



**CONSTITUTION
OF
THE SUN CONFERENCE**

CONSTITUTION THE SUN CONFERENCE ("SUN")

Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be The Sun Conference, hereinafter referred to as SUN or the Conference.

Article II

Purpose

- A. The purpose of The Sun Conference is to provide its member institutions the benefits of an intercollegiate athletic conference, namely:
1. To promote wholesome competition among similar institutions, which provides for rivalries and championships;
 2. To encourage common relationships for the colleges and their various constituencies;
 3. To promote equal competition through agreed upon conference standards;
 4. To enhance the competition for greater media and public exposure;
 5. To promote the development of intercollegiate athletics as an integral part of the curriculum of the member institutions;
 6. To collect, disseminate and preserve conference, individual and team records; and
 7. To provide an educational benefit through intercollegiate athletics for the student-athletes.

Article III

Membership Requirements

- A. Membership in the SUN shall be limited to four-year colleges and universities who are members of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Applying institutions should be committed to enhancing educational and character values through intercollegiate athletics. Membership is based on mutual trust and respect among member institutions dedicated to the education of men and women.
- B. Colleges or Universities meeting the above minimum requirements may hold conference membership or may be invited to apply for membership in The Sun Conference. Upon meeting the standards listed above, institutions applying for membership may, if all other additional conditions of membership are met, become conference members upon receiving a favorable vote of 2/3 of the conference Council of Athletic Directors and a subsequent 2/3 favorable vote of member institutions' chief executive officers.
- C. The addition of new member institutions (full, associate, or one-sport members) will require a 2/3 favorable vote by the Council of Athletic Directors and subsequent 2/3 approval by the Conference Council of Presidents.
- D. Membership in other conferences is permitted for sports not sponsored by the SUN.
- E. Institutions may be terminated or suspended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the SUN in the manner set forth in the SUN By-Laws. Membership is voluntary, and an institution desiring to withdraw membership is requested to inform the Council of Presidents two (2) years in advance.

Article IV
Participation

- A. Membership in the SUN is intended for colleges and universities that are members of the NAIA and provide a broad base of athletic competition for men and women. All conference members must sponsor the minimum number of sports required by SUN as defined in the By-Laws.
- B. Members shall be bound by the provisions of the Constitution, By-Laws, Administrative Policies and the Sports Guidelines for all sports that are designated as SUN sponsored sports.
- C. Championships shall be conducted in SUN sponsored sports that meet the minimum NAIA post-season qualification standards.
- D. Sports sponsored by member institutions as intercollegiate sports but not recognized as Conference sports are not subject to the regulations of the Conference.

Article V
Awards

- A. The SUN Council of Athletic Directors may implement awards to reinforce the Conference, the Champions of Character program or the men's and women's programs it sponsors.
- B. Teams, athletes, and coaches may be recognized for various awards as specified in the By-Laws or Sports Guidelines.

Article VI
Governance

- A. Each member institution will have one (1) vote. The Conference shall be governed by the President/CEO of each member institution forming the SUN Council of Presidents (COP). Each President may appoint a representative, typically the Athletic Director, to form the SUN Council of Athletic Directors (COAD). The COP and COAD Executive Committees shall work together with the Commissioner to facilitate communication between the COP and COAD.
- B. The COP duties will include:
 - 1. oversight of conference commissioner,
 - 2. approval of annual conference budget,
 - 3. final approval of new conference members, and
 - 4. final approval of changes to the constitution.
- C. The COAD duties will include:
 - 1. recruitment and recommendation of new members to the COP,
 - 2. approval of the activities and programs of the conference, and
 - 3. approval of policies and procedures governing competition, eligibility (in conjunction with the FAR's and Registrars) and conduct.
- D. Coaches in each Conference sport shall organize themselves and recommend guidelines for the conduct of each sport. Such recommendations are to be submitted to the Council of Athletic Directors via the SUN Commissioner for approval and establishment of an implementation timeline.
- E. Any member institution is entitled to propose legislation to the Council of Athletic Directors or Council of Presidents through their President, Athletic Director, Faculty Athletic Representative or any SUN approved Committee.

