ARTICLE 4: Membership

4.1 OVC Membership. Members of the Ohio Valley Conference are:

Eastern Illinois University
Lindenwood University
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Morehead State University
Southeast Missouri State University
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
University of Southern Indiana
Tennessee State University
Tennessee Technological University
University of Tennessee at Martin
Western Illinois University

4.2 General Description of OVC Membership. A voluntary, non-profit association of institutions committed to the conduct and governance of intercollegiate athletics in proper relationship to the mission and values of higher education.

4.3 Sports Sponsorship Qualifications. To be a full member of this Conference, an institution must comply with the following sports sponsorship requirements:

4.3.1 Men's Sports Sponsorships. In men's sports, the institution shall sponsor NCAA basketball and is encouraged to sponsor football. In addition, the institution must compete for Conference championships in a minimum of five of the following sports: baseball, cross country, football, golf, rifle, soccer, indoor track/field or outdoor track/field. A member institution currently sponsoring football may petition the league, through the Board of Presidents, to be waived from the requirement of playing football in the Conference. Such petition may be granted only on the condition that the petitioner will not be awarding any grants-in-aid in the sport or become a member of NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision.

4.3.2 Women's Sports Sponsorships. In women's sports, the institution shall sponsor NCAA basketball and volleyball. In addition, it must compete for championships in a minimum of four of the following sports: cross country, golf, rifle, soccer, softball, tennis, indoor track/field, outdoor track/field or beach volleyball.

4.3.3 Participation in Conference Championships. Each member institution is required to participate in all championships authorized by the Board of Presidents, unless the member institution does not sponsor the sport in question. A Conference school may not participate as a member in any other Conference in a sport recognized and sponsored by the OVC, except in football for a member that has successfully petitioned under Constitution 4.3.1 above.

4.3.4 Compliance with NCAA and OVC Requirements. Member schools must meet the scheduling, minimum number of participants, grant-in-aid minimums and eligibility requirements of the NCAA and OVC in Conference championship sports. An institution shall not be

considered eligible to compete for the Conference championship in a particular sport if an NCAA decision or policy renders the institution ineligible for an NCAA Championship in that sport. (amended 2/13/2012)

4.4 Election of Full Members.

4.4.1 Requirements for Consideration for Membership. Formal application for membership in the Conference shall be considered at any regular or called meeting of the Board of Presidents. Before an institution is considered for membership it must: (a) be a member in a recognized educational association of colleges; (b) be a member of the NCAA; (c) meet description and sports sponsorship requirements of OVC Constitution 4.2 and 4.3 above. Prospective members will be evaluated using principles established by the Conference (see Appendix B - "Ohio Valley Conference Prospective Membership Principles").

4.4.2 Required Vote for Full Membership. Applicants to the Conference must be voted in as full members by a three-fourths vote of the membership at a regular or called meeting of the Board of Presidents.

4.4.3 Fee for New Full Membership. A new full member shall pay to the Conference a sum equal to the pro-rata share of the Conference Fund Balance as shown on the year-end audited Financial Statement of the year of admission and an entrance fee of $250,000 for a current Division I institution and $300,000 for a transitioning Division II institution. Additionally, a new member will be charged for any necessary expenses incurred by the Conference as a result of the institution's admission to the Conference. For a Division II institution that has elected to transition to Division I, the membership fee shall be paid upon the vote of admission by the OVC Board of Presidents and the acceptance of that admissions offer by the institution. For a current Division I institution that belongs to a Division I multi-sport conference, the membership fee shall be paid to the OVC by July 1 of the fiscal year OVC membership begins. Additionally, by that same date, the institution shall have terminated its membership in its previous multi-sport conference. (amended 5/2015)

4.5 Loss of Membership.

4.5.1 Failure to Attend Meetings. Any member of this Conference failing twice in succession to be represented at a regular Board of Presidents' meeting may be dropped from membership in the Conference.

4.5.2 Termination of Membership. With a minimum three-fourths vote of the Conference membership at a regular or called meeting, a member institution may have its Conference affiliation terminated. For a termination vote to be effective, it must occur a minimum of six months prior to the beginning of the academic year in which the termination is to take effect. Cause need not be shown for termination to be effective under this section.

4.5.3 Resignation of Membership. A member institution desiring to terminate its Conference membership shall provide written notice to the Conference president and commissioner a minimum of two years prior to when the member desires to cease Conference membership. Notification must be made no later than the date of the annual OVC Spring Meetings. The

member institution providing notice of its termination need not show cause for its termination to be effective. A member institution providing the requisite notice of its intention to resign from the Conference shall pay a $750,000 exit fee and forfeit its year-end distributions and pro rata share as provided in section 4.5.4. A member institution failing to provide the minimum two years required written notice shall pay the Conference a sum of $1,000,000 and forfeit its year-end distributions and pro rata share as provided in section 4.5.4. A member institution that resigns from the Conference shall pay at least half of the required exit fee within 30 days of providing notice of its intent to end Conference membership and shall pay the remaining balance no later than June 30 of the year of resignation.

4.5.4 Effect on Distributions and Pro Rata Share. A member who resigns or is terminated from the Conference shall forfeit any and all year-end distributions made by the Conference to member institutions and its pro rata share of the Conference Fund Balance.

4.5.5 Participation in Conference Championships. A member institution that provides notice of its intention to resign its OVC membership under the terms of section 4.5.3 is eligible to qualify for an OVC championship, both in team and individual sports, provided all other NCAA and OVC rules and qualification standards are met and timely payment is made of the exit fee.

4.5.6 Enforcement. If a member institution fails to comply with the provisions of the constitution, bylaws and policies regarding the member institution's termination of its Conference membership, the member institution shall pay the Conference's reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses incurred in the enforcement thereof.