Men’s and Women’s Soccer Guidelines
2018-2019
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GENERAL PLAYING GUIDELINES

• Scheduling/Support Guidelines:
  
  o Start times/Scheduling:
    ▪ Start times for all weekend games should be no earlier than 1:00 p.m. and no later than 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and no earlier or later than 12:00 p.m. on Sunday unless mutually agreed upon by all institutions involved in weekend play.
    ▪ It is recommended that double header contests are scheduled 2.5 hours apart unless weather or darkness concerns prohibit such.
    ▪ Each team shall play once per season, alternating home and away sites yearly unless changes in membership dictate otherwise.
    ▪ NCAA guidelines for OT rules will apply.
  
  o Back-to-back games:
    ▪ Host team should wear their home (light) uniforms on the first day of competition and their away (dark) on the second day of competition of back-to-back play. Visitors should do the reverse. **For single games, home team wears light uniform and away team will wear their dark uniform.
    ▪ Game times should allow for a minimum rest period of 20 hours between back-to-back weekend games unless mutually agreed upon by all institutions involved in weekend play.
  
  o For Men’s and Women’s double headers:
    ▪ In 2018, the Women will play the first game and the Men will play the second game all season. In 2019, the Men will play the first game and the Women will play the second game all season. During certain weather circumstances, order may be reversed to preserve field integrity.
  
  o Cancellations/Rescheduling:
    ▪ Conference members must make conference games their first priority at all times. All rained out or cancelled games should be made up if at all possible. When weather dictates schedule changes for back-to-back conference play, all four teams involved in that weekend should be consulted. The commissioner will also be notified within 24 hours of postponement.
    ▪ Once a visiting team has left campus en route to the competition site, every possible attempt will be made to complete the contest to avoid repeat travel.
  
  o Travel Support:
    ▪ Lodging-The host institution shall assist all NAC institutions by providing a list of hotel accommodations in the area.
  
  o Conference Scouting Policy:
    ▪ It is permissible to share scouting information on conference members with other conference members. It is impermissible to share any information beyond video on conference members with non-conference institutions.
• Home Team Responsibilities:

  o Setting competition times/sites—i.e. if a field/venue is not playable, if there are two games, etc.
  o Providing a field that meets minimum NCAA regulation standards (unless Conference Office is informed otherwise).
  o Providing a certified athletic trainer at each contest.
    ▪ All visiting teams must provide their own training supplies.
  o Providing the “NAC Soccer Referee Game Report” at the scorer’s table at all home contests (conference games only).
    ▪ To be filled out by the head referee immediately upon completion of the contest and then emailed to the conference Commissioner within 24 hours of any home conference match.
  o Providing game personnel including: 3 officials, official scorer, stat keeper, ball/lines people, etc.
  o Providing event programs including at minimum the lineups for each team.
  o Providing locker rooms for the visiting team at all games.
  o All home games should be supervised by an athletic administrator/site director who is responsible for sportsmanship/behavior of fans.
  o If an off-campus venue, the home team is responsible for having a game administrator present at least one hour prior to the contest to greet the visiting team.
  o Announcing the following NCAA sportsmanship advisory prior to each game:

    The NCAA and the North Atlantic Conference promote good sportsmanship by the student-athletes, coaches and spectators at today’s contest. 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 (site of competition). Any spectators that enter the playing area during a contest, will be removed from (site of competition).

• Official Conference Ball:

  o Wilson Forte FYbrid II is the official conference ball and must be used in all conference games.
  o In Men’s and Women’s Soccer, Wilson will provide the NAC with 8 balls each for the Men’s and Women’s Championships.

• Film Exchange Policy (2017)

  o Each institution is required to film all home conference contests. If the host is unable to film, unrelated to weather, they are expected to inform the opponent a week in advance.
  o All conference game film will be shared with the entire group through an open library (2018).
Krossover will be utilized for the exchange of film within the conference. Each institution hosting a conference game will be required to film and upload it to the film exchange platform (Krossover) within 24 hours of a mid-week competition or by twelve noon on the Monday following a weekend competition.

