified to the committee before giving advice; and
 - c) They must wear the identification band, when provided.

Note: Such persons are considered outside agencies and not part of their player's side. They should give advice in a private manner that does not unduly delay play. They should give advice to, and receive advice from, only competing members of their team or their other designated coach and not from any other representative of their team, any other team's players or coaches or any other outside agencies.

If, during a stipulated round, such persons do not act in accordance with the Note to this Condition, their appointment is subject to revocation and they would be required to leave the course for the remainder of the round.

- 4.8 Rules officials. The conference office will arrange for USGA-certified rules officials.
- 4.9 Starters. The conference office will arrange for a head starter on the No. 1 tee (Monday) and No. 1 and No. 10 tee (Tuesday) unless otherwise arranged to use just a single tee based on the host course.
- 4.10 Scoring tent. All scorecards must be returned, verified and signed at the official scoring tent.
- 4.11 Pace of play. The conference office in conjunction with the head rules official will review the pace of play guidelines and potential penalties at the pre-championship meeting.
- 4.12 Evacuation plan. The conference office will develop an evacuation plan and share the document at the pre-championship coaches' meeting. Copies of the plan will be available through the starter each day on the opening tees.
- 4.13 Hole locations and yardages. Hole locations and yardages will be determined by the head rules official. Yardages will be provided at the pre-championship coaches' meeting and on the opening tees on the two days of the tournament. Hole locations will be provided on the appropriate tees on the respective days (but not provided in advance).

4.14 Medical cart authorization. Carts for spectators are only via a medical authorization approved by the tournament director. Note: individuals with a medical exception may request a cart drive. At no time may there be riders on the back of carts (if discovered, the individual will lose spectator cart privileges for the remainder of the championship).

4.15 Live stats. The conference office will oversee live stats at the championship.

4.16 Misconduct. *Definition of Unsportsmanlike Conduct (from NCAA Regional manual)*

Unsportsmanlike conduct includes but is not limited to the use of electronic devices (except where permitted by the NCAA and by the rules of golf), profanity, club throwing, acts of defacing the golf course, etc.

During the round, defined as from the time the player makes his first stroke until the scorecard is submitted, at the first offense of any act of unsportsmanlike conduct during the championships, the student-athlete and all head coaches will be notified immediately on the golf course and provided a warning. The second offense of unsportsmanlike conduct will result in disqualification from the championships (all head coaches will be notified immediately of this).

Once a student-athlete has been issued a warning, it remains with the individual for the duration of the championship.

- Only rules officials may communicate warnings and/or DQ's to a student-athlete
- Designated coaches (wearing a wristband) may report misconduct to a rules official.
- The rules official will immediately seek to verify the infraction and will send out a text notice to all head coaches to report either a warning or DQ only once it has been verified.

4.17 Coaches' carts. Each team (one per gender) will be provided a cart for the coaching staff.

4.18 Games Committee. The Games Committee will be comprised of the head rules official, conference commissioner and one person appointed by the commissioner.

4.19 Pre-tournament meeting. A pre-tournament meeting including head and assistant coaches, head rules official and conference office staff will be held Sunday morning at the headquarter hotel or the golf course. Final championship details will be reviewed at this meeting.

4.20 Student coaches. Current student-athletes are not allowed to serve in coaching roles during the championships.

4.21 Only rules officials may communicate warnings and/or DQ's to a student-athlete.

4.22 Designated coaches (wearing a wristband) may report misconduct to a rules official. The rules official will immediately seek to verify the infraction and will send out a text notice to all head coaches to report either a warning or DQ only once it has been verified.

Section 5. All-Conference Awards

5.1 See GNAC Bylaws for selection all-conference awards selection guidelines.

Section 6. Video exchange and Scouting Report Policy – None

Appendix A

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.