

SOONER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

BYLAWS

Article I

Membership

Section 1.

Annual dues for membership in the Sooner Athletic Conference shall be paid by October 1st of each year. All institutions delinquent in the payment of member dues shall be immediately ineligible for SAC competition until full payment is received by the conference office.

Article II

Governance

Section 1.

The final authority for the operations of the conference shall be vested in the Council of Presidents (COP). The COP shall have direct authority for conference business in the following areas, as well as in any other area that the COP shall determine appropriate:

1. Amendments to the conference constitution and by-laws.
2. Budget approval and financial oversight.
3. Employment and supervision of the conference Commissioner.
4. Conference membership.
5. Approval of the conference strategic plan.

Article III

Administration

Section 1.

Duties:

A. Commissioner

1. Advises the COP on all conference business and other matters.
2. Calls all meetings and presides at all conference meetings, except meetings of the COP.
3. Appoints committees with approval of Executive Committee.

4. Represents conference at all Regional and National meetings, except the NAIA Council of Presidents.
5. Maintains the official conference membership records.
6. Coordinates all conference public relations activities
7. Maintains permanent records of all conference sports.
8. Keeps and maintains records of minutes of all meetings.
9. Takes charge of all conference funds and pays all bills.
10. Keeps the financial books and submits them for audit annually.
11. Makes recommendations for a conference budget each year.
12. Arranges for all conferences awards in each sport.
13. Coordinates all conference matters with league approval.
14. Supervises conference sports information director.
15. Supervises all officials supervisors for all sports.

B. Assistant Commissioner / Information Director

C. Executive Committee

1. Advises and gives direction to Commissioner concerning all business matters.
2. Handles all matters not requiring vote of conference members.
3. Presents proposals and other matters to members.
4. Assigns various matters to committees for review and proposals.

D. Eligibility Committee

1. Investigates and reviews all eligibility matters for the conference.
2. Makes rulings on all eligibility matters.

E. Faculty Athletic Representative Committee

1. Acts as an advisory body for the conference and Commissioner.
2. Makes recommendations on policy matters for conference.
3. Serves as liaison for conference with faculties of members.
4. Advises members regarding eligibility issues.

F. Conduct in Competition Committee

1. Monitors and recommends the scope of Conference activities related to event management, hospitality, and conduct in competition.
2. Reviews and rules on recommendations from the Commissioner regarding conduct-related sanctions within the Conference.

Article IV

Other Committees

Section 1.

Other committees shall be appointed by the Commissioner as needed. Coaches of each sport shall serve on their sport's respective committee.

Article V

Official Sports

Section 1.

All conference members must sponsor men and women's basketball and a minimum of one fall sport for men, one fall sport for women, one spring sport for men, and one spring sport for women, all of which required sports must be sports recognized by the conference for conference championships.

Section 2.

A sport may become a recognized official conference sport if a minimum of four member schools participate in said sport at the NAIA level of play.

Section 3.

Official sports currently recognized by the conference include: Men: football, cross country, soccer, basketball, wrestling, baseball, golf, and track and field; Women: cross country, soccer, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, golf, softball, and track and field.

Article VI

Scholarship Aid and NAIA Compliance

Section 1.

Scholarship aid for each sport will be the responsibility of each member. Athletic aid shall not exceed NAIA regulations and limitations. Each member shall be responsible for full compliance with NAIA rules and regulations.

Article VII

Statistics and Public Relations

Section 1.

The Commissioner shall, with the approval of the Executive Committee, appoint a person to serve as the conference sports information director.

Section 2.

It shall be the responsibility of each member institution to cause the results of all athletic contests to be reported to the conference sports information director at such times as the conference sports information director shall direct. In the event such information is not timely provided, the conference sports information director, in his/her discretion, is authorized to leave out the records and statistics of the violating institution for the particular report being prepared.

Section 3.

All member institutions are responsible for sending to the conference sports information director all schedules, game results, statistics and other relevant information which concerns the conference. Failure to provide such information shall subject the violating institution to penalties, as shall be set and determined by the Executive Committee.