- A fine of $25.00 shall be placed on the institution each time they do not follow through with the film exchange policy (2018).
- If there are any technical issues with film (filming or uploading), coaches are required to email their peers and the conference office prior to the 24 hour deadline or the noon deadline on Monday.
  - If there are issues “beyond the institution’s control,” fines may be waived.
- Hosts are NOT required to provide a DVD copy after the game.
- All uploaded conference film needs to be able to be downloaded into a raw film format to ensure flexibility for editing and sharing software.
- Tournament film will be required to be uploaded by the hosting institution, win or lose and within conference timeframe regulations.
- Dissemination of scouting information on member institutions to non-conference institutions is not permitted beyond video (phone, e-mail, written materials, etc.). It is permissible to share scouting information about conference opponents with other conference members.

Protocol for Filming games:

- It is important to place the camera in a position that will allow for the best picture and most useable/teachable format for the teams and their coaches.
- The camera should be positioned on an elevated, level, and stable surface located within the fields restraining lines.
- The camera view should be unrestricted and free of obstructions during filming to ensure a quality outcome.
- The viewing angle should be wide enough to allow the viewer to see the last defender on each team at all times.
- The camera person should cut to scoreboard shots during natural breaks in play within the game (halftime, goals, penalties, injuries, timeouts).
- Zooming in and out should not be done in order to maintain a clear and consistent picture.
- The video person may ONLY pause taping during long periods of “inaction”, meaning at halftime, during timeouts, and weather delays.
- Audio should be used.

Awards:

- It is the responsibility of each institution to submit nominations for their student-athletes for weekly (SIDs) and annual (Coaches) awards through the NAC website.
Weekly awards will begin the Monday following the first week of competition in which at least half of the member schools have competed. Weekly honors will conclude the Monday following the NAC Championship. Weekly nominations are due Monday at 10:00 a.m. and winners will be selected by the conference staff.
The following weekly awards will be selected for both Men’s and Women’s Soccer:
- Player of the Week
- Defensive Player of the Week
- Rookie of the Week

Nominations for annual awards will be submitted following the conclusion of regular season conference play. Annual awards will be selected through a vote by conference coaches and will be announced no later than the Thursday before the NAC Championship as long as there are no issues with voting.
Both Men’s and Women’s Soccer will select the following annual awards:
- Player of the Year
- Defensive Player of the Year
- Rookie of the Year
- Senior Scholar-Athlete of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Sportsmanship Team
- All-Conference First and Second Teams

All-Conference First and Second Teams:
- The top three forwards, top three midfielders, and top three defenders along with the goalkeeper with the highest point total, will be named to the first team along with one at-large field player. The next top three forwards, top three midfielders, and top three defenders along with the goalkeeper with the second highest point total, will be named to the second team along with one at-large field player.
- Coaches may nominate up to five (5) field players and ONE (1) goalkeeper from their own team using the position specific forms in the awards system on the NAC website. During the nomination process, coaches are required to rank their student-athletes (i.e. if you were to nominate 5 players you would rank them 1-5; nominate 4 players, rank them 1-4) (December 2015). Players will be nominated and voted on by position. Only Conference statistics will be included on the ballot.

Regional and National Award Voting
- Coaches are strongly encouraged to become members of their respective coaching groups and to nominate worthy players and teams for award consideration. Participation in the voting process is strongly encouraged to increase the potential for the recognition of NAC student-athletes on the regional and national stages.
• **Sports Information:**

  o Maintaining an accurate schedule, including non-conference contests and notifying the conference office when there are postponements and cancelations.
  o Maintaining an accurate stat roster on the NAC website.
  o Submitting the score of all home contests and away non-conference contests to the Conference through the NAC website as soon as contests are complete.
  o Sending packed stat game file to the visitor and uploading the XML to both the NAC website and the NCAA statistics and score reporting site following the contest.
  o Submitting nominations for weekly honors and recaps through the NAC website.
  o Submitting nominations for annual awards through the NAC website.
At the direction of the North Atlantic Conference Presidents and with the support of the Directors of Athletics, the conference embraces the theme "Creating an Atmosphere of Respect" for each of our sports. The ultimate goal for the NAC is to create an atmosphere that places the highest regard for exemplary behavior of all participants, coaches, administrators, fans and officials. The Soccer community has agreed to a set of behavioral expectations for coaches and student-athletes.

