

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be Great Lakes Valley Conference.

ARTICLE II - HISTORY, PURPOSES, AND PRINCIPLES

Section A: History

Conference members are National Collegiate Athletic Association members committed to the purposes, fundamental policy, and basic principles of that organization. Believing that within such principles, a program of competitive intercollegiate athletics can be mutually beneficial to institutions in reasonable geographic proximity to one another and having comparable athletic missions and facilities, the founding member institutions formed the Great Lakes Valley Conference in 1978.

Section B: Purposes

The purposes of the Conference are, but not limited to, the following

1. to conduct a well-rounded program of intercollegiate athletics within a context that holds paramount the academic programs of the member institutions and the academic and personal growth of student-athletes;
2. to hold allied and/or affiliate membership as a conference in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA);
3. to engage in such intercollegiate athletic competition in accordance with the principles, policies, constitution and bylaws of the NC AA as well as such other principles, policies and bylaws as may, from time to time, be adopted by the Conference;
4. to provide procedures for the enforcement of the NCAA principles, policies, constitution and bylaws and other principles, policies and bylaws as may, from time to time, be adopted by the Conference;
5. to effectuate such other or additional purposes as may, from time to time, be adopted and approved at meetings of the member institutions;
6. to provide that student-athletes will be representative of the total student body of each member institution in general academic achievement and overall educational experience;
7. to provide that policies governing admission and financial aid of student-athletes, and intercollegiate athletics, of each member institution will encourage balanced and fair competition on a continuing basis among the member institutions of the Conference;
8. to provide for the sharing of appropriate information among the member institutions regarding their athletic programs;
9. to foster sportsmanship, ethical conduct, mutual respect and confidence among the member institutions and to foster the purposes and principles of higher academic education;
10. to carry on no activities that not permitted under Section 5-1(C)3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code; and
11. to take any and all actions necessary to effectuate the above purposes.

Section C: Other Principles

In addition to the purposes described above, and the general purposes and principles of the NCAA, conference members are also committed to the following principles:

1. The student-athlete's academic experience shall remain each conference member's highest priority. Student-athletes shall be treated first as students, secondarily as athletes. They should be able to attend classes and prepare for examinations without undue interruptions for athletic commitments. Member institutions should adopt appropriate measures to safeguard against such interruptions. Conference members shall be committed to assisting all student-athletes to graduate within a reasonable amount of time.

2. In as much as the conference consists of diverse institutions united by common athletic goals, but possibly with differing overall missions, the Conference shall assure that the viewpoints of its diverse membership are considered in its governance structures.
3. The conference championship in each sport should be the focus of each season's competitive efforts for our student-athletes. Member institutions should place a high value on their students' participation in conference championships. The conference should conduct its championships in a way that reflects this value.
4. Conference members will share equally in paying the costs of the operation of the conference, through dues as specified in the Bylaws or through special assessments. Conference members in good standing will share equitably any income to the conference from outside sources; revenue sharing formulas are prescribed in the Bylaws.
5. Sites for off-campus competition should be carefully chosen so as to avoid any appearance of supporting, directly or indirectly, discriminatory policies that may be associated with the membership/ownership of the site.

ARTICLE III - CONFERENCE CODE

Section A: Conference Code

The Conference shall be governed and administered according to the Conference Code which shall consist of the Constitution, the Bylaws and the Conference Handbook.

Section B: Waivers

A member institution may request a waiver of any provision of the Conference Constitution and Bylaws, and provisions of the Conference Handbook regarding member institutions, which may be granted by two-thirds vote of the Council of Presidents, provided the requested waiver and reasons for the request are in accordance with the spirit of the Conference Code. Waivers of Conference Handbook provisions dealing with specific sports and individuals may be approved by the conference Steering Committee, the conference commissioner, or the institutional representatives as indicated in the Handbook.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section A: Membership

1. Members of this Conference must be members of the NCAA Division II, subscribing to the Division II philosophy and abiding by NCAA regulations.
2. Dual membership in the NAIA is not permitted unless a waiver of this clause is approved in accordance with Article III, Section B of this Constitution. The spirit of the Conference Code in this regard shall be indicated by restrictions listed in the Bylaws.

Section B: Charter Members

The following institutions constitute the list of charter members of this conference, founded July 7, 1978.

