

GNAC SPORTS REGULATIONS

BASEBALL

Updated December 2018



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. All single conference games will be scheduled for nine innings. The maximum number of conference games that may be played on the same calendar day is two.
- 2.6 All conference series will be played on consecutive days: Friday/Saturday, Saturday/Sunday or Friday/Saturday/Sunday. Starting times shall be determined by the host institution.

2.7 Make-up Policy

- 2.7.1 The day following each conference series (Sunday for a Friday-Saturday series not involving NNU, Monday for a Saturday-Sunday series) and Monday for any series involving NNU, shall be held open for the makeup of postponed games as long as there is at least one full game from the series that remains to be made up. **(Revised 8/14)**.
- 2.7.2 If a series is delayed prior to the visiting team traveling:
 - a) The entire series may be rescheduled on mutually agreeable dates, or
 - b) In the first round, sites may be switched if the traveling teams' field is playable, or

- c) If in the second round, the series may be played at the site of the original traveling team. Should this cause a team to travel twice to the same site, the non-traveling team will pay reasonable travel expenses to the team traveling the second time.

2.7.3 If the visiting team has traveled and the series is interrupted by weather:

- a) The postponed games will be completed on the makeup day per 2.7.1 (if it is a viable option), or
- b) If 2.7.3 (a) is not a viable option, one or two games postponed during the first round may be added to the second round series. The traveling team will be the home team for the first one (five-game series) or two games (six-game series). **(Note:** This only applies if the distance between the two schools is more than 250 miles. If the distance is less than 250 miles, the games may be rescheduled for the original site).
- c) If the second round or the makeup day (due to religious reasons or travel requirements such as the inability to reschedule a flight) is not a viable option, the game(s) will be cancelled. However, if overnight travel is not required, the games shall be rescheduled.
- d) The host institution is responsible for determining when a field is playable. Once a game has started, the umpires are responsible for determining when and if a game should be suspended, postponed or canceled.
- e) If a game is suspended due to rain or darkness (or curfew) the NCAA halted game rule will be used and the game will be completed before the next day's doubleheader. If the suspended game is the final game of the initial series between the two teams, it will be completed prior to the first game of the second round of round-robin play. If the suspended game is the final game of the series of the second round of round-robin play (i.e., Game No. 8), then the game will be declared an official game as Game 8 will always be played under the regulation game rule.
- f) Rescheduling a conference game will have priority over non-conference contests.

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. 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.

- 3.2 The winner of the GNAC's postseason conference tournament will receive a conference tournament 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 four teams in the final regular season conference standings (based on conference winning percentage) qualify for the four-team postseason tournament.
- 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 bring additional NON-PARTICIPATING student-athletes. **(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.

Section 5. PLAYING RULES

- 5.1 Conference games will be played under NCAA Rules.
- 5.2 The host team shall be the "home" team for both games of a doubleheader.
- 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 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)
- 8.2 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).
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 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)**
- 8.5 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 StatCrew software. The home team is the official book.
- 9.2 The StatCrew 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 Academic All-Conference team, see Bylaws, Article 9.2.
- 11.3 For guidelines in 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.

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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.