

GNAC SPORTS REGULATIONS

BASEBALL

Updated Sept. 15, 2022



Section 1. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

- 1.1. All member institutions fielding teams in baseball shall agree to participate for the championship.

Section 2. SCHEDULE

- 2.1 All member institutions shall observe the NCAA starting date for pre-season practice and the length of season guideline.
- 2.2 The maximum number of games permitted in a single season shall not exceed 50. **(Revised 10/04; 5/09; 10/09; 5/10)**
- 2.3 Varsity contests shall be scheduled in accordance with the regulations as they appear in Article 17 of the Bylaws of the NCAA.
- 2.4 Conference members shall complete their conference-scheduled contests as assigned yearly by the conference office. No conference game shall be scheduled after the Sunday preceding the conference tournament. **(Revised 10/03; 1/13)**.
- 2.5 Each member school will play eight conference games against each other member of the conference. A four-game series will be played at each home site. All conference doubleheaders will include a nine-inning contest followed by a seven-inning contest (except when provisions in the GNAC makeup policy apply). The maximum number of conference games that may be played on the same calendar day is two-plus (two full and one halted game).
- 2.6 Teams will have three consecutive playing days in a five-day window (Thu-Mon) to play each four-game series (note: Sunday is excluded from the “three consecutive playing days” tally when involving NNU but the five-day window remains Thu-Mon when involving NNU).
- 2.7 Make-up Policy (see Appendix A)
- 2.8 Regulation Game vs. Halted Game Rule
 - 2.8.1 In each eight-game GNAC series between two teams, Game No. 8 must be played under the “regulation game” rule (as long as the conditions of a regulation game are met). Games 1 through 7 are to be played under the “halted game” rule.

Section 3. CONFERENCE REGULAR SEASON CHAMPION

- 3.1 The winner of the regular season conference championship (based on conference winning percentage) will be awarded the regular season championship trophy. If multiple teams finish with the best regular season conference winning percentage, each will be awarded a regular season championship trophy.

Section 4. CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

- 4.1 The winner of the GNAC's postseason conference tournament will be awarded the conference tournament championship trophy.
- 4.2 The top three teams in the final regular season conference standings (based on conference winning percentage) qualify for the three-team postseason tournament. Note: conference winning percentage is used to order the final standings even if the full conference schedule is not completed.
- 4.3 Teams are limited to a maximum of 28 eligible players in uniform. Changes to the official squad list may only be made before the first pitch of the tournament (no change after the first pitch of the tourney for any reason, including injury). Institutions are NOT ALLOWED to provide field access to additional NON-PARTICIPATING student-athletes or have NON-PARTICIPATING student-athletes outside the 28-player roster involved in any tournament activities (practice, pre-game warmup, batting practice, in the dugout, etc.). **(Added 8/18)**
- 4.4 The tie-breaker procedure to determine seeding in the conference tournament shall be as follows: **(Revised 1/18)**

Two-Way Ties

- a. The best won/loss record in all GNAC counting conference games played between the tied teams over the past regular season.
- b. If still tied, compared the win/loss percentage of the tied teams against each conference team, beginning at the top of the standings and proceeding downward until one team gains an advantage. (Note: During this process, whenever you arrive at another group of teams which are also tied, compare each of the initial tied teams' cumulative record against the group of secondary tied teams.)
- c. If still tied, the tie shall be broken by the result of the first game of each home series in the head-to-head series.
- d. If still tied, the tie shall be broken based on runs allowed against GNAC opponents (in conference games).
- e. If still tied, a coin flip shall determine the seed of the tied teams.

Ties Involving Three or More Teams

Note: *Once a tiebreaker eliminates one or more teams from the tie, this process shall be repeated from the beginning for the remaining tied teams. Once a tie is reduced to two teams, the two-way tiebreaker shall be utilized. All tiebreakers will be utilized regardless of games canceled.*

- a. The best winning percentage in rank order in all GNAC counting conference games played between the the tied teams.
- b. If still tied, compare in rank order the win/loss percentages of the tied teams against each conference team, beginning at the top of the standings and proceeding downward until one team gains an advantage. (Note: During this process, whenever

you arrive at another group of teams which are also tied, compare each of the initial tied teams' cumulative record against the group of secondary tied teams).

- c. If still tied, the tie shall be broken in rank order based on runs allowed against GNAC opponents (in conference games).
- d. If still tied, the tie shall be broken in rank order based on runs scored against GNAC opponents (in conference games).
- e. If still tied, a random draw between the tied teams will be conducted. The first team drawn will receive the higher seed.

