

# GNAC SPORTS REGULATIONS

## FOOTBALL

### Section 1. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

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

### Section 2. SCHEDULE

- 2.1 The schedule will consist of a double round-robin home-and-home.
- 2.2 The following standard starting times shall be in effect for all conference contests: **Day Games** - 1 p.m. **Night Games** – 6 p.m. The home team shall determine whether the game will be a day or night game.
- 2.3 Any changes to the schedule, including 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 shall be determined by the host institution.
- 2.4 All member institutions shall observe the NCAA starting date for pre-season practice.
- 2.5 The maximum number of games permitted in a single season shall not exceed the NCAA maximum number of allowable games.
- 2.6 Varsity contests shall be scheduled in accordance with the regulations as they appear in Article 17 of the Bylaws of the NCAA.
- 2.7 Conference members shall complete their conference-scheduled contests as assigned yearly by the conference office. The Conference member(s) responsible for failure to meet this requirement shall be declared ineligible for the Conference championship in football for the year in which the infraction occurs. No game shall be scheduled after the Saturday preceding the NCAA Division II national playoffs.

### Section 3. PRACTICE

- 3.1 Pre-season practice in the championship segment shall conform to the regulations outlined in the NCAA ByLaws (currently Bylaw 17.9.2)
- 3.2 Practice in the non-championship season (Spring Practice and Conditioning Activities) shall conform to the NCAA ByLaws (currently ByLaw 17.9.8)

### Section 4 TRAVEL SQUADS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 4.1 Travel squads for all conference games shall be maximum of 54 players. (**Note:** Travel squad maximum waived for games held at Century Link Stadium in Seattle).
- 4.2 Conference members will follow NCAA scholarship limits. (*Amended 05/11*)

## **Section 5. HOST INSTITUTION GUIDELINES**

- 5.1 NCAA football rules shall govern all conference play.
- 5.2 The home team shall provide dressing facilities, halftime accommodations, officials to handle clock, game announcing, scoreboard, chain crew and ball persons. An official of the host institution shall greet the officials upon their arrival and show them to their lockerroom. Security should be provided to escort officials to and from the field. A key must be made available for officials to get into lockers at halftime and after the game. Host institutions are encouraged to provide lunch and/or refreshments to the officials. The playing field and facilities must be in compliance with NCAA regulations. All institutions must have 25 second clocks visibly displayed.
- 5.3 An official of the host institution shall greet the visiting team, show them the locker room and discuss locker room supervision. The host institution should provide bench towels, ice for injury management, water and cups for field use, training table for taping, chalk board and chalk, programs, and schedule for pre-game, warm-up, leaving field, introductions, etc.
- 5.4 Visiting teams will provide their own headphone sets. If one or more of the headphones for either team becomes inoperable, the referee should be notified. The referee shall instruct the other sideline to use only the same number of phones available to the opposing team coaches. The game officials will provide messenger service, but not enforcement.
- 5.5 The home team shall provide a kicking net for the visiting team.
- 5.6 The host institution shall provide a field microphone to the referee in order that he may provide clarifying information on penalties, enforcement spots or other information as a communications tool to the coaches, spectators and press box.

## **Section 6. GAME MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 The officials will inspect the field 90 minutes prior to the start of the game. The coaches will meet with the game officials 75 minutes before the start of the game and provide the officials with the numbers of their team captains. Each team will provide the head officials with a minimum of six game balls.
- 6.2 **Pre-Game Warm-up:** Prior to the 45-minute mark, each team has their end zone to the 35 and from the hash mark to the sideline closest to their bench and extending to the opponents' 35. 45 minutes to the start of the game each team has the end zone to their own 45-yard line.
- 6.3 The scoreboard timer in conjunction with the game officials shall display a 60 minute countdown to the start of the game on the official scoreboard clock. The head timer will meet with game officials 60 minutes prior to kickoff. Ball boys (2 per side and college age, if possible) and the chain crew will meet with game officials 20 minutes before the start of the game. Chain crew must be on opposite side of field from press box. It is recommended high school officials be used on the chain crew. Conference office will provide vests for sideline personnel.
- 6.4 The National Anthem will be played 10 minutes prior to kickoff. In games involving Simon Fraser, the Canadian National Anthem will be played 10 minutes prior to kickoff followed by the United States National Anthem (except in Canada where anthems are reversed). The visiting team starting lineups will be announced 15 minutes prior to kickoff. The introduction of the home team starting lineup will follow immediately after the national anthem. The coin toss is three minutes prior to kickoff.
- 6.5 The NCAA halftime is 20 minutes and timing starts when the referee leaves the field.

**Section 7 CONFERENCE CHAMPION**

- 7.1 The Conference Champion will be the team with the best won-loss percentage in the conference schedule. In case of a tie, the tied teams will share the championship.
- 7.2 If there is a tie for the Conference Championship, the following tie-breaking procedure (based on Bylaw 1.5.3.1) will determine which team will receive the GNAC's earned access berth (if in the future an earned access berth is granted to the conference) to the NCAA playoffs. If necessary, the tie-breaking procedure will also be used to determine which conference team represents the GNAC in any postseason bowl game. **Note:** The current NCAA policy is to award the "earn accessed" berth to the highest ranked team.

