

GNAC SPORTS REGULATIONS

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF Updated Oct. 2017



Section 1. Participation Requirement

- 1.1 All member institutions fielding teams in men's and women's golf shall agree to participate for 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)

- 3.1 Only rules officials may communicate warnings and/or DQ's to a student-athlete.
- 3.2 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 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 will be held on the GNAC Championship course 10 days prior to 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. 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 See GNAC Bylaws for selection all-conference awards selection guidelines.

Section 5. 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.