THE BYLAWS
OF
NORTHEAST TEN CONFERENCE, INC

The bylaws of the Northeast-10 Conference consist of legislation adopted by the membership to uphold the principles of the Conference and to ensure equal applications of commonly agreed upon rules and regulations. The bylaws are intended to address rules that are specific to the purposes of the NE10, including rules not covered in existing NCAA legislation or to apply a more restrictive interpretation to a NCAA rule.

Article 1-Conference Sports

1.1 Conference Designation. The following are designated as Conference sports:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men's</th>
<th>Women's</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Golf</td>
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<td>Golf</td>
<td>Lacrosse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ice Hockey</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
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<td>Lacrosse</td>
<td>Softball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Swimming &amp; Diving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming &amp; Diving</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Indoor Track &amp; Field</td>
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<td>Indoor Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Outdoor Track &amp; Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
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</tbody>
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1.2 Additional Sports. Additional sports may be designated as a Conference sport if sponsored by at least six institutions (full or associate members) and upon two-thirds approval of all members of the Council of Presidents.

1.2.1 Exception. Directors of Athletics Council may make recommendation to the Council of Presidents to review sponsorship for sports with less than six institutions (full or associate members).

1.3 Division I Prohibition. Members may not sponsor sports designated as Conference sports at the NCAA Division I level unless a waiver is requested specific to that particular sport. This waiver may not be extended to other sports without additional waiver requests and approvals. Each Waiver request shall require two-thirds approval of all members of the Council of Presidents.

1.4 Sport Sponsorship. Members of the Northeast-10 Conference shall meet specific sport sponsorship requirements.

1.4.1 Minimum Sponsorship. A member of the Northeast-10 Conference shall:
1.4.1.1 Sponsor a minimum of 14 varsity intercollegiate sports at the Division II level, including football; or

1.4.1.2 Sponsor a minimum of 15 varsity intercollegiate sports at the Division II level, not including football.

1.4.2 Sport(s) Sponsored in Division I. An institution that sponsors one men’s and/or one women’s sport in Division I may not use those sports to meet the Northeast-10 requirements.

1.4.3 Acceptable Sports. The sports designated to meet the sports sponsorship criteria shall:

1.4.3.1 Be among those in which the Conference sponsors a championship;

1.4.3.2 Be recognized by the institution as varsity intercollegiate sports; and

1.4.3.3 Involve all-male teams, mixed teams of males and females or all-female teams.

1.4.4 Waiver of Minimum Sports Sponsorship Criteria. The Northeast-10 Council of Presidents, by a two-thirds vote of all of its members, may grant waivers of the Conference’s minimum sports sponsorship requirement in accordance with the procedure listed below:

1.4.4.1 The institution shall submit its request for a waiver, signed by the institution’s president or chancellor, to the Commissioner. The request shall include pertinent information supporting the institution’s request, and it shall be received in the Conference office (by mail or wired transmission) not later than May 1.

1.4.4.2 The institution shall provide information demonstrating that circumstances prohibit the offering of the required number of sports; or

1.4.4.3 The institution shall provide data demonstrating insufficient student interest in establishing or maintaining the requisite number of teams.

1.4.4.4 If the Presidents’ Council votes to reject the institution’s request, the institution shall be ineligible for Conference championship, until such time as they meet sport sponsorship minimums as outlined in this Article 1.4.

1.4.5 Declaration of Sports Sponsored. Each member institution shall be required to annually declare, by August 15, a list of Northeast-10 sports (meeting the Acceptable Sports criteria in Section 1.4.3 above) that it intends to sponsor in the upcoming academic year. Upon declaration of said sports, the member institution shall meet all applicable Conference definitions of sports sponsorship (minimum contests and participants) for each sponsored sport (i.e. not just the minimum number of sports required for membership).