Behavioral Objectives for “Creating an atmosphere of respect” Initiative

- All conference members will show respect for the opponent, teammates, coaches, officials, and the game.
- Conference members will establish high expectations for all remembering that all individuals must represent their team, institution and conference well.
- Coaches will interact with game officials in a respectful manner.
- A conference pre-game protocol was accepted. All starters from each team will be lead onto the field in two lines by the officials. At midfield, the teams, in single file will turn 90 degrees and move toward their respective goals, ultimately forming a single line at center field facing the direction as determined by the venue. After the playing of the national anthem (or after introductions if the game is the second of a double-header), the starting members of each team will shake the hands of the officials and their opponents at half field. Coaches will shake hands with each other at the half line. A post-game protocol was accepted. Teams will participate in a post-game “mingle” during which time team members can recognize good effort and play by their opponents in lieu of the traditional “handshake” line following the contest. Coaches will shake hands immediately upon completion of the contest. Please see the “Soccer Summit Agreement” (page 9) for more information on expectations of coaches and athletics directors.
- Following each NAC Conference Game, visiting coaches and event managers will have the option to provide feedback on the behavior of other coaches, student-athletes and fans through the use of an evaluation tool aimed not at punitive action but on the enhancement of all NAC programs. To access the form online, go to www.nacathletics.com, and log into the administrative section of the website to obtain the Contest Feedback form. The Commissioner will follow up with appropriate individuals on all feedback submitted.

NAC Expectations for Good Sportsmanship (from NAC Bylaws):

- Observing and supporting the rules of the game.
- Promoting the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
- Placing fairness first as a goal in all competition.
- Taking personal responsibility for high standards of play and conduct.
- Showing civility toward competitors, coaches and officials.
- Playing cleanly while playing hard.
- Showing maturity and integrity in conduct on and off the field of play.
- Being a gracious competitor and accepting both wins and losses with dignity.
Soccer Summit Agreement (2016)

- **Coach Agreement:**
  - In a desire to enhance the game environment for the game of soccer within the North Atlantic Conference, coaches agree to model positive behavior in an atmosphere of collegiality. In support of this commitment, NAC coaches support the following actions:
    - With regard to behavior on the field (and in bench areas), particular focus will be given to cards issued for unsporting behaviors like: the use of foul language, trash talking to opponents and dissent of officials. Coordinators of officials will be directed to take consistent action for poor behavior on the field. For the 2017 soccer season, the conference will continue undergo an examination of yellow cards issued for all conference play. Based on the analysis, the NAC may consider additional sanctions for infractions, to exceed that which is required by NCAA rules of soccer, in the future.
    - In support of soccer culture, the coaches will instruct their teams to participate in a post-game “mingle” during which time they can recognize good effort and play by their opponents in lieu of the traditional “handshake” line following the contest. Coaches will model this behavior through their own handshake with the opposing coach immediately upon completion of the contest.
    - Coaches support the use of permissible noisemakers by fans in recognition of the opportunity to refrain from negative comments from the opposing spectators while contributing to the excitement of the game environment. (NOTE: On March 1, 2016 The soccer rules committee approved use of some artificial noise makers)
    - With regard to spectator management, coaches request where possible, the placement of personnel benches away from fans or main stands (far side of the field). They also request appropriate monitoring in the areas immediately behind the goals as outlined in rule1.2, “Boundry Lines”, of the 2015-16 NCAA men’s & women’s soccer rules and interpretations book.
    - Coaches support the consideration of utilizing a conference assignor for all NAC games. Such action would allow the conference to set standards focused on the identified points of emphasis and provide coaches the opportunity to evaluate officials.