**Tie-Break.** In the event of a tie, the GNAC representative to postseason play (including the NCAA playoffs and any postseason bowl game) shall be determined as follows:

- a) The best won/loss record in all GNAC counting conference games played between the tied teams over the past regular season;
- b) The best won/loss record of the tied teams against the next place finisher;
- c) If still tied, then teams will be compared to the next place finisher(s), and so on until a representative is determined;
- d) If still tied, the best won-loss record against non-conference common opponents among the tied teams shall determine the conference's representative;
- e) If still tied, the conference's representative will be awarded to the team that has the best Division II won-loss record;
- f) If still tied, the conference's berth will be awarded to the team with the highest average opponent winning percentage among Division II opponents;
- g) If still tied, the champion will be the institution with the highest NCAA regional ranking

**Section 9. CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS – (See GNAC Bylaw Article 10, Section 1)**

**Section 10. MEETINGS**

- 10.1 A conference call will be conducted with the head football coaches prior to the selection of the all-conference team. A conference call shall also be held with the head football coaches prior to the season at a time to be determined by the conference office.

**Section 11. OFFICIALS**

- 11.1 Officials for all games hosted by conference teams will be assigned by the GNAC Supervisor of Football Officials, Mike Burton.
- 11.2 Each GNAC school will be billed for officiating, travel costs and an administrative fee. The Referee (crew chief) will act as the spokesperson for all media questions. Mike Burton will provide the GNAC a full accounting of all expenses at the end of each season.
- 11.3 Coaches are required to complete official game evaluations of the previous weekend's game no later than Tuesday morning at 9 a.m.

## **Section 12. ROSTERS, TWO-DEEPS AND GAME STATISTICS**

- 12.1 Numerical rosters shall be provided to the conference office for distribution to member schools no later than two weeks prior to the first regularly scheduled contest.
- 12.2 For all conference football games, GNAC head football coaches shall provide to the opposing team (through their sports information directors) an accurate two-deep listing including Offense, Defense and all specialty positions, i.e., punters, kickers, punt returners, kickoff returners, holder and long snapper no later than noon on Tuesday on the week of the game. The two-deep shall not include any player who will be unable to participate because of injury, illness or disciplinary action.  
  
Any changes to the two-deeps that occur during the week shall be reported to both school's Sports Information Directors no later than Thursday at 5 p.m. so both schools and media outlets covering the contest have the most accurate and up-to-date information.
- 12.3 All Conference schools are required to use StatCrew software.
- 12.4 The StatCrew game file shall be e-mailed to the Visiting team sports information director and to the GNAC Conference office as soon as possible at the conclusion of the game. If requested, a box score and play-by-play should also be faxed to the Visiting team SID.
- 12.5 Five copies of the game stats package (including play-by-play) should be provided to the visiting team.

## **Section 13. VIDEO EXCHANGE AND SCOUTING REPORT POLICY**

- 13.1 All home games will be filmed by the host institution, who will provide a DVD to the visiting team as soon as possible at the conclusion of the contest.
- 13.2 Exchange of videos will be via GAME TAPE EXCHANGE with specific guidelines to be provided by the conference office.
- 13.3 The video shall include all 22 players and should start as the offensive team breaks the huddle and continue through the end of the play. Each play should include an audio description of down, distance and yard line. Filmmers should be instructed to film any "fights" involving game participants on the field or in the bench area. Copies of tight line or end zone angles can be exchanged by mutual agreement of head coaches.
- 13.4 Sharing of verbal or written scouting reports and game videos with non-conference schools is allowed only through contractual game agreements.
- 13.5 No live scouting is allowed.
- 13.6 All coaches are responsible to report any situation (i.e., game control, officiating) they wish to have reviewed to the conference office by 4 p.m. of the Monday immediately following the contest. Only situations from the previous week's contest will be accepted. The official's supervisor should also be provided with information regarding the nature of the situation and the time at which it occurred in the game in order to review the situation on the game film from GTX. Submissions of this information will be limited to e-mail only.
- 13.9 The Conference Commissioner has the authority to issue appropriate disciplinary action (including fines) for violation of the Video Exchange and Scouting Report Policy.

**Section 14. AWARDS**

- 14.1 For guidelines in selection of All-Conference team, see Bylaws, Article 9.1
- 14.2 For guidelines in selection of Academic All-Conference team, see Bylaws, Article 9.2.
- 14.3 For guidelines in selection of Conference Coach of the Year, see Bylaws, Article 9.3
- 14.4 An Offensive Player-of-the-Year, a Defensive Player-of-the-Year, a Newcomer-of-the-Year and a Freshman-of-the-Year shall be selected. See Bylaws, Article 9.4
- 14.5 An Offensive and Defensive Player-of-the-Week shall be selected. See Bylaws, Article 9.5

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