

## **SOCCER OPERATING PROCEDURES (MEN)**

### **I. All Conference Team**

- A. First Team Selections  
The team will be comprised of four backs, four midfielders, four forwards and two goalkeepers
- B. Second Team All Conference  
The number of players selected to this is open
- C. Conference Player of the Year
  - 1. Cannot vote for own player
  - 2. Selected from players making the first team
- D. Voting for all awards to be completed by Tuesday following Conference final

### **II. Playoffs**

- A. Top Four Teams Qualify
- B. Semi-Finals
  - 1. First place vs. fourth place and second place vs. third place at the higher seeded team's home field
  - 2. Will be played on the Wednesday prior to Conference weekend
- C. Finals
  - 1. Winners of the two semi-final matches will play at the home of the higher seeded team
  - 2. Will be played on the Saturday of Conference weekend
- D. Tie Breaking Procedures (in order)
  - 1. Head to head competition
  - 2. Goal differential – goals for (maximum of 4 per game)
  - 3. Total goals against in Conference play
  - 4. Total goals for in Conference play (maximum of 4 per game)
  - 5. NAIA Longo Rating System

**III. Regular Season District Game**

- A. Match to be scheduled by Tuesday following conference final
- B. Teams agree to alternate home sites each season
- C. Teams agree to send schedules to other Conference Coaches by August 15

**IV. Game Rules**

- A. All match rules for play and sportsmanship shall follow NCAA/NAIA National Regulations

## SOCCER POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT (MEN)

### I. Qualification

All member institutions declaring for men's soccer must participate in post-season play.

### II. Tournament Venue/Host

Post-season games shall be played at the home venue of the highest seeded teams.

- A. **Facilities:** Member institutions must be in majority agreement that facilities at the proposed site are of the required standard regarding state of playing surface, regulation size and facilities for players and spectators by July 31<sup>st</sup> preceding fall play. (In case of a tied vote, the respective schools' Athletic Director should consider and declare the site.)
- B. **Officials:** The host institution shall be responsible for payment of game officials.

### III. Tournament Seeding

All teams shall be compelled to play a single game regular season schedule against other member institutions rotating home and away games on an annual basis. Teams may play more than one contest against other GCAC teams in regular season play but the 'seeding' game must be identified and designated prior to July 31<sup>st</sup> preceding fall play. Once the designated 'seeding' contest has been set it cannot be changed unless weather or other acceptable, unforeseen circumstance affects the date in question. In such an event the game may be rescheduled; or any second game previously on the schedule against the same opposition may be used as the 'seeding' game if still to be played. All effort should be made to reschedule the 'seeding' game whenever possible.

- A. **Formula for Seeding:** The team with the most wins shall be declared the Regular Season Champion and receive the #1 seed. The #2, #3, and #4 seeds shall be decided in descending order.
- B. **Tie Breaks:** Should teams be level on wins at the completion of the regular season play, tie breaks shall be decided as follows:
  - 1. Most ties in conference play
  - 2. Head to head play (conference games only)
  - 3. Goal differential in conference play (total goals scored minus total goals conceded)
  - 4. Most goals scored in conference play
  - 5. Last goals conceded in conference play
  - 6. Least red cards in conference play
  - 7. Least yellow cards in conference play

#### **IV. Tournament Play**

- A. Post-season play shall be hosted by the highest seeded teams facing the lowest seeded teams.

Example: #4 @ #1; #3 @ #2

- B. **Overtime:** In the event of a tied game after 90 minutes of play the same overtime procedure as used for the regular season games shall be utilized. If the game is still tied after overtime then a penalty kick shootout (as per FIFA rules) shall be used to determine the advancing team.

#### **V. GCAC Champion**

The winner of the GCAC Tournament play shall be declared the Champion and receive any automatic bid offered to the conference for Regional and/or National Championship play. In the case of two bids being awarded, the 'Regular Season Champion' shall also be nominated. Should the Tournament and Regular Season Champion be the same team the beaten Tournament finalist shall receive any second bid.

#### **VI. Post Season Schedule**

Conference post-season play may begin any time following the close of the regular season and must be completed a minimum of 72 hours prior to the start date for regional or national tournament play.

## **SOCCER OPERATING PROCEDURES (WOMEN)**

### **I. Scheduling**

Each team must schedule all of the other teams in the conference twice.

### **II. Conference playoffs**

- A. All five teams qualify for the GCAC Conference Tournament in the following format (officials to be paid by host):
  - 1. #5 vs. #4 at the #4 seed site on the Tuesday prior to the tournament semi-finals.
  - 2. #1 vs. winner of #4 vs. #5 and #2 vs. #3 at the #1 seed site on the Friday
  - 3. Two winners play at the #1 seed on the Saturday
  - 4. Sunday will be used for rain make-up day
  
- B. GCAC results will be used to determine tournament seeding using the following criteria for tie breakers. (If teams play each other more than once the first game only will count toward the GCAC final standings):
  - 1. Head-to-Head results
  - 2. Goal differential between the tied teams head-to-head game(s)
  - 3. Goal differential in all GCAC games
  - 4. Goals scored in GCAC games
  - 5. Goals against in GCAC games

### **III. Conference awards**

- A. Select a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team all-conference each with 13 players
- B. Most Valuable Offensive Player Award
- C. Most Valuable Defensive Player Award
- D. Newcomer of the Year Award
- E. Coach of the Year Award

### **IV. NAIA/NCAA rules govern all contests and eligibility.**