Article VIII

Student Transfer Rule Within the Conference

Section 1.

A student-athlete in an NAIA-recognized sport who previously identified with a conference member and who then transfers to another conference member must complete one academic year in residence at the latter institution prior to participating in any NAIA-recognized sport. A student who has graduated with a bachelor's degree from a conference institution, then transfers to another conference institution, shall be exempt from this policy.

Section 2.

A student-athlete who previously identified with a conference member and whose immediately previous identification and participation was with a junior college and who then transfers to another conference member shall be immediately eligible to participate, provided the student fulfills all NAIA academic requirements, was identified with the junior college and completed one academic year in residence there. If the student was at the junior college for less than one academic year, then the student will be ineligible at the second conference school for an additional 16 weeks/semester.

Section 3.

A student-athlete who previously identified with a conference member and whose immediately previous identification and participation was with a non-SAC four-year institution and who then transfers to another conference member must satisfy the existing NAIA transfer regulations before becoming eligible to participate, provided the student was identified with the non-SAC four-year institution and completed one academic year in residence there. If the student was at the non-SAC four-year institution for less than one academic year, then the student will be ineligible at the second conference school for an additional 16 weeks/semester.

Section 4.

A student-athlete whose only participation has come in a non-varsity program may be eligible to participate immediately in a non-varsity program at the second conference school, provided the existing NAIA transfer regulations are satisfied.

Section 5.

If the Athletics Director (AD), Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), Athletics Compliance Administrator or any coach at a conference member institution is contacted or becomes aware of contact by a student-athlete who has identified with another conference member institution, he/she shall be required to comply with NAIA Bylaws Article II, Section D, No. 1 (i.e., 10-day notification rule).

When an intra-conference transfer has occurred, the FAR or Athletics Compliance Administrator at each conference member shall notify the Eligibility Chair when submitting the student's completed Official NAIA Transfer Player Eligibility Statement or earlier, if possible.

Section 6.

Any appeal of Article VIII as it relates to student-athlete eligibility shall be submitted only by the AD, FAR or Athletics Compliance Administrator of a conference member and only after verifying the transfer student is full-time enrolled at that school and has attended his/her first day of classes during the regular school year.

An appeal must be made in writing to the Commissioner, who will in turn refer the appeal to the SAC Executive Committee. Should a member(s) of the Executive Committee represent an institution involved in the case, the Commissioner will appoint an additional AD(s) such that three (3) ADs comprise the committee.

At minimum, an appeal should include a breakdown of the student's terms of attendance and seasons of competition at the previous school(s), as well as rationale for seeking an exception to the standard rule. Once an appeal is submitted, the Commissioner shall have 10 weekdays to review the case – which

shall include communication with the AD, Athletics Compliance Administrator and/or coach at the previous conference member(s) – and provide a report and recommendation to the Executive Committee, which then shall render a decision within the next 10 weekdays.

Section 7.

This policy shall take effect and apply for new Full, Associate and Per-Sport members immediately upon the date of their acceptance as a conference member. For Per-Sport members, the policy shall apply only to the sport(s) in which they are a conference member.

Section 8.

An institution which allows an ineligible student-athlete to participate in an athletic contest shall, at minimum, include forfeiture of all games in which the student-athlete participated. In addition, the ineligible student-athlete who participated in the athletic contest shall face punitive measures up to and including being charged a season of competition. If/when an intraconference transfer policy violation occurs, the Sooner Athletic Conference Executive Committee will determine appropriate actions.