1.4.6 Minimum Contests and Participants Requirements for Sports Sponsorship. In each Northeast-10 Conference sport that an institution sponsors, the institution’s team shall engage in at least a minimum number of intercollegiate contests (against four-year, degree-granting collegiate institutions) each year. In the individual sports, the institution’s team shall include a minimum number of participants in each contest that is counted toward meeting the minimum-contest requirement.
The following minimums are applicable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Sports</th>
<th>Minimum Contests</th>
<th>Individual Sports</th>
<th>Minimum Contests</th>
<th>Minimum Participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Swimming and Diving</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Ice Hockey</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Track and Field, Indoor</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Lacrosse</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Track and Field, Outdoor</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Lacrosse</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>15</td>
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1.4.7 Failure to Meet Minimum Contests and Participants Requirements for Sports Sponsorship. An institution that fails to meet the minimum contests and participants requirements for any sport that it declared as sponsoring shall be subject to a monetary fine ($500) for each sponsored sport that failed to meet the minimum contests and/or participant requirements.

1.4.8 Waivers.

1.4.8.1 Minimum Contests and Participants. The Council of Presidents, based on recommendation from Athletics Council, by a two-thirds vote of all of its members, may approve waivers of the minimum number of intercollegiate contests or the minimum number of participants in a contest in situations beyond the control of the institution (e.g., weather conditions or disaster preventing completion of a scheduled competition, or verified injury or illness at the site of competition preventing the participation of the required minimum number of individuals). The Council of Presidents shall hear and act on an institution’s appeal in regard to an institution’s waiver of the minimum number of intercollegiate contests or the minimum number of participants in a contest.

1.4.8.2 Minimum Contests. The Council of Presidents, by a two-thirds vote of all of its members, may approve a waiver of the minimum number of intercollegiate contests in a situation in which:

1.4.8.2.1 The member institution can document that it had scheduled (for that academic year) the appropriate minimum number of contests under enforceable game contracts executed in writing;

1.4.8.2.2 An opponent canceled a game that it had contracted to play that academic year; and

1.4.8.2.3 Despite a good-faith effort, the institution was unable to rearrange its schedule to play the appropriate minimum number of contests.

1.4.9 Voting Privileges. An institutional representative shall have voting privileges on all matters, regardless of whether they sponsor a particular sport.
1.4.10 Dropped Sport Policy. A member institution that eliminates one or more sports shall notify the Commissioner and other member institutions by the conclusion of the NCAA Championship in the year preceding the elimination (generally less than one-year’s notice required). Failure to comply with this deadline will result in a fine of one-half the annual full membership dues. Exceptions may be authorized by a two-thirds vote of all members of the Council of Presidents.

1.4.11 Adding Sport Policy. A member institution shall notify the Commissioner in writing of its intention to add a team that is designated as a Conference sport. The Commissioner shall add the institution to the Conference schedule at the earliest possible opportunity, which may or may not be the subsequent season after notice is given.

1.4.12 Suspended Sport Policy. A member institution may elect to institute a short-term suspension of sponsorship of any sport, only if: (a) the member Institution will continue to meet the minimum NCAA sport sponsorship requirements for the academic year in which the sport(s) will be suspended if the sport is in fact suspended or (b) the Conference will continue to meet the minimum NCAA sport sponsorship requirements for the academic year in which the sport(s) will be suspended if the member Institution does in fact suspend the sport.

During the time period of suspension, the suspended team or members of the suspended team may not participate in any Conference-sponsored tournaments and/or championships, including participation as an individual.

If the member institution imposes a suspension on the sport that lasts for longer than one year, the Commissioner may, at her/his discretion, investigate and review the suspension with the Council of Presidents. If the Council of Presidents determines that the suspension is not warranted, the Council of Presidents may direct the member Institution to terminate the suspension of the sport immediately.

1.4.12.1 Notification to the Conference. A member institution that suspends one or more sports shall notify the Commissioner and other member institutions by the last regular season date of competition in the year preceding the elimination (generally less than one-year’s notice required). Failure to comply with this deadline will result in a fine of one-half the annual full membership dues. Exceptions may be authorized by a two-thirds vote of all members of the Council of Presidents.

1.5 Conference Championships. The Conference shall declare a champion, either at the conclusion of regular season, round-robin play or via Conference Championship, for all designated Conference sports.

1.5.1 Championship Field Size. In team sports, the field sizes for Conference championships with regular season scheduling should be no less than 50% and no more than 66% of the institutions sponsoring the sport. Exceptions, upon recommendation of the Athletics Council, may be granted by two-thirds vote of all members of the Council of Presidents.

1.5.2 Conference Champion. The winner of the Conference championship shall be declared the Conference champion in that sport.