Ashland University
 *Bellarmine University
 Kentucky Wesleyan College
 Saint Joseph's College
 ** University of Indianapolis
 *** University of Southern Indiana

* Previously known as Bellarmine College
 ** Previously known as Indiana Central University
 *** Previously known as Indiana State University-Evansville

Section C: Current Members

The following institutions constitute the list of members:

Bellarmino University
Drury University (11/12/2004)
Kentucky Wesleyan College
Lewis University (4/12/81)
Maryville University (11/1/2008)
McKendree University (10/6/2010)
*Missouri University of Science & Technology (11/12/2004)
Quincy University (6/6/94)
Rockhurst University (11/12/2004)
Saint Joseph's College
University of Illinois at Springfield (11/1/2008)
University of Indianapolis
University of Missouri-St. Louis (10/13/95)
University of Southern Indiana
University of Wisconsin-Parkside (6/6/94)
William Jewell College (10/8/2009)

*Previously known as University of Missouri-Rolla

Section D: Associate Members

The following institutions constitute the list of associate members:

Central State University (10/7/2010) - Football
Urbana University (10/7/2010) - Football

Section E: Former Members

The following institutions constitute the list of former members:

Ashland University [7/7/78 to 6/30/95]
Kentucky State University [9/30/88 to 6/30/95]
Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne [9/29/83 to 6/30/01]
Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville [6/6/94 to 6/30/08]
Northern Kentucky University [9/27/84 to 6/30/12]

ARTICLE V - COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

Section A: Authority and Responsibility

Final authority and responsibility for control of intercollegiate athletics within the conference is vested in the Council of Presidents, which consists of the Chief Executive Officers of each of the member institutions. The Council of Presidents shall have full and final responsibility for the determination of all policies of the Conference.

Section B: Order of the Meetings

All meetings of the Council of Presidents shall be conducted under the general provisions of the accepted practices of parliamentary procedure.

Section C: Officers *(Effective 7/1/12)*

1. The officers of the Great Lakes Valley Conference/Council of Presidents shall be a chair, vice-chair and treasurer chosen from the members of the Council of Presidents.
2. The chair shall be elected from among the council members at annual spring meetings in odd-numbered years. The chair shall serve a two-year term and shall be limited to two successive terms.
3. The vice-chair shall be elected from among the council members at annual spring meetings in even-numbered years. The vice-chair shall serve a two-year term and shall be limited to two successive terms.
4. The treasurer shall be elected from among the council members at annual spring meetings in even-numbered years. The vice-chair shall serve a two-year term and shall be limited to two successive terms.
5. The Executive Committee will consist of the council chair, vice-chair and treasurer. In addition to helping to communicate and support the work of the commissioner on the development of meeting agendas (Article III), the Executive Committee will lead the council in the evaluation of the commissioner at annual spring meetings and assist on matters at other times as necessary.

ARTICLE VI - INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

1. The Conference recognizes the importance of faculty/administrative participation and responsibility in the development and implementation of an effective intercollegiate athletic conference. Each member institution shall designate one faculty and/or administrative member as the Institutional Representative to represent that institution at meetings of the Conference or at any other time necessary to conduct the business of the Conference. This person shall be the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative or someone eligible to serve in that position.
2. The Institutional Representative should be selected for a term of a significant number of years, so as to achieve continuity in carrying forth the conference academic principles and priorities, and to permit the development of experienced athletics leaders for both the conference and the NCAA.

ARTICLE VII - VOTING DELEGATES

Section A: Voting Charge

The members of the conference shall be entitled to one vote each at meetings. The representative referred to in Article VI shall be the voting delegate at Conference meetings. The institution's chief executive officer shall be the voting delegate at meetings of the Council of Presidents.

Section B: Quorum

A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

Section A: Conference Meetings

There shall be three annual meetings, one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring, at such time

and place as may be selected by the Conference; other meetings shall be held at the call of the chair of the Conference.

Section B: Council of Presidents

The Council of Presidents shall meet twice annually, one meeting of which shall be held within 30 days of the fall meeting of the conference; other meetings shall be held at the call of the chair of the Council of Presidents or any three members by written request. Any meeting may be by teleconference call if so desired. Each institution is to be represented in person by their Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or, in rare circumstances, by phone. Institutions are prohibited from sending substitutes in place of the president/chancellor. A three-member Executive Committee (*see Article V.C*) will help communicate and support the work of the commissioner on the development of meeting agendas.

ARTICLE IX - LEGISLATION

Section A: Majority Vote

Except as otherwise required by the Constitution, Bylaws, or Handbook, a majority vote in favor shall be sufficient to adopt legislation.