Article VII

Officers

- A. The officers of the Conference shall be the President, COP Executive Committee, COAD Executive Committee, Chief Operating Officer and Treasurer. The President shall be the conference representative to the NAIA Council of Presidents. The Commissioner shall serve as the Chief Operating Officer. The position of Treasurer shall be nominated by the Commissioner, in consultation with the COAD, and approved by the COP.

Article VIII

Conference Commissioner

- A. The commissioner shall perform such duties as are prescribed within the Constitution, By-Laws, Administrative Guidelines, Sport Policies and other such duties as may be prescribed by the Conference Council of Presidents and the Council of Athletic Directors.
- B. The Chair of the COP will evaluate the Commissioner annually. The evaluation will be completed by September 1 of each year.
- C. The Council of Presidents shall determine the Commissioner's compensation.

Article IX

Eligibility Committee and Chair

- A. The Council of Athletic Directors shall select three qualified institutional representatives (FAR's, AD's, Registrars) and one alternate to serve as the Conference Eligibility Committee. At least one of these three members must be a registrar or FAR.
- B. The Conference Eligibility Committee shall have the responsibility to administer eligibility rules and policies within the Conference as adopted by the Conference and NAIA.
- C. The Conference Eligibility Chair shall be retained by the Conference and report to the Commissioner. The commissioner shall annually review the Conference Eligibility Chair's performance and recommend changes in compensation.
- D. The Conference Eligibility Chair will be appointed by the Commissioner with confirmation of the COAD.

Article X

Conference Sports Information Director

- A. The SUN Sports Information Director shall be retained by the Conference and report to the Commissioner. The Commissioner, in conjunction with the COAD, shall annually review the SUN Sports Information Director's performance and recommend changes in compensation.

Article XI

Meetings

- A. The COP shall annually hold two regularly scheduled meetings – to be determined by the Commissioner and the SUN representative to the NAIA Council of Presidents. The Commissioner or any SUN president may call a special meeting at any time with two weeks' notice.
- B. The Council of Athletic Directors shall annually hold two regularly scheduled meetings – one in the Fall and the other in the Spring. The President/Commissioner may call a special meeting at any time with two weeks' notice.

- C. A meeting of the COP or the COAD shall be considered official when a majority of members are present.
- D. Action of the COP and/or COAD shall require a majority vote unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution.
- E. If a general meeting of the Conference is called it shall be attended by all institutional athletic directors, Faculty Athletic Representatives, Sports Information Directors, coaches and athletic trainers, unless otherwise notified by the Commissioner.

Article XII

Financial / Fees

- A. Member institutions shall be assessed an annual fee to cover expenses associated with business of the Conference. The Commissioner, in consultation with the COAD, shall recommend changes in the fee structure. The COP must approve these changes.
- B. No part of the net earnings of the SUN shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the SUN shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof.
- C. The Commissioner upon approval of the COP will act as the official representative for signing of contracts entering the conference into agreements for services, sponsorships and other conference matters.

Article XIII

Rules and Policies

- A. The SUN shall be governed by the Constitution, By-Laws, Administrative Guidelines and Sport Policies.

Article XIV

Student Athlete Eligibility

- A. To represent an institution in a selected Conference sport, a student-athlete must meet the eligibility standards of their institution and the NAIA. Member institutions may choose to enact eligibility standards that are more stringent than those of the NAIA but shall never be less than the NAIA minimum standards.

Article XV

Financial Aid

- A. Member institutions will conduct their intercollegiate athletic programs in compliance with all financial aid rules adopted by the NAIA (NAIA Official Handbook, Article II, Section B) and within the designated limitations as established by the NAIA membership.
- B. The SUN COP can enact minimum financial aid requirements in approved SUN sponsored sports.

Article XVI

Amendments

- A. This Constitution can be amended with 2/3 approval of the SUN Council of Presidents.
- B. Any approved amendment to the Constitution becomes effective immediately unless otherwise noted.

Article XVII

Dissolution

- A. The Council of Presidents will appoint the Treasurer or other individual as an agent to perform the duties needed for the dissolution of the SUN. This agent will formally notify each member of the dissolution of the organization and request a designated 501 (c) (3) organization for distribution of an equal share of assets. Notification shall be sent within fourteen (14) calendar days of an agent being appointed.

Article XVIII

Ratification

- A. The members of The Sun Conference approved this constitution on the 17th day of June 2008; and approved the amendments to this constitution on the 10th day of August 2015.