Section 9. Definitions

- A. Identification occurs with any of the following actions:
 - 1. When a signed SAC letter of intent is filed with the commissioner. In addition, a signed SAC letter of intent must be filed with the commissioner within two weeks of the date in which the letter of intent was signed; otherwise the letter of intent will be considered void, or;
 - 2. When a student enrolls (defined below) in 12 or more institutional credit hours with a minimum of nine institutional credit hours at the identifying institution in any given term (excluding summer session) as reported by the institution's registrar on an official transcript based on the institution's official census date; or
 - 3. When a student represents an institution through participation (defined below).
- B. Academic Year in Residence is full-time enrollment in two terms during the regular school year (full-time summer enrollment will not count towards meeting this requirement).
- C. Enrollment is completion of the institution's enrollment forms or cards (payment of fees is not a factor).
- D. Participation is competition in a sport recognized by the NAIA and sponsored by the institution as an intercollegiate sport against competitors not identified with the institution.

- E. NAIA-Recognized Sport is any sport recognized by the NAIA as either an Invitational Sport or Championship Sport.

Article IX

Executive Regulations

Section 1.

Order of Business. The regular order of business at all regular meetings of the conference or of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

- A. Roll Call
- B. Approval of minutes
- C. Old Business
- D. New Business
- E. Committee reports
- F. Sports issues
- G. Scheduling issues
- H. Financial Report
- I. Adjournment

Article X

Awards

Section 1.

- A. Team Hardware. Trophies shall be awarded to Conference champions or co-champions in all recognized Conference sports. Recognized sports are those in which a Conference champion is declared. Standardized trophies will be awarded in all recognized sports, to be ordered by the Commissioner and paid for by the Conference. Additionally, a standardized trophy shall be awarded to Conference tournament champions in those recognized sports that declare both regular-season and tournament champions. The Conference expressly prohibits the provision of team runner-up awards in all sports.
- B. Player/Runner/Athlete of the Week. The Conference shall honor a Player/Runner/Athlete of the Week in sports that have at least four (4) member schools participating at the NAIA level. The award shall be based on individual performance, including statistics, records and effect on outcome of contests. Team success and level of competition/opponents also should be considered. The award may be modified to reward a specific

attribute(s) (e.g., Offensive, Defensive), as specified in the guidelines for each sport. Nominations must be made according to schedules, times and process set each season by the Conference Information Director.

Selections will be made according to a process outlined by the Information Director, unless specified otherwise in sport guidelines.

- C. Male and Female Athletes of the Year. Each institution shall nominate one male and one female finalist for SAC Athlete of the Year, using its own selection process. The award shall be based on athletic accomplishments and contributions to his/her specific sport(s) at institutional/Conference/national levels for the year. Career contributions may also be considered. The Conference sports information directors shall be responsible for collecting and submitting nominations at each school. Students from any NAIA-recognized sport are eligible for nomination. Annual deadline for submissions is June 15 and should include a synopsis of achievement not to exceed 200 words. The Conference athletic directors will vote for all nominees in preferential order, except they may not vote for their own athletes. Recipients shall receive personalized plaques.

Section 2.

All-Conference

- A. Head coaches of member institutions shall nominate players for the official All-Conference team in recognized Conference sports. Only the head coach or a designee from the institution shall vote in determining the All-Conference team. Coaches may not vote for their own players. Players from institutions that fail to vote for All-Conference selections will be disqualified from receiving All-Conference awards.
- B. Method of Selection. Nominations for the All-Conference teams will be sent to the Commissioner (or his/her designee) according to his/her designated timeline. The official ballot will be compiled and returned to the head coaches to vote upon. The breakdown of each All-Conference team shall be in accordance with guidelines specified in the guidelines for each sport. Coaches group may elect to discuss nominees via conference call or in-person meeting prior to voting, as specified in sport guidelines.
- C. Voting Procedure. Players will be ranked, by position if applicable, according to the number of players on the team with a rank of one (1) being the highest. Each rank will carry a numeric value to be used in tallying the votes. Players receiving the most points for each position (when applicable) will be selected as members of the first team, and the players receiving the second highest number of points will be selected to the second team. All other players receiving points will be eligible for honorable mention, subject to sport guidelines.