1.5.3 Eligibility for Conference Championship. All teams or individuals from Conference member institutions are eligible to compete in their respective Northeast-10 Championship, if meeting qualifying standards or placement in final regular-season standing.
1.5.3 Exception. Teams that are prohibited from participating in the NCAA Championship in a particular sport due to sanctions and/or restrictions placed upon them by through either the NCAA Enforcement process or by Northeast-10 shall not be eligible to compete in the Northeast-10 Championship for such sport.

1.5.4 Eligibility for Conference Automatic Qualifier. In applicable sports, the team that wins the Conference championship shall be named the automatic qualifier (AQ) for the NCAA Tournament. (See Conference Sport Codes for championships that are unable to be completed.)

1.5.4.1 Exception. If a team is ineligible to compete in an NCAA Championship, due to NCAA restricted membership status or if the institution is undergoing NCAA membership reclassification, and subsequently earns a Conference championship, they shall not be eligible to earn the Conference AQ. The Conference championship runner-up shall be awarded the AQ.

1.6 Participation. Once a Conference sport has been designated, all member institutions sponsoring the sport must participate in the entirety of the Conference’s regular season schedule and post-season championship, if should they qualify. Failure to do so, without approval from the Commissioner, may result in ineligibility for conference championship, a formal warning and/or financial penalty from the Conference office. Any subsequent failure to participate will place the institution on Conference probation, with the institution ineligible for all Conference championships. Such probationary status can only be removed by a two-thirds vote of all members of the Council of Presidents.

Article 2 – Conference Committee Structure

2.1 Faculty Athletics Representatives Council. The voting members of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Council shall consist of a representative from each member institution appointed as the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) by the chief executive officer or by the duly constituted authority of the institution as per NCAA Constitution 6.1.3.

2.1.1 Role. The Faculty Athletics Representatives Council shall be charged with the ongoing efforts to ensure attention to the general well-being and experiences of all student-athletes, commitment to academic integrity, institutional control, and other matters of interest to the Conference. Additionally, the FARs shall provide annual feedback on NCAA legislative proposals.

2.1.2 Meetings. There shall be a minimum of two regular business meetings per academic year. Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Council or by a majority of the members of the Council. A quorum of the membership shall be necessary to conduct business. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the member institutions. Each member institution will have one vote in the Faculty Athletics Representatives Council. The affirmative vote of a majority of members present at a meeting of the Council where a quorum is present shall be required for all actions taken by the Council.

2.1.3 Chair. The length of term of the FAR Council Chair will be two years, and no person shall be permitted to serve consecutive two year terms.

2.1.3.1 Process. The Conference office will issue a call for nominations to fill the position of FAR Council Chair. The position will be open to any member of the FAR Council. After the call for
nominations is closed, there will then be time for voting. The Conference office liaison will coordinate the call for nominations and voting process via email. Each member institution shall have one vote and a simple majority of all members entitled to vote will decide the position. The same procedure will be used if an “emergency” vote is needed to fill a vacancy that occurs during an individual’s term in office, all members entitled to vote will decide the position. Terms will begin on July 1.

2.1.3.2 Committee Representation. The Chair shall represent the FAR Council at all Council of Presidents meeting with the exception of executive session meetings. The Chair shall represent the FAR Council at all Athletics Council meetings and Conference calls.

2.2 Senior Woman Administrators Council. The voting members of the Senior Woman Administrators Council shall consist of a representative from each member institution designated as Senior Woman Administrator (SWA) utilizing the guidelines set forth in NCAA Constitution 4.02.4. Consistent with the guidelines set forth in Section 4.02.4 of the NCAA Constitution, it is the strong preference of the Conference that the individual designated by each member institution as SWA be serving as an administrator.

2.2.1 Role. The Senior Woman Administrators Council shall serve at the direction of the Athletics Council.

2.2.2 Meetings. There shall be a minimum of one regular business meeting per academic year. Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Senior Woman Administrators Council. A quorum of the membership shall be necessary to conduct business. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the member institutions. Each member institution will have one vote in the Senior Woman Administrators Council. The affirmative vote of a majority of members present at a meeting of the Council where a quorum is present shall be required for all actions taken by the Council.