Section B: Adoption

Legislation adopted by the Conference shall not take effect until 30 days after its approval at a Conference meeting. The Council of Presidents may reject any legislation within the 30 day period. If the Council of Presidents rejects legislation, it must so notify the Conference Commissioner and the Conference Chair. The overturned legislation will not take effect but may be brought up again at subsequent conference meetings.

Section C: Exceptions

The Council of Presidents may designate particular decisions for which actual approval is left solely to the Council of Presidents, with the Conference only making recommendations to the Council.

ARTICLE X - CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Section A: New Members

1. Additional members may be elected to the Conference by secret ballot. Two-thirds of the Council of Presidents must vote in favor for an institution to be admitted to membership.
2. The conference will consider applications for membership from institutions which are in reasonable geographic proximity to existing conference members; have athletic missions, budgets, and facilities comparable to existing member institutions; and whose membership would be beneficial to conference competition or to existing conference member institutions.
3. Formal application for membership in the conference shall be considered at the annual fall meeting or at any other time by unanimous consent of the voting members of the Institutional Representatives. The Institutional Representatives shall make a recommendation to the Council of Presidents regarding all membership applications.

Section B: Sanctions of Members

1. Conference members are subject to disciplinary action by the conference as may be delineated in

- the Bylaws or Handbook.
2. All institutional sanctions are subject to approval by the Council of Presidents. If the sanction is expulsion from the Conference, a two-thirds majority of the Council, excepting the affected member institution, is necessary to impose the sanction.
 3. Any legal action arising out of or related to the conduct of the Conference or the administration of the Conference's Constitution, Bylaws, policies, or other rules and regulations with respect to its member institutions, must be brought in the court of the county in which the Conference office is located at the time of the initiation of such legal action. Each member institution, on behalf of the member institution and the member institution's employees, agents, and students overseeing, representing or participating in the member institution's athletic program hereby irrevocably submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of each such court, waives any objection it may now or hereafter have to venue or to convenience of forum, agrees that all claims in respect of such legal action shall be heard and determined only in any such court. The Conference and each member institution agree that either or all of them may file a copy of this paragraph with any court as written evidence of the knowing, voluntary and bargained agreement between the parties irrevocably to waive any objections to venue or to convenience of forum. (Effective 10/11/05)
 4. The Constitution and its related bylaws, policies or other rules and regulations with respect to the Conference's member institutions shall be viewed as an agreement between the Conference and each of its member institutions and shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of Indiana without regard to conflicts-of-laws principles that would require the application of any other law. (Effective 10/11/05)
 5. If any member institution, employee of a member institution, or student at a member institution brings a civil action against the Conference with respect to the interpretation or application of the Constitution or its related bylaws, policies or other rules and regulations and the Conference is the prevailing party, the Conference shall be entitled to recover from the institution all reasonable attorneys' fees, all expenses of litigation and all court costs incurred by the Conference in connection with such litigation. (Effective 10/11/05)

Section C: Resignation

1. Conference members must give one year notice of intent to resign from the conference. This notice must be received by the Conference Commissioner and the Chair of the Council of Presidents by July 1, with the resignation to take effect June 30 one year hence. During the final year of membership, the resigning member will not be eligible for revenue sharing.
2. If any member of this conference shall become ineligible for active membership in the NCAA, this school shall be suspended from membership in the Conference.
3. In the event that a suspended member is reinstated in NCAA, that member is eligible to reapply for Conference membership.

Section D: Membership Criteria

As a membership criteria, the Conference may require through the Bylaws, that all members participate with a full team in conference championships in a minimum number of conference sports.

ARTICLE XI - OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Section A: Officers

1. The officers of the Conference shall be a chair and vice-chair. *(Effective 7/1/12)*
2. The chair shall be elected from among the institutional representatives at annual spring meetings in even numbered years. The chair shall serve a two-year term and shall be limited to two successive terms.
3. The vice-chair shall be elected from among the institutional representatives at annual spring meetings in even numbered years. The vice-chair shall serve a two-year term and shall be limited

to two successive terms.