- **Director of Athletics Expectations for Coaches:**
  - Sharing the intent to enhance the game environment for student-athletes, the Athletics Directors agree to the following expectations:
    - Head coaches will properly manage their bench area including assistant coaches, managers and student-athletes.
    - Coaches will clearly articulate expectations for behavior to student-athletes during pre-season training and will quickly respond to issues of inappropriate behavior that occur on the field of play (and on the sidelines).
• Coaches will refrain from communicating with team members from the opposing team except in a complimentary fashion.
• Institutions will clearly identify the roles any personnel will play in the case of an issue arising on or around the field of play as described in the NCAA Sportsmanship Statement. This will include communicating protocol to visiting teams and identifying game administrators and security on site. Game management personnel will be proactive in identifying potential problems and addressing them prior to their escalation.
• Directors of Athletics will reinforce with their coaches the expectation to compete in the spirit of “sportsmanship” during all games in accordance with the North Atlantic Conference and NCAA Division III philosophy and will establish accountability processes to address issues of concern.

• Conference Support:
  o In support of the goals of the sportsmanship program, the NAC staff will:
    ▪ Provide a method and guidance to institutions with regard to reporting all cards to the conference office.
    ▪ Manage the tracking of cards and issue reports to institutions on a regular basis identifying the number of and reason for the issuance of cards.
    ▪ Assist with the communication of the sportsmanship program by providing promotional resources to institutions for the education of coaches, players, games administrators, officials, fans, etc...
CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES

• 2018 North Atlantic Conference Championship Dates and Format:
  o Coaches Chair: Men - Shane Bufano, Johnson  
    Women - Deb Biche-Labbe, Thomas
  o Coaches Vice Chair: Men - Chris Parsons, Thomas  
    Women - Seth Brown, Maine Maritime
  o Sport Liaison: Men - Dan Kane, UMPI  
    Women - Randy Sieminski, Canton
  o Last play date: Tuesday, October 23, 2018
  o Seeding will take place following the completion of all conference contests and will be announced on the Conference website.
  o The conference calls for all post-season teams are Wednesday, October 24 – Men at 10AM, Women at 11AM.
  o Format will be as follows:
    ▪ Top 6 teams qualify for the tournament.
    ▪ Quarterfinals: Saturday, October 27 OR Sunday, October 28 at the higher seeded institutions. Teams may choose to play Saturday or Sunday by mutual consent based on academic, hosting, and travel needs.
      • Top 2 teams receive bye
      • Pairings: #6 @ #3 and #5 @ #4
    ▪ Semifinals and Finals will be a “final four” format and are held on Saturday, November 3, and Sunday, November 4, 2018, at the site of the No. 1 seed.
      • Semifinals, Saturday, November 3:
        ➢ Winner of #6 vs. #3 vs. #2
        ➢ Winner of #5 vs. #4 vs. #1
      • Finals, Sunday, November 4:
        ➢ Semifinal Winners

Note: If the No. 1 seed is the same for the men and women and they are unable to host all four semifinal games on Saturday, semifinal games will be played Friday/Sunday and Saturday/Sunday. A rotation for which gender moves was established and the women’s semifinal will move to Friday the first year this situation occurs.

• Championship Game Times:
  o No Facility Conflicts
    ▪ Quarterfinals
      • Start time will be between 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. For venues without lights, contests must commence by 2:00 p.m.
    ▪ Semifinals
      • Start time will be between 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. For venues
without lights, contests must commence by 2:00 p.m.

- **Finals**
  - If one game, game time is 1:00 p.m.