2.2.3 Chair. The length of term of the SWA Chair will be two years, and no person shall be permitted to serve consecutive two year terms

2.2.3.1 Process. The Conference office will issue a call for nominations to fill the position of SWA Council Chair. The position will be open to any member of the SWA Council. After the call for nominations is closed, there will then be time for voting. The Conference office liaison will coordinate the call for nominations and voting process via email. Each member institution shall have one vote and a simple majority of all members entitled to vote will decide the position. The same procedure will be used if an “emergency” vote is needed to fill a vacancy that occurs during an individual’s term in office. Terms will begin July 1.

2.3 Compliance Coordinators Council. Each member institution shall appoint one individual who serves as a full-time compliance administrator as required in NCAA Constitution 6.1.3. This individual shall have no coaching responsibilities. Additionally, a Director of Athletics cannot serve as the Compliance Coordinator, except in an interim role.

2.3.1 Role. The Compliance Coordinators Council shall promote sound compliance programs at member institutions and shall adhere to all NCAA bylaws and Conference bylaws and policies. Additionally, the group shall review and recommend changes to NCAA bylaws and provide feedback on legislative proposals.

2.3.2 Meetings. There shall be a minimum of one regular business meeting per academic year. Special meetings may be called by Chair of the Compliance Coordinators Council. A quorum of the membership
shall be necessary to conduct business. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the member institutions. Any individual with compliance responsibilities may attend the meetings, but only one institutional representative may vote. Conference calls may be scheduled throughout the academic year. The affirmative vote of a majority of members present at a meeting of the Council where a quorum is present shall be required for all actions taken by the Council.

2.3.3 Chair. The length of term of the Compliance Coordinators Chair will be two years, and no person shall be permitted to serve consecutive two year terms.

2.3.3.1 Process. The Conference office will issue a call for nominations to fill the position of Compliance Coordinators Council Chair. The position will be open to the designated head compliance coordinator at member institutions. After the call for nominations is closed, there will then be time for voting. The Conference office liaison will coordinate the call for nominations and voting process via email. Each member institution shall have one vote and a simple majority of all members entitled to vote will decide the position. The same procedure will be used if an “emergency” vote is needed to fill a vacancy that occurs during an individual’s term in office. Terms will begin July 1.

2.4 Sports Medicine Council. The voting members of the Sports Medicine Council shall consist of an individual designated by each member institution as Head/Director of Sports Medicine/Athletic Training. This individual may also dually serve as the designated position of NCAA athletics health care administrator, mandated by NCAA Independent Medical Care legislation (Division II Constitution 3.3.4.17). It is recommended that athletics health care administrators be aware of, share and monitor NCAA health and safety-related legislation, interassociation recommendations and resources.

2.4.1 Role. The Sports Medicine Council shall review, recommend, and promote policies related to student-athlete health, safety, and well-being through research, education, best practices, and collaboration with member schools and national governing bodies. Additionally, the Council shall recommend and maintain standards of sports medicine coverage at all institutions to ensure universal care at all Conference events.

2.4.2 Meeting. There shall be a minimum of one regular business meeting per academic year. When warranted, this meeting may be held via conference call. Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Sports Medicine Council. Any individual with sports medicine/athletic training responsibilities may attend the meetings, but only one institutional representative may vote. A quorum of the membership shall be necessary to conduct business. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the member institutions. Each member institution will have one vote in the Sports Medicine Council. The affirmative vote of a majority of members present at a meeting of the Council where a quorum is present shall be required for all actions taken by the Council.

2.4.3 Chair. The length of term of the Sports Medicine Chairperson will be two years, and no person shall be permitted to serve consecutive two year terms.

2.4.3.1 Process. The Conference office will issue a call for nominations to fill the position. The position will be open to the designated head/director of sports medicine at member institutions. After the call for nominations is closed, there will then be time for voting. The Conference office liaison will coordinate the call for nominations and voting process via email. Each member institution shall have one vote and a simple majority of all members entitled to vote will decide the position. The same procedure will be used if an “emergency” vote is needed to fill a vacancy that occurs during an individual’s term in office. Terms will begin July 1.
2.5 Athletic Communications Council. Each member institution shall designate a Director of Athletics Communications/Sports Information Director.

2.5.1 Role. The Athletic Communications Council shall review, recommend, and promote methods related to the public recognition of individual athletic programs, Conference sports, academic success, and community engagement initiatives. Additionally, the Council shall create and maintain expectations of statistical guidelines at all institutions to ensure universal coverage at all Conference events.