4.5 AQ CONTINGENCY PLAN: In the event the postseason conference tournament is not started or is not played to its conclusion, the following will determine the recipient of the AQ to the NCAA Regionals:

4.6 Until one team becomes 3-0 (i.e., wins the tournament), the highest-seeded team that has not been eliminated will be awarded the AQ.

4.7 If teams have an equal number of losses, the higher-seeded team will be awarded the AQ.

Section 5. PLAYING RULES

5.1 Conference games will be played under NCAA Rules.

5.2 The host team shall be the "home" team (except in those instances where postponed games are made up at the original visiting team's venue).

5.3 The 10-run rule will not be used at any time unless mutually agreed upon.

5.4 Bat specifications must follow NCAA guidelines.

5.5 There is no limitation for the number of players allowed to travel with the team for conference contests.

5.6 The NCAA fight rule shall be observed.

Section 6. OFFICIALS

6.1 Three umpires will be assigned to all conference games (**Revised 11/08; 5/09; 5/10**)

6.2 All umpires shall be college certified.

6.3 If a game has been rained out and umpires have traveled to the site of the game, umpires shall be paid for one game only plus their appropriate travel fee (if it applies). If the second game of the scheduled doubleheader has begun, umpires will also be paid for the second game. (**Revised 11/08**)

Section 7. EQUIPMENT

7.1 The official ball used for all conference and GNAC tournament games shall be the official NCAA Wilson flat seamed ball. (**Revised 8/15**)

Section 8. GAME MANAGEMENT/CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

- 8.1 Member institutions must apply all 2022 conference COVID-19 protocols.
- 8.2 The host team will provide adequate equipment and supplies at the game site, including the following:
 - 8.1.1 Game balls
 - 8.1.2 Drinking water and cups
 - 8.1.3 Restroom facilities
 - 8.1.4 Towels (if pre-arranged)
- 8.3 The host team shall provide a trainer at least one and one-half hour prior to game time either at the game site or in the training room. A trainer must be in attendance during, between and for a reasonable time period following the games (s).
- 8.4 The host team shall provide a well-trained and knowledgeable official scorer for each contest. The official scorer shall be the final authority for all scoring decisions made during the course of the game. Under no circumstances shall the official scorer be permitted to keep score in either the host or visiting team's dugout.
- 8.5 Due to the differing situations with GNAC venues, the pre-game protocol for batting practice and infield shall be mutually agreed upon by the competing coaches. **(Revised 8/14)**
- 8.6 Pre-game information, including parking, appropriate entry into the facility, practice times, etc., shall be communicated in writing to the coach and any appropriate administrators of the visiting team prior to the game.

Section 9. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- 9.1 All conference institutions are required to use NCAA Live Stat software. The home team is the official book.
- 9.2 The NCAA Live Stats game file shall be e-mailed to the visiting team sports information director and to the GNAC office as soon as possible at the conclusion of the game.
- 9.3 Per NCAA guidelines, statistics from games played against junior colleges, club teams and teams from foreign countries may not be counted when reporting statistics to the NCAA and the GNAC. **(Note:** Under NCAA guidelines, games against Canadian schools may be counted if the Canadian school schedules at least half its games against U.S. four-year colleges).

Section 10. VIDEO EXCHANGE AND SCOUTING REPORT POLICY

- 10.1 No in-person scouting is allowed (exception: if teams are competing in the same tournament, this provision is waived). **(Revised 5/09)**

Section 11. ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

- 11.1 For guidelines in selection of All-Conference team, see Bylaws, Article 9.1
- 11.2 For guidelines in selection of the Academic All-GNAC team, see Bylaws, Article 9.2.

- 11.3 For guidelines in the selection of Conference Coach of the Year, see Bylaws, Article 9.3
- 11.4 A Player of the Year, a Pitcher of the Year, a Newcomer of the Year and a Freshman of the Year shall be selected. See Bylaws, Article 9.4.
- 11.5 A Player of the Week and Pitcher of the Week shall be selected. See Bylaws, Article 9.5.

Appendix A

GNAC BASEBALL MAKEUP POLICY

GENERAL

- Teams will have three consecutive playing days in a five-day window (Thu-Mon) to play each four-game series (note: Sunday is excluded from the “three consecutive playing days” tally when involving NNU but the five-day window remains Thu-Mon when involving NNU).
- The “three consecutive days” tally starts on the day the first game is scheduled or appropriately rescheduled by mutual consent of the two institutions (i.e., agreement before the traveling team departs campus).
- Any games not played within this consecutive three-day period of the five-day window may not be made up **UNLESS** any unplayed or unfinished games from the first-round series are to be added to the second-round series (note: a maximum of “ONE-PLUS” games will be added to the second-round series as long as the halted game met an innings standard (5 complete for a 7-inning game, 7 complete for a 9-inning game). If the innings standard has not been met in the halted game, only the halted game will carry over to the second-round series. By conference policy, the “full” carryover game in a “one-plus” situation will always be a 7-inning game).
- By NCAA rule, the maximum number of games that can be played in one day is two-plus (i.e., the resumption of a halted game and two full games).

5-DAY WINDOW AND 3-DAY CLOCK

5-DAY WINDOW

- The five-day window ALWAYS begins on Thursday and ALWAYS ends on Monday. This window cannot be adjusted unless determined by the commissioner.

3-DAY CLOCK (*a series can only be played over three consecutive days in the five-day Thursday-to-Monday window even if the series occurs in Round 2 and includes “carryover” games from the Round 1 series between the two teams*)

- The three-day clock must start on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday (the start day must be finalized before a visiting team departs campus).
 - The three-day clock can be adjusted in the following ways prior to the visiting team departing campus:
 - A series originally scheduled to begin Friday can be moved up one day by mutual agreement to begin on Thursday.
 - A series originally scheduled to begin Friday can be moved back one day by mutual agreement to begin on Saturday (in which case the three consecutive playing days window is still in play for any series not involving NNU).
 - A series originally scheduled to begin on Friday can be moved back two days (to Sunday) by mutual agreement but the three consecutive days playing window is automatically reduced to two days (since a series cannot be extended past Monday for any reason).
 - A series originally scheduled to begin on Saturday can be moved up two days by mutual agreement to begin on Thursday.
 - By policy, any series started on a Thursday cannot continue past Saturday (as Saturday would be Day 3 of the “3-day clock”).

- Under normal circumstances (i.e., there are no changes made to the previously agreed-upon series schedule, meaning the series has not shifted off the original start date), the “3-day clock” automatically begins on the day of the first scheduled doubleheader of a series).
- Once a traveling team has departed campus to begin its road trip, the “3-day clock” may not be adjusted from the agreed-upon schedule.
 - Example:
 - Team A at Team B series is scheduled to be played Fri-Sat
 - Team A departs campus early Thursday morning for Team B
 - On Thursday afternoon, while Team A is en route to Team B, the coaches learn of poor weather conditions for Friday at Team B. Since Team A has already left campus on its road trip, can the coaches adjust the 3-day clock to start on Saturday instead? **NO. The 3-day clock can only be adjusted if the visiting team has not already departed campus.**

NNU 3-DAY CLOCK EXCEPTION

- In any series involving NNU, Sunday is not counted against the consecutive days rule due to NNU’s policy against playing on Sundays.
 - *Example:* NNU at TEAM B is scheduled for Fri-Sat. The “3-day clock” starts on Friday. Saturday gets rained out and the series isn’t completed as originally planned. Monday would constitute the third day of the three-day clock and the series continues on Monday (Sunday is an off day).

CARRYOVER GAMES FROM FIRST ROUND TO SECOND ROUND

- A maximum of “one-plus” games are automatically carried over from the first round to the second round¹. If there is not a halted game to carry over from the first round, then a maximum of one full game from the first round is carried over, if necessary. (A “plus” game is defined as a game that was started but halted under the halted game rule).
 - *Examples below assume there are no halted games in any of the situations listed:*
 - Zero games from the first round are started = 1 full 9-inning game is carried over to the second round
 - One game is completed in the first round = 1 full 7-inning game is carried over to the second round
 - Two games are completed in the first round = 1 full 9-inning game is carried over to the second round
 - Three games are completed in the first round = 1 full 7-inning game is carried over to the second round
 - ¹In situations where multiple games could be carried over from Round 1 to Round 2 (i.e., a halted game plus one full game), the full game will not be carried over if the halted game has not reached five complete innings for a seven-inning contest or seven complete innings for a nine-inning contest).
 - These “carryover” game(s) are to be the first games played in the second meeting (i.e., complete “first-round” series before starting “second-round” series).
- In any second-round series that includes carryover games from the first round, the 5-day window/3-day clock is still in effect for the entirety of the games to be played (i.e., the carryover games plus the regular Round 2 series).

WHEN ONE-PLUS GAMES ARE CARRIED OVER TO THE SECOND ROUND

- Regardless of whether the “plus” game in a “one-plus” carryover situation is a regularly-scheduled 7-inning or 9-inning game, the “full” carryover game will be a 7-inning game by conference policy.

Updated 12/18/19

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.