- **Facility Conflicts (August 2015)**
  
  For Sites with Football Home Contest on Tournament Date:
  - **One Tournament Contest (on football field)**
    - Football game must commence by 12:00 p.m.
    - Tournament game will follow with a start by 5:00 p.m.
  - **Two Tournament Contests (on football field)**
    - If one traveling team is out of region (i.e. Vermont or New Hampshire traveling to Maine or the reverse), the out of region team will play in the first contest on Saturday with a 4:30 p.m. start.
    - If both visiting teams are in or out of region, the first Tournament game will be sport with the largest gap from prior round will follow with a start by 4:30 p.m. (Field Hockey or Women’s Soccer 2017).
    - Saturday Second Tournament game will follow with preferred start by 7:00 p.m.
  - **Three Tournament Contests (on football field)**
    - Sport with largest gap from prior round will play on Friday with a start time between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Field Hockey 2017).
    - Saturday contests will be determined as follows: If one traveling team is out of region (i.e. Vermont or New Hampshire traveling to Maine or the reverse), the out of region team will play in the first contest on Saturday with a 4:30 p.m. start.
    - If both visiting teams are in or out of region, the first Tournament game will be sport with the largest gap from prior round will follow with a start by 4:30 p.m. (Women’s Soccer 2017).
    - Saturday Second Tournament game will follow with preferred start by 7:00 p.m.

For Sites with 2-3 Sports utilizing same venue (no football game)

- **Two Tournament Contests**
  - If one traveling team is out of region (i.e. Vermont or New Hampshire traveling to Maine or the reverse), the out of region team will play in the first contest on Saturday.
  - If both visiting teams are in or out of region, the first Tournament game will be sport with the largest gap from prior round. (Field Hockey or Women’s Soccer 2017)
  - Second Tournament game will follow with a start by 5:00 p.m.

- **Three Tournament Contests**
• If one traveling team is out of region (i.e. Vermont or New Hampshire traveling to Maine or the reverse), the out of region team will play in the first contest on Saturday.
• If two or more traveling teams are out of region, the sport with largest gap from prior round will play first game on Saturday.
• The second and third games will follow in the same manner.
• Preferred start for the third game will be by 5:00 p.m.
  ▪ Game times listed for Championships are preferred. In cases where a disagreement occurs between the competing institutions, or when both institutions would like to schedule outside of the preferred game times, an Ad Hoc Committee will convene to make a determination. The committee will include, Championship Chairperson, Commissioner, and Sport Liaison (unless the Sport Liaison is from one of the institutions competing, then another AD will be selected by the Commissioner).
  ▪ During the last half of October and the first half of November, all football playing institutions are requested to schedule home contests for Noon, 12:00 p.m.

• Hosting:
  o Higher seeds in all rounds of Championship play have the opportunity to host, if they meet the following criteria:
    ▪ Field: Minimum NCAA Standard (65 yards wide x 110 yards long).
    ▪ Closely cut grass (turf) and clearly visible lines.
    ▪ Bench capacity of 24.
    ▪ If there are two games back-to-back, the teams playing the second game must have access to a warm up site.
    ▪ Adequate Parking.
    ▪ Adequate Security and Crowd Control.
    ▪ Official scorers table on the field or in the press box.
    ▪ Visible score board and game clock.
    ▪ 4 NCAA regulation balls must be provided by host institution.
  o Institutions should meet all guidelines to host conference championships.
  o Any institution that does not exactly meet the standards, but wishes to host, may submit request w/hosting form to Commissioner for consideration at the August meeting of the Athletic Directors Council.
  o Host institution may request permission to use off-site facility within approximately 90 minutes from their campus or located between host school and opponent, to meet host requirements for tournament games (March 2018).
  o For a single game, if higher seed is unable to meet the above hosting criteria, the lower seed will have the opportunity to host. When using a final four format, if the higher seed is unable to host, the next highest seed will have the opportunity.
- **Coaches Meeting:**
  - The conference calls for all post-season teams are Wednesday, October 24 – Men at 10AM, Women at 11AM.
  - The Sport Liaison and Conference Commissioner will facilitate this meeting. All coaches are invited to participate; attendance is mandatory for coaches of teams participating in the tournament. When there is a conflict with a scheduled contest, the Athletic Director or another institutional representative may serve as a substitute for the coach.
  - A Conference call of all coaches will be scheduled following the season at which point soccer issues and ideas will be discussed. The Sport Chairperson will be responsible for scheduling the call and will work with the conference office on the call agenda.
  - For all sport conference calls, all future Agenda items must be submitted two weeks prior to call so that these can be distributed to all coaches and AD’s prior to conference call. (November 2010)

- **Seedings/Format:**
  - The Conference Commissioner and Associate Commissioner will seed teams following the last NAC competition date using results provided by the institution through the Conference website. Tiebreaking results will be shared with the Sport Liaison, Sport Chair and Championships Chair. The following criteria will be used to seed teams:
    - Soccer uses a point system of 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie for determination of Conference Standings with the stipulation that if a conference game is not played the process will revert back to conference winning percentage. The team with the highest number of points will be the top seed. (2011)
    - When using conference winning % - must have completed 2/3 of conference games to be eligible. Contests against institutions failing to meet this requirement will not be counted as conference contests for purposes of seeding.
  - In case of a tie, the following tie-break procedures will be followed:
    - Head-to-head result (two-way tie).
    - In ties among three or more schools or when head-to-head results between two teams are equal, the following criteria will be applied, in order, until a team is (or teams are) separated. At that point, the process begins anew, (returning to the first criteria) with the remaining teams.
      - Best record among tied teams. During this step, the conference will only examine records of tied teams in contests with each other.
      - Comparison of results against conference opponents one team at a time starting with the highest ranked team and
continuing in downward rank order until the tie is broken.
• Comparison of results against non-conference common opponents. During this step, non-conference games with conference opponents will not be considered.
• Comparison of winning percentage vs. NCAA Division III opponents (added 3/2009) with .500+ winning.
• Coin toss.

Note: Overall winning percentage was deleted from tiebreaking for Soccer in 2014.

• Uniforms:
  o The higher seed will be the home team during all rounds of championship play and will wear home uniforms.
  o Color of uniforms may be changed to accommodate teams playing back-to-back if agreed upon by both athletic directors.

• Officials:
  o It is the responsibility of the host institution to secure and pay officials for all rounds of tournament play.
  o The same officiating crews should not be used for more than one round of championship play.
  o All games are to have three officials.

• Pre-game announcement:
  o The standard conference announcement regarding good sportsmanship (shown above on page 5) must be read before each game.

• Athletic Training:
  o Certified on-site training personnel must be available one and a half hours before game time and one half hour post-game.
  o Supplies to be provided by each institution.
  o Access to emergency transport required.

• Locker rooms:
  o Must accommodate two teams/game.
  o If only two available, game times should reflect needs.
  o Chalk Talk board should be available for each team.

• Bathroom Facilities:
  o Must be adequate, in close proximity to playing venue, and meet ADA requirements.
• Contest Management:

  o Site Director
  o Security/crowd control
  o Official scorer
  o Stat personnel
  o Ball/lines people
  o Official timer/clock operator
  o Official Announcer
  o Official Videotape Personnel
  o Student or Staff hosts to show teams to locker rooms and other parts of the athletic facility

• Pre-Game Meeting:

  o A mandatory pre-game meeting will take place prior to each round of championship play with the officials, head coaches and host administrator to discuss tie-break rules, weather/field conditions, ground rules etc.

• Game Programs:

  Game programs should include:

  o Name of all competing institutions
  o Complete roster of teams participating at specific site
  o Institutional synopsis of participating teams
  o NAC history/information etc.
  o Previous year’s tournament information including the previous sports champions
  o NAC/NCAA Sportsmanship expectations
  o NAC logo
  o School logos
  o Wilson logo (sponsor)
  o Conference Awards Sponsor Logo (Currently Award Guys)

• Championship Awards:

  o Awards must be presented by a Conference Representative, the Sport Chairperson, the Athletic Director of host institution or other host institution representative. A script will be distributed to the host for awards ceremony.
  o Awards will be presented after championship contest. All-Tournament Team members from previous games should be mentioned during the presentation.
  o Awards should be displayed prior to championship game if possible.
  o It is the responsibility of the conference office to order plaques and to have them delivered to the host institution in a timely manner.
  o All-Tournament Team will be named for each championship.
    ▪ 3rd and 4th place teams receive two selections each
    ▪ 2nd place team receives three selections
- Champion receives four selections plus an MVP selection

- **Host site SID/Site director:**
  - Entering contests into NAC Scoreboard and confirm game times.
  - Providing programs for all tournament contests.
  - Maintaining in contest scores on the NAC website.
  - Providing updates on social media platforms using institution and conference handles and conference hashtags.
  - Submitting the final score to the Conference through the NAC website.
  - Sending packed stat game file to the visitor and uploading the XML to the NAC website following the contest.
  - Share neutral game summary and box score with opponent, conference office and media outlets following all hosted contests (media outlets must be provided to host institution in advance).
  - Taking a digital Championship Team Photo and sending it to the conference office with the neutral contest story. Photo should also be shared with championship team.