2.5.2 Meetings. There shall be a minimum of one regular business meeting per academic year. When warranted, this meeting may be held via conference call. Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Athletic Communications Council. Any individual with athletic communications responsibilities may attend the meetings, but only one institutional representative may vote. A quorum of the membership shall be necessary to conduct business. A quorum shall constitute a simple majority of the member institutions. Each member institution will have one vote in the Athletic Communications Council. The affirmative vote of a majority of members present at a meeting of the Council where a quorum is present shall be required for all actions taken by the Council.

2.5.3 Chair. The length of term of the Athletic Communications Chairperson will be two years, and no person shall be permitted to serve consecutive two year terms.

2.5.3.1 Process. The Conference office will issue a call for nominations to fill the position. The position will be open to the designated head athletic communications director at member institutions. After the call for nominations is closed, there will then be time for voting. The Conference office liaison will coordinate the call for nominations and voting process via email. Each member institution shall have one vote and a simple majority of all members entitled to vote will decide the position. The same procedure will be used if an “emergency” vote is needed to fill a vacancy that occurs during an individual’s term in office. Terms will begin July 1.

2.6 Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Council. Each member institution shall select two student-athletes to serve on the Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC). Institutions must appoint one male and one female, one of which must be a member of their institutional SAAC executive board. Additionally, the two representatives must be from different academic classes (e.g. sophomore, junior, senior), from different sport seasons (e.g. fall, winter, spring), and must participate on NE10 sponsored sport teams. The Conference SAAC term shall commence July 1 of each year and will end on June 30. The term of each student-athlete’s appointment to the Conference SAAC shall end concurrently with their undergraduate graduation, unless the institution elects to replace its representative earlier than their graduation. The Conference’s DII National SAAC representative will serve as an ex-officio member, if they are not appointed as an institutional representative.

2.6.1 Role. The Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Council shall receive information from appropriate sources and to act on matters pertaining to the well-being of the student-athletes of the Northeast-10 Conference. Further the NE10 SAAC shall receive and discuss information regarding legislative and administrative matters affecting the well-being of student-athletes affiliated with the NE10, and to convey judgment on these matters to the appropriate parties.

2.6.2 Meetings. Per NCAA Bylaw 3.4.4.1, there shall be at least one in-person meeting per academic year (July-June). Special meetings may be called by the Chair of Conference Student- Athlete Advisory Council, and special meetings may be held via conference call. A quorum of the membership shall be necessary to
conduct business. A quorum will consist of a simple majority of the member institutions. Each member institution will have one vote in the Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Council. The affirmative vote of a majority of members present at a meeting of the Council where a quorum is present shall be required for all actions taken by the Council.

2.6.3 Chair. The length of term of the Conference SAAC Chairperson shall be one year, and no person shall be permitted to serve more than two consecutive one year terms.

2.6.3.1 Process. The Conference office will issue a call for nominations to fill the position. The position will be open to any student-athlete designated to represent their institution at the Conference SAAC meeting. After the call for nominations is closed, there will then be time for voting. Each member institution shall have one vote and a simple majority of all members entitled to vote will decide the position. The term shall run from the conclusion of the annual in-person Conference SAAC meeting through the conclusion of the Conference SAAC meeting held approximately one calendar year later. The same procedure will be used if an “emergency” vote is needed to fill a vacancy that occurs during an individual’s term in office.

2.7 Sports Administration Council. Each member institution shall select two representatives to serve on the Sports Administration Council. Neither of these representatives can be a coach and one institutional representative must be the SWA or another female designee. At least one institutional representative will serve as a liaison to a sport committee.

2.7.1 Role. The Sports Administration Council shall review changes in sport policies, with careful consideration to impact on student-athlete welfare, budget, and competition equity. The group shall review and recommend changes to Sport Operating Policies, including dates, sites, and formats of Conference championships.

2.7.2 Meetings. There shall be a minimum of three regular business meetings per academic year. At least one of these meetings will be held via conference call. During voting, there shall only be one institutional vote cast. Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Sports Administration Council. Conference calls may be scheduled throughout the academic year. A quorum of the member institutions shall be necessary to conduct business. A quorum shall consist of at least one representative from a simple majority of the member institutions. Each member institution will have one vote in the Sports Administration Council. The affirmