

GREAT LAKES VALLEY CONFERENCE BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – PLAN FOR THE CONDUCT OF CONFERENCE BUSINESS

Section A: Agendas for Conference Meetings

The agenda for each Conference meeting shall be circulated 30 days in advance of the meeting date.

Section B: Authority of Council of Presidents

Conference action on the following items must be recommended to the Council of Presidents, which must approve the action before it takes effect:

1. Changes in membership status (see Constitution, Article IV);
2. Amendments to the Constitution (see Constitution, Article XIII);
3. Amendments to the Bylaws (see Bylaws, Article VII);
4. Waivers of any provision of the Conference Code (see Constitution, Article III);
5. Appointment and compensation of the Commissioner (see Constitution, Article XI);
6. Budget approval; and
7. Approval of agreements with outside parties.

ARTICLE II – DUES AND FEES

Section A: Payment of Dues

The annual dues of each Conference member shall be determined at the fall meeting preceding the start of the next fiscal year. Dues must be paid not later than October 1 of each year.

Section B: Initiation Fee

New members shall pay a non-refundable initiation fee of \$100,000, paid over two years, in addition to their annual membership dues.

Section C: Resignation Fee

Members who provide a two-year notice in writing of their intent to resign from the Conference by July 1 shall pay \$100,000 as a resignation fee, payable by January 1 of the year they exit the league and, in addition, shall forfeit any revenue sharing for their final year in the Conference. Members who provide less than two years' notice in writing of their intent to resign from the Conference by July 1 shall pay \$150,000 as a resignation fee, payable by January 1 of the year they exit the league and, in addition, shall forfeit any revenue sharing for their final year in the Conference. The Council of Presidents may reduce this latter exit fee, but any such reduction requires a two-thirds majority vote, excluding the resigning member and any other member not in good standing. Forfeited money and fees are returned to the Conference reserve fund.

Section D: Special Assessments

The Council of Presidents may levy special assessments of all Conference members when budget circumstances warrant.

ARTICLE III – CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP SPORTS

Section A: Conference Sports – Sponsorship Requirements

Baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, softball, and women's volleyball are designated as "core" Conference championship sports. All members shall sponsor each of the seven "core" Conference championship sports and shall sponsor a minimum of three additional Conference championship sports. In doing so, the institution must sponsor at least five Conference sports for men and five for women or four Conference sports for men and six for women. "Core" Conference championship sport designation may be removed from a sport by a unanimous vote of the members. Additional "core" Conference championship sports may be designated by a unanimous vote of the members.

Section B: Additional Sports – Sponsorship Requirements

Other sports may be designated as Conference sports if sponsored as Division II intercollegiate sports by Conference members meeting NCAA sponsorship requirements for Conference sports and is approved as Conference championship sports by a two-thirds majority vote of the members. A Conference championship shall be determined in each of such Conference championship sports. Championships may be determined by round-robin play or by a Conference championship tournament/meet. Conference championship sport designation will be removed from any sport that is no longer sponsored as a Division II intercollegiate sport and no longer meets NCAA sponsorship requirements for Conference sports. In years for which a Conference sport does not have the minimum number of sponsoring members, the Conference may hold invitational meets or tournaments for all members that do sponsor the sport, but these will not be considered Conference championships. The designation may also be removed immediately, at any time, if so voted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members. However, the Conference must continually maintain sponsorship of at least a minimum of five sports for men and five for women or four sports for men and six for women. Institutions are required to complete a private survey by February 1 of each year to evaluate their sport sponsorship status for the following year and submit it to the Conference office.

Section C: Participation in Conference Championship Sports

Once a sport has been designated as a Conference sport, all member institutions sponsoring the sport must participate in the Conference championship. Failure to do so will first result in a written warning from the Commissioner. Any subsequent failures to participate will result in the institution being placed on Conference probation and being declared ineligible for all Conference championships. Such probationary status can only be removed by a simple majority vote of the Council of Presidents.

Section D: Division I Sports-Sponsorship Prohibition

Conference members may not classify a sport in NCAA Division I if that sport is designated as a Conference championship sport.

Section E: Policies Governing Championships

Policies governing Conference championships shall be set forth in each sport's section of the Conference handbook.

Section F: Associate Members

Associate members may be approved for participation in Conference sports not designated as "core" Conference championship sports (see Bylaws Article III, Section A). Two-thirds of the

Council of Presidents must vote in favor for an institution to be admitted to associate membership.

1. Each school applying for associate membership must be a NCAA Division II member, with a minimum of exploratory status and play "countable" contests in the sport to which they apply.
2. An institution wishing to become an associate member must submit a letter of application to the Commissioner, indicating the sport or sports in which affiliation is desired.
3. Prospective associate members will be evaluated as in Section 19.H in the Handbook.
4. Associate members will be accepted for a minimum of two years and will adhere to all GLVC policies and procedures. Rollover for subsequent years is automatic (after successful completion of year one) unless the Commissioner notifies by June 30 that membership will be terminated. If termination is decided, the school will receive one final year of competition. A member must give one year's notice of intent to resign from the Conference and pay an exit fee of \$5,000. Failure to comply with Constitution Article X Section C, will result in the assessment of an exit fee of \$10,000, payable by the date the resignation becomes effective.
5. Fees:
 - a. Initiation fee = \$5,000 (football) / \$1,000 (other sports and assessed per sport)
 - b. Annual dues = \$5,000 (football) / \$1,000 per year/per gender (other sports)Initiation fee will be payable upon admission to the Conference. Annual dues are payable as in Bylaws Article II Section A.
6. Associate member status shall allow the institution the following privileges:
 - a. Compete in a maximum of two Conference sports per gender.
 - b. Have its coach attend and vote at the sport's annual meeting(s).
 - c. Have its FAR, AD, and SWA attend Conference meetings and have voting rights only on issues dealing exclusively with the sport(s) in which it is a member. Proposals involving multiple sports will identify and separate legislation involving associate members.
 - d. Eligible to receive Conference awards and recognition.
 - e. Serve as a host for GLVC or NCAA championship competition.
 - f. Represent the GLVC in postseason championship play and play-in competition.
7. Associate members will not be participants in NCAA Conference enhancement distributions.

ARTICLE IV – STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Section A: Certification

1. Eligibility Lists
 - a. Before any student-athlete can compete in any intercollegiate contest, the Faculty Athletics Representative or the chair of the institution's committee that exercises institutional control over intercollegiate athletics, shall certify that each student-athlete is academically eligible in accordance with all provisions of NCAA Bylaw 14 (Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements) and any additional requirements set forth by the Conference.

- b. Final determination of each aspect of academic eligibility must be made by institutional personnel outside the athletics department in accordance with a process approved by the institution's chief executive officer.
 - c. A copy of the Eligibility List certification form shall be submitted to the Conference office prior to outside competition.
 - d. Signatures on the Eligibility list must include the following:
 - i. Per NCAA Bylaw 14.10.2.1, the Athletics Director and Head Coach. The Conference also requires the signatures of the Compliance Director, institution's certifying officer for eligibility, and the Faculty Athletics Representative.
 - e. If a change in eligibility status results in a student-athlete "gaining eligibility" a new certified copy of the eligibility list must be sent to the Conference office.
2. Financial Aid Form
- a. Per NCAA Bylaw 15.5.5 the Financial Aid Form must be compiled and made available for examination at the end of the academic year.
 - b. The Financial Aid Form is due to the Conference office on July 1 for previous academic year.
 - c. Signatures on the Financial Aid Summary must include the following:
 - i. Athletics Director, Head Coach, Compliance Director, and institution's certifying officer for Financial Aid. A copy of the form must be provided to the Faculty Athletics Representative.

Section B: Conference Eligibility Requirements

The Conference may impose eligibility requirements in addition to those established by the NCAA when approved by two-thirds majority vote of the members.

Section C: Review of Eligibility Status

The Faculty Athletics Representatives shall act as committee of the whole to review eligibility questions appropriate for Conference resolution, unless they have specifically delegated this authority to another body or individual.

ARTICLE V – GUARANTEES

No guarantee shall be exchanged for Conference contests. In the event of a forfeit by either team, the Commissioner may alter the following year's schedule to impose travel obligations on that team for the following year's contest.

ARTICLE VI – REVENUE SHARING

Section A: General Revenue Distribution

1. It is the general policy of the Conference that, unless otherwise specified, revenue that accrues to the Conference from the NCAA or other organizations will be shared as follows:
 - a. One share to Conference treasury or the total amount needed to balance the Conference operating budget at the end of the fiscal year if there is a revenue shortfall. The balance remaining will then be distributed as in Bylaws Article VI Section A.b and Article VI Section A.c.
 - b. One share to each Conference member in good standing.
 - c. Any share withheld from a member institution by the Conference because of a NCAA and/or GLVC violation, as well as any share that is voluntarily forfeited by

a member institution, shall be retained by the Conference office and deposited in an account designated to fund membership rules compliance initiatives and/or legal issues facing the Conference.

2. If the distribution is based upon Conference membership during a particular period, only members in good standing during that period shall receive shares.
3. The total amount to be shared shall be sent to the Conference treasurer for disbursement.

Section B: Lost Revenue

In the event that a member institution's actions or status cause the Conference to lose revenue in the calculations made for NCAA revenue distributions under Bylaws Article VI Section A, the institution will reimburse the Conference for the revenue lost.

Section C: Revenue Distribution to New Members

New members become eligible for revenue distributions in the same year they become eligible for all Conference championships.

Section D: Revenue from Conference Tournaments

1. Basketball, softball, baseball, swimming & diving, indoor/outdoor track & field and volleyball
 - a. All revenue from these Conference tournaments will accrue to the Conference.
2. Other Sports
 - a. All revenue will accrue to the home institution.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended at any Conference meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, Article IX, provided that the proposed amendment has been placed on the agenda and circulated to the membership 30 days prior to the meeting date. The Council of Presidents shall formally approve all amendments to the Bylaws by a two-thirds majority vote.