- **Protests:**
  - All protests will be handled in accordance with NCAA Regulations.

- **Ties:**
  - Follow NCAA tie-breaker rules. These rules are to be discussed in the mandatory pre-game meeting with officials, head coaches and host administrator.

- **Weather:**
  - If the inclement weather occurs and games cannot be rescheduled by the day prior to the semifinals and the quarterfinals cannot be played, the higher seeds will automatically advance to the semifinals. The decision to postpone/cancel must be made by Host AD, traveling AD and conference commissioner. A rain or snow date will be built into the championship dates, should inclement weather continue, the top seed will be declared the conference champion for the NCAA selections of the AQ’s.
  - The home team must certify that their field or one within approximately 90 minutes from their campus or located between host school and opponent, will be playable for tournament games. If weather precludes play on the scheduled date, the game may be moved to the next day provided the institution can certify the field will be playable and the NCAA deadline for submission of the AQ permits this. If the host is not able to certify as required, the game/s will be moved to the opponent’s site.

- **Tickets/Concessions:**
- Ticket sales and concessions are optional.
- If a gate is charged, institutions are permitted to charge the same prices they utilized during the regular season.
- If a gate is being charged, all institutions must be notified in advance and complementary tickets for each tournament participant must be provided.
- # of complementary tickets will be limited to two institutional representatives and two/roster member.

APPENDIX A

Cold Weather Best Practice

In the interest of health and safety for student-athletes, coaches, athletics staff, and spectators, the NAC has instituted cold weather best practices to prevent cold weather-related injuries and illnesses to all participants. These recommendations are in accordance with the National Athletic Trainers’ Association and the guidelines set forth by the NCAA. The athletic training staffs of the NAC institutions have conferred and agreed upon these standards.

These best practices are to be enforced in instances of conference competitions only. This best practice is not intended to override any school’s practice policy.

The following best practices pertain to “Active” sports (Men’s and Women’s Lacrosse, Men’s and Women’s Soccer, and Field Hockey) and “Limited Activity” sports (Baseball, Softball, Men’s and Women’s Track & Field, Men’s and Women’s Tennis, Men’s and Women’s Cross Country, and Men’s Golf).

The concern for student athletes that participate in Limited Activity sports is the student-athlete will be exposed to wind and cold temperatures during long periods of inactivity. During these times, student athletes may have difficulty maintaining proper body temperature due to exposure and lack of metabolic activity, thus, additional considerations are to be made to protect those student-athletes.

All temperatures indicated below are to represent the Wind Chill Temperature. The effects of the wind are to be taken into account. Ideally, the on-field conditions are to be used to determine the participation status. Furthermore, whenever possible, indoor warming facilities are to be made available to participants and spectators. When indoor warming facilities are not available, postponement is required at the previous step.

Cold Weather Best Practice for “Active” Sports

>32 degrees F – No restrictions on activities are required. Advisement is to be given to coaches to the temperature. Maintain regular hydration breaks.
20-32 degrees F – Required skin coverage for all athletes, including gloves, hats, long sleeves, and leggings/pants. Monitor for cold weather injuries and have facilities available for rewarming if needed.

15-20 degrees F – Required skin coverage as described above. Indoor rewarming should be available. For timed events, allow indoor rewarming for no less than 15 minutes following on field warmups and during halftime. For non-timed events, allow indoor rewarming for no less than 15 minutes during the first stoppage of play after 45 minutes of activity. *If no indoor rewarming facilities are available, activities are to be postponed at <20 degrees F.

<15 degrees F – Postponement of athletic contests are required.