- D. Individual Hardware. Standardized plaques will be awarded for individual achievement awards in all recognized Conference sports, to be ordered by the Commissioner and paid for by the Conference. Plaques shall be awarded in accordance with the following principles:
1. The Conference shall strive to provide hardware for all-conference performers in a balanced and consistent manner across recognized sports. The Conference shall consider as a guide the total number of starting players among all Conference teams in a given sport (e.g., 12 basketball teams with 5 starters each is 60 total starting players), then aim to offer all-conference hardware to roughly 15 to 20 percent (e.g., hardware to approximately 9-to-12 all-conference selections in basketball). Recognition for additional all-conference performers in a given sport may include personalized certificates and/or Conference website recognition.
 2. In addition, the Conference shall recognize individual achievement across recognized sports by providing hardware for approved individual awards (e.g., Coach/Player/Freshman/Newcomer of the Year).
 3. At any Conference championship for which an all-tournament team is selected, the Conference shall award hardware for all-tournament honorees, including a Most Valuable Player.
- E. Announcements of Teams. The All-Conference teams are to be announced at a time between the end of the conference regular season and the start of the conference postseason tournament.
- F. Individual Awards.
1. Coach of the Year. The Conference shall honor a Coach of the Year in all recognized Conference sports. The award will be selected by a vote of head coaches. The Coach of the Year Award recognizes the outstanding accomplishments that a coach has achieved with his/her team within the given season. When voting, head coaches should consider the following criteria: i) Outstanding team/player success; ii) Team/player sportsmanship; iii) Professional manner and attitude of coach; and iv) Postseason qualification. Each head coach has one vote and cannot vote for him/herself.
 2. Player/Runner/Athlete of the Year. The Conference shall honor a Player/Runner/Athlete(s) of the Year in all recognized Conference sports. Additionally, the award may be modified to reward a specific attribute(s) (e.g., Offensive, Defensive, Sportsmanship), as specified in the guidelines for each sport, and will be selected by a vote of head coaches.
 3. Freshman of the Year. The Conference may honor a Freshman of the Year in recognized Conference sports. Freshman is defined as a player in his/her first year of intercollegiate competition in any sport. The award will be selected by a vote of head coaches, unless sport guidelines specify otherwise.

4. Newcomer of the Year. The Conference may honor a Newcomer of the Year in recognized Conference sports. Newcomer is defined as a first-year new player in the Conference who is not eligible for Freshman of the Year (e.g., junior college transfer or 4-4 transfer). The award will be selected by a vote of head coaches.

Section 3.

Academic Awards

- A. Commissioner's Honor Roll. The Conference shall promote the academic success among individuals by naming a Commissioner's Honor Roll, which shall be announced at the conclusion of each academic year (June) and is based on grade point average for the entire year (fall and spring). The Conference sports information directors shall be responsible for collecting and submitting nominations at each school. Recipients shall be recognized on the Conference website. Recipients will include all student-athletes who meet the following criteria:
 1. Students from any NAIA-recognized sport shall be eligible, except students whose team competes as a per-sport member in another conference shall not be eligible for SAC recognition.
 2. The student's grade point average must be a minimum of 3.0 based on the 4.0 system. The GPA submitted shall be for the current academic year.
 3. The student must be active on the roster and nominated by the institution's faculty athletics representative and/or compliance officer. Annual deadline for nominations is June 1.

- B. Academic All-Conference. The Conference shall recognize academic success of its student-athletes by naming an Academic All-Conference list in sports that have at least four (4) member schools participating at the NAIA level. The Conference sports information directors shall be responsible for collecting and submitting nominations at each school. Recipients shall receive personalized certificates. The Conference shall provide certificates to all institutions, with each athletic department then responsible for personalizing and presenting to its own recipients. Recipients will include all student-athletes who meet the following criteria:
 1. Any sophomore, junior and/or senior student-athlete who has posted a minimum 3.25 grade point average during the previous two semesters and is a regular (letter-winner) on his/her respective team.
 2. The student must be nominated by the institution's faculty athletics representative and/or compliance officer at the end of each semester (depending on sport).
 - a. Fall sports (cross country, football, soccer, volleyball) use Fall semester and previous Spring semester grades to calculate GPA.

Annual deadline for nominations shall be January 15.

Announcement of recipients shall occur on or around February 1.

- b. Winter sports (basketball, wrestling) and Spring sports (baseball, softball, golf, track and field) use Fall and Spring semester grades from the current academic year to calculate GPA. Annual deadline for nominations shall be June 1. Announcement of recipients shall occur on or around June 15.

- C. Academic Player/Runner/Athlete of the Year. The Conference sports information directors shall select the Academic Player/Runner/Athlete of the Year in sports that have at least four (4) member schools participating at the NAIA level from the Academic All-Conference list. Recipients shall receive personalized certificates. Annual deadline for voting shall be June 30. Announcement of recipients shall occur on or around July 15.
- D. Male and Female Academic Athletes of the Year. Each academic year, the Conference sports information directors shall select one male and one female as the Academic Athletes of the Year for the entire Conference. The nominees shall consist of the Academic Player/Runner/Athlete of the Year in sports that have at least four (4) member schools participating at the NAIA level. Recipients shall receive personalized plaques. Annual deadline for voting shall be July 30. Announcement of recipients shall occur on or around August 1.
- E. SAC Scholar Team Awards. The Conference shall encourage academic success among teams by selecting SAC Scholar Team Award in each recognized sport. This honor recognizes the team in each Conference sport with the highest team grade point average for the year. The Conference sports information directors shall be responsible for collecting and submitting nominations at each school. Team winners in each sport shall be recognized on the Conference website. Team winners will be the team with the highest GPA as determined by the following criteria:
 1. Minimum 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) as defined by the nominating institution.
 2. Include every varsity athlete certified as eligible in this sport and listed on any eligibility certificate submitted to Conference Eligibility Chair during this academic year.
 3. Will be calculated using the institution's normal GPA rules regarding repeated courses, transfer credit, etc. Sum the total quality points/GPA points earned by all team members and divide by the sum of the total GPA hours earned by the team members.
 4. Fall and spring grades from the current year are to be used when calculating the team GPA.
 5. Annual deadline for nominations shall be June 30. Announcement of team winners shall occur on or around July 15.
- F. SAC Scholar-Athlete Award. The Conference shall mirror the NAIA Scholar-Athlete program in recognizing excellence in the classroom by its student-

athletes who are juniors or above in academic standing with at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average. Students must appear on the eligibility certificate for an NAIA-recognized sport and have attended two full years as a non-transfer or one full year as a transfer. Recipients shall be recognized on the Conference website. Annual deadlines for submission shall mirror the NAIA calendar: November 1 for fall sports, February 15 for winter sports, and April 15 for spring sports.

Section 4.

Nominees for National Awards

The Conference shall strive to maintain regular participation in the nomination process for each of the association-wide individual awards recognized by the NAIA. Therefore, at the Commissioner's direction, the Conference shall select a representative nomination for national awards. Teams and individuals from any NAIA-recognized sport shall be eligible for nomination. The Conference shall recognize its nominees on the Conference website.

- A. The Conference shall aim to select nominees annually for the following awards:
 - 1. Athletic Director of the Year,
 - 2. Athletic Trainer of the Year,
 - 3. Sports Information Director of the Year,
 - 4. A.O. Duer Scholarship Award (male/female junior student-athlete in any sport who has excelled in scholarship, character, and citizenship)
 - 5. Emil S. Liston Award (junior men's/women's basketball player who has shown high athletic and scholastic achievement).

- B. The Conference shall select nominees in instances deemed appropriate for the following awards:
 - 1. NAIA Hall of Fame,
 - 2. Larry Lady Officiating Award (game official in any NAIA sport who demonstrates outstanding quality, high moral character, fine officiating ability and is held in high esteem by colleagues, administrators, and student-athletes),
 - 3. Charles Morris Administrator of the Year Award (active administrator who exemplifies loyalty and enthusiasm for the SAC and NAIA.),
 - 4. Clarence "Ike" Pearson Award (member of NAIA-SIDA with outstanding contributions to the SID profession),
 - 5. Wally Schwartz Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year Award (FAR who exemplifies loyalty, enthusiasm, and honesty on behalf of the SAC and NAIA),
 - 6. Champions of Character Team Award (team that displayed exemplary character and sportsmanship on the field, on campus, and in the community),

7. "All That's Right In Sport" Award (institution, team or individual for actions in NAIA competition that are clear demonstrations of extraordinary sportsmanship), and
8. Leroy Walker Character Award (student-athlete with at least junior academic status who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, campus and community leadership embracing the five core character values of the NAIA Champions of Character initiative, athletic achievement and future ambition).

Article XI

Game Management

Section 1.

Members of the Conference commit to providing a safe, friendly environment at all athletic events, with a goal of promoting trust and good relations among members and visiting institutions through emphasis of the five core values of NAIA's Champions of Character initiative: respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship. Conference members embrace best practices in hospitality and game management, using provisions found in the NAIA Conduct in Competition Guide ([LINK](#)) as a guide.

Representatives of member schools including student-athletes, coaches, staff, alumni, fans and boosters shall strive to conduct themselves with integrity and good sportsmanship. Their behavior at all times should reflect the high standards of honor and dignity that characterize the Sooner Athletic Conference and its member institutions, the NAIA, and intercollegiate athletics competition.

Section 2.

Members of the Conference agree to these standards for game officials:

- A. The Conference shall retain a Supervisor of Officials to make game assignments in football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball. Supervisors will be paid annual stipends from the Conference budget. Each coach will have the opportunity to provide feedback and/or evaluate officials according to a system provided by the supervisor.
- B. The Conference will invoice member institutions for varsity home game Officials at least one month prior to the start date of each sport competition season. Payment of the invoice is due by the first day of the month after the sport competition start date. All institutions delinquent in the payment of officiating dues shall be ineligible for SAC post-season competition until full payment is received by the conference office.

- B. The host institution, where physical conditions permit, will provide the officials with a dressing room separate from the teams' and coaches' dressing rooms and showers. Coaches and officials or sideline crews should not be using the same dressing rooms. Coaches will not visit the officials' dressing room before, during or after the game, nor shall officials seek out coaches.
- C. The number of officials and game fees will be established by the Conference. The approved game fees will be set at least one (1) year in advance, when possible.
- D. In soccer, baseball and softball, a full game fee shall be paid for any game that is started, regardless of its completion. One game fee shall be paid if officials are en route or present and no games are played. If officials have been contacted and did not travel, no fee is paid.
- E. If fewer than the required number of officials is present at game time due to an emergency or extenuating circumstances, the game(s) will be played with a lesser number of assigned officials or by replacement officials mutually agreed upon by both coaches.
- F. If an official requests the service of an athletic trainer or needs any supplies, the trainer should go to officials' locker room to provide the service or deliver supplies. The official should not go to the training room.
- G. Absolutely no one shall be allowed access to the officials' locker room without permission except for the officials assigned to the game, the game administrator and Conference representatives.

Section 3.

Members of the Conference agree to these standards for game management:

- A. Each member institution shall designate before each athletic contest an administrator to be in charge of game management and to serve as the contact person for game officials and/or visiting coaches should problems arise during the contest. Game administrators at all contests shall be responsible for reporting any incidents, ejections, or breach of Conference policy to his/her athletic director, who in turn shall inform the Commissioner.
- B. Scorers, timers, play/shot clock operators, ball boys, chain crews, etc., are to be on site and available to meet with game officials prior to each contest in order to review procedures and policies. All such personnel will perform their duties in a professional and impartial manner.
- C. Host institutions must strive to ensure adequate security measures are implemented both inside and outside the playing area, before and after the

game, to avoid physical and verbal threats or hostilities between fans and team personnel, or between fans and game officials. Host institutions shall, with appropriate resources:

1. Provide appropriate security for team buses during arrival and departure;
2. Provide appropriate security for team personnel and game officials going to and from the playing area;
3. Ensure that no fan enters the playing or team area at any time unless such entry is properly credentialed or authorized;
4. Provide adequate security around team bench areas;
5. Provide adequate security at locker rooms of team personnel and game officials;
6. Take appropriate measures, including removal from premises, if any fan engages in physical or extreme verbal abuse of team personnel, game officials or other fans.

D. Physical or verbal hostilities involving team personnel and game officials that occur in the playing area during the course of a game are NOT the responsibility of security personnel unless a game official requests their assistance. These situations should be handled by game officials and/or through post-game discipline by the institution and/or Commissioner.

Section 4.

Members of the Conference agree to these standards for crowd control:

- A. The responsibility for crowd control rests with the Director of Athletics of the host institution. He/she may designate a game administrator, however ultimate responsibility shall remain with the AD. The host institution shall supply the visiting team and game officials with the name and location of the game administrator.

Directors of Athletics for the competing institutions are expected to communicate with their student-athletes and other fans to encourage enthusiastic support within the confines of respect, responsibility and sportsmanship. Host institutions must provide adequate security and other game management personnel for effective crowd management. Attention should be given to seating arrangements and other measures that will alleviate crowd-control problems. In addition, evacuation and emergency management plans should be in place and reviewed on a regular basis.

- B. The game administrator shall be responsible for monitoring and stopping inappropriate chants, cheers or behaviors that are contradictory to the NAIA Champions of Character initiative. Specifically, the use of profanity/vulgar language and/or making personal attacks regarding physical characteristics of a player, coach or official is unacceptable and must be addressed.

- C. Head coaches are charged with a responsibility that reaches beyond the game. Their behavior directly affects the conduct of their bench personnel, players and spectators. Their job is to prepare the team for the game, but also to conduct themselves in such a manner during the game to reinforce good crowd control. Head coaches shall be responsible for the conduct of all persons in the team/bench area.
- D. When a public address system is available, the game administrator shall be prepared to use the P.A. system at the first sign of unsportsmanlike crowd behavior and request cooperation in maintaining proper playing conditions. The following announcement should be made:

"The NAIA, Sooner Athletic Conference and (Name of University), promote good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racial or sexist comments or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student athletes, coaches or team representatives will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition."

- E. These additional announcements can be made at contests to reinforce a positive atmosphere:

"(Name of University) welcomes all players, officials and spectators to today's contest. As a member of the NAIA and Sooner Athletic Conference, we are committed to competing as Champions of Character, embracing five core values: respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership and sportsmanship. We ask each of you as a participant, official or spectator to abide by these values by creating a positive environment in which our athletes may participate, our officials may work and you, the spectator, may enjoy. Please enjoy today's contest."

"(Name of University) welcomes all players, officials and spectators to today's game. As part of our commitment to the NAIA's Champions of Character initiative, we ask for your assistance in creating a positive competitive environment by showing respect for one another. On behalf of the Sooner Athletic Conference and (Name of University), please enjoy today's game."

Section 5.

Members of the Conference shall abide by the following in postponed, cancelled, suspended, interrupted athletic contests:

- A. If a situation occurs due to darkness, light failure or inclement weather that a contest cannot be resumed, a winner may be declared if the contest has progressed to a "reasonable point of conclusion," which shall be based on the following:

1. Football: Three quarters.
 2. Men's and Women's Soccer: 70 minutes.
 3. Volleyball: All completed sets in a game shall count toward the final result, as well as a partial set if a team has scored at least 20 points.
 4. Men's Basketball: 30 minutes.
 5. Women's Basketball: Three quarters.
 6. Baseball and Softball: Five innings.
- B. If a contest has been suspended, it must be resumed in two hours or by mutual consent of the Directors of Athletics of the participating teams, otherwise it will be declared a "no contest." Sports may have specific exceptions to this policy if provided in the playing rules.
- C. If a contest has never started due to extenuating circumstances (postponed), the contest may be rescheduled by mutual agreement of the Directors of Athletics of the two teams involved. If a mutual agreement cannot be reached, the Commissioner will adjudicate the scheduling of the contest.
- D. If a forfeit is declared while a contest is in progress or a situation that forces premature end to the contest, all statistics (other than won/lost and coach's records) are voided unless the contest has progressed to a "reasonable point of conclusion."
- E. In the event of spectator disruption, the referee has authority under the playing rules to suspend play for any reason. In the event of a disturbance or such character and proportions that it disrupts the game, the following actions should be taken:
1. The referee shall call a halt to the game (official's time out) and instruct each team captain to send his teammates to their respective benches. Coaches will make special efforts to see that players do not become involved in the disturbance by holding them in the team area, or upon instruction, taking them to the locker room.
 2. The referee will make note of the time and ball possession. The clock operator will freeze the game clock at that point. This being accomplished, the officials will return to the sidelines. The referee must make himself available to the game administrator for further instruction.
 3. The game administrator will assume responsibility immediately after teams and officials have cleared the court. Under no circumstances are players, coaches or officials to become involved in the action.
 4. Should the disturbance be of such proportions that a long delay is imminent, or such that it threatens the involvement and safety of the players, coaches or officials, the teams and officials will be instructed by the game administrator to return to their respective locker rooms.
 5. Teams and officials will remain in their locker rooms until the disturbance has been brought under control.

6. The game administrator will notify the referee after order has been restored, making play possible. If not, the facility will be cleared of spectators and the doors locked so that the game may resume.
7. The teams when returning to the floor/field will be allowed a 5-minute warm up period. Following that, the game will resume from the point it was stopped.
8. Should the disturbance be of such proportions that further play would be impossible, the status of the game will revert to the Directors of Athletics of the institutions involved.

Article XII

SAC Association of Student Athletes

Section 1

A. Purpose

1. The Sooner Athletic Conference Association of Student-Athletes (SAC-ASA) shall serve as the conference student-athlete leadership group. The SAC-ASA will provide a medium of communication between student-athletes and athletic administrators within the conference. SAC-ASA may initiate discussions and actions related to rules governance, student-athlete welfare, community service and conference initiatives. In addition, SAC-ASA members will provide support, representation, and constructive feedback to all conference members to create a positive environment where all student-athletes can maximize their academic, athletic, personal, and social growth.

B. Composition

1. Each institution shall select one male and one female student-athlete to represent their institution on the SAC-ASA. Each representative must be academically eligible, have participated in at least one year of competition in the SAC, and possess an exceptional GPA, as determined by each institution. SAC-ASA membership may cease by resignation, institutional prerogative, or completion of eligibility. Upon acceptance into the conference, new members shall have two representatives serve on the SAC-ASA.

C. Meetings

1. The SAC-ASA shall meet four times per academic year, with at least one in-person meeting.

D. Role/Authority

1. Like other committees within the conference, the SAC-ASA has the authority to bring forward recommendations for consideration to the appropriate group within the conference governance structure.

E. SAC-ASA Executive Board

1. The SAC-ASA will be led by an Executive Board, comprised of a chair, a vice-chair, and two at-large members. Initial members of the Executive Board will be elected during the initial SAC-ASA meeting. In subsequent years, new members of the Executive Board will be elected during the last meeting of the SAC-ASA. Three conference administrators which are appointed by the SAC Council of Presidents, along with the SAC Commissioner, will serve as SAC-ASA advisors. The Executive Board, in conjunction with SAC-ASA advisors, will plan and run the meetings. A designated SAC-ASA advisor will provide minutes of each meeting and share with SAC-ASA members and conference athletic directors.

Article XIII

Amendments

Three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the Council of Presidents is necessary to amend the bylaws.