Section B: Steering Committee

1. A steering committee shall have the power to adopt executive regulations, and otherwise act on behalf of the conference between conference meetings, as long as such regulations and actions are not inconsistent with the provisions of either the constitution or bylaws of the conference, or those of the NCAA, or established legislation of the conference.
2. The steering committee shall consist of the conference officers, the conference representative to the NCAA Division II Management Council, two athletics directors, two institutional representatives, and one senior woman's administrator. *(Effective July 1, 2012)*
3. The institutional representative shall rotate among the institutional representatives in alphabetical order, beginning with Bellarmine (East) and Drury (West) in 2012, and shall represent each of the two divisions. These institutional representatives shall serve a one-year term. *(Effective July 1, 2012)*
4. One athletics director shall be elected by his or her fellow athletics directors at annual spring meetings in even numbered years. This person shall serve a two-year term on the steering committee and shall be limited to two successive terms.
5. The other athletics director position on the executive committee shall rotate alphabetically among member institutions, beginning with Northern Kentucky in 1991. This athletics director shall serve a one-year term.
6. The senior woman's administrator shall be elected by her fellow senior woman administrators at the annual spring meeting in odd numbered years. This person shall serve a two-year term on the steering committee and shall be limited to two successive terms.
7. The terms of all members of the executive committee, other than the representative to the NCAA Management Council, shall be for fiscal year(s) July 1 through June 30. A vacancy in the position of chair of the Council of Presidents will be filled by election by the Council. Vacancies in unexpired terms in the other elected positions shall be filled by appointment by the steering committee until the next conference meeting, at which an election to the unexpired term shall be held.
8. Vacancies in the rotating positions, including the situation where the person is unable to serve due to election to the committee, shall be filled by the predecessor in the rotation.

Section C: Appointment of the Commissioner

1. The Council of Presidents shall appoint one person to serve as the chief executive and administrative officer of the Conference who shall have the title of Commissioner. A two-third vote of the Council of Presidents shall be necessary in order to effectuate the appointment of the Commissioner.
2. The terms of employment for the Commissioner shall be as follows:
 - a. The Commissioner shall be appointed by a written contract for a minimum of one year and the contract is renewable by a two-thirds vote of the Council of Presidents. If the contract is not to be renewed, the Commissioner shall be given a minimum of six months' written notice before employment can be terminated.
 - b. The Commissioner reports to the Council of Presidents and shall be evaluated by it as a body.
 - c. The compensation to be paid to the Commissioner and any other terms of employment shall be fixed by the Council of Presidents and incorporated in the written contract employing the Commissioner.

Section D: Duties and Responsibilities of the Commissioner

1. The Commissioner shall direct the activities of the Conference and shall have the authority, duty, and responsibility, which the Commissioner may exercise in his/her discretion, unless otherwise instructed by the Council of Presidents to do the following:

- a. to sign, on behalf of the Conference, documents requiring a Conference signatory;
- b. to receive, collect, and disburse the income received by the Conference as directed by the Council of Presidents;
- c. to prepare annually a budget covering all of the proposed activities of the Conference and submit the same to the Council of Presidents for approval;
- d. to disburse the funds of the Conference only in accordance with the terms of the budget approved by the Council of Presidents and to make further disbursements only when authorized by the Council of Presidents and to report regularly on these disbursements to member institutions;
- e. to be responsible for a compilation, review or audit and financial accounting to the members at their annual Fall Meeting together with a report of the activities and proceedings of the Conference during the preceding year;
- f. to be responsible for the preparation of the agenda of business and proceedings for meetings of the Council of Presidents;
- g. to supervise Conference in-season competition, and Conference championship meets and tournaments; to maintain records of competition between members of the Conference; to act as Conference representative and liaison with the NCAA in all matters concerning Conference business; and to review eligibility and certifications of institutional sponsorship forms for all recognized Conference sports;
- h. to serve as the Conference's chief compliance and enforcement officer and to insure that the members are in compliance with the NCAA and the Conference Code;
- i. to promote the prestige and success of the Conference through public relations and marketing efforts among intercollegiate institutions, athletic associations, media and other appropriate entities;
- j. to negotiate agreements on behalf of the Conference with sponsors, radio and television networks, sports arenas and other parties as required by the Conference, provided, however, that the Commissioner shall have no authority to bind the Conference by such agreements unless first approved by the Council of Presidents. Further in this regard, no such agreements shall be binding upon the Conference unless signed by the Chair of the Conference after approval by the Council of Presidents;
- k. to exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be determined by the Council of Presidents from time to time;
- l. to cast the Conference vote at NCAA Conventions in accordance with the majority vote of the Council of Presidents.

Section E: Committees

The Council of Presidents may establish standing and/or ad hoc committees. The Commissioner shall be responsible for the administrative functions associated with such committees.

1. Legislation & Handbook Committee shall review and edit proposed legislation. This committee also is responsible for assisting the commissioner in preparing minutes and other records of conference meetings, and maintaining the conference Constitution, Bylaws and Handbook. The Committee will consist of the conference vice-chair (chair), one Athletics Director, one Institutional Representative, and one Senior Woman Administrator. This committee will be appointed by the steering committee after receiving nominations, including self-nominations. Members will serve two-year terms and shall be limited to two successive terms.
2. Scheduling & Competition Committee shall explore scheduling possibilities and propose conference schedules. This committee will also serve as a source for conference championship structures (excluding basketball). The Committee will consist of the conference elected Athletics Director to the Steering Committee (Chair), an additional Athletics Director, one Faculty Athletics Representative, and one Senior Woman Administrator. This committee will be appointed by the steering committee after receiving nominations, including self-nominations. Members will serve two-year terms and shall be limited to two successive terms.
3. Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament Committee shall assist the commissioner in preparing

- for the GLVC Men's & Women's Basketball Tournaments. The committee will consist of three conference Athletics Directors. This committee will be appointed by the steering committee after receiving nominations, including self-nominations. Members will serve two-year terms and shall be limited to two successive terms.
4. Budget and Finance Committee shall assist with creating annual operating budget and plan for the use of new revenue provided by the NCAA through grants and enhancement funds. The Committee will consist of the conference treasurer, one Institutional Representative, one Athletic Director, and one Senior Woman Administrator. This Committee will be appointed by the Steering Committee after receiving nominations, including self-nominations. Members will serve two-year terms and shall be limited to two successive terms.
 5. Student-Athlete Advisory Committee shall consist of two student-athletes from each member institution and shall serve the conference in an advisory capacity. The student-athlete selected to the NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee shall chair this committee.
 6. The Awards Committee shall facilitate awards selection as directed by the conference. The committee will consist of two Faculty Athletics Representatives, two conference Athletic Directors, two Senior Woman Administrator, one sports information director and two additional individuals chosen by the Commissioner. This committee will be appointed by the Steering Committee after receiving nominations, including self-nominations. Members will serve two-year terms and shall be limited to two successive terms.
 7. Compliance/Eligibility Advisory will assist the Great Lakes Valley Conference by reviewing compliance and eligibility issues around the league and establish consistent criteria and parameters for conference sanctions when violations occur. The composition of this advisory committee will include a representative from the conference office as well as two compliance directors, an athletic director, faculty athletic representative, and a senior woman administrator.

Section F: Books and Records

1. The books, accounts, and records of the Conference may be kept at such place or places as the Council of Presidents may from time to time determine.
2. The books, accounts, and records of the Conference shall be open to inspection by any member institution subject to regulations as the Council of Presidents may prescribe.
3. The accounts of the Conference shall be audited or reviewed not less than annually by a certified public accountant who shall be appointed by the Chair of the Council of Presidents and who shall provide a report to the Council of Presidents.

Section G: Saving Clause

In addition to the specified powers and authority set forth in detail in the Conference Code, the Conference shall have all the further powers and authority to be reasonably implied from the provisions of the Conference Code. Each and every act desired to be taken by the Conference, no matter what restriction may otherwise be imposed by the Conference Code, may nevertheless be taken at any time by a two-thirds consent of all members of the Council of Presidents.

Section H: Miscellaneous Provisions

1. Fiscal year. The fiscal year of the Conference shall be July 1 through June 30 of each year.
2. Checks, Drafts, and Notes. All checks, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money and all notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Conference shall be signed by such officer or officers or agent or agents as shall from time to time be designated by resolution of the Council of Presidents.
3. Gifts. The Council of Presidents may accept on behalf of the Conference any contribution, gift, bequest or device for the general purpose or for any special purpose of the Conference.
4. Legal Counsel. The Council of Presidents may select Legal Counsel to act at its discretion and on

behalf of the Conference.

ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION

The conference may be dissolved by a vote of fifty percent of the membership. Such vote may be taken only at the fall conference meeting, to take effect the following July 1. In the event that the conference is dissolved, the conference treasurer shall settle all outstanding financial obligations prior to December 31 of the year in which dissolution of the conference becomes effective. Remaining assets will then be divided equally among the members in good standing at the time of the vote to dissolve the conference, and which are tax exempt within the meaning of Section 501(C)3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code. Dispersal of assets will be made when all obligations are fulfilled, but in any case on December 31 or before.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any Conference meeting under provisions of Article IX, provided the proposed amendment has been placed on the agenda and has been circulated thirty days prior to the meeting date. The Council of Presidents shall formally approve all changes in the Constitution by a two-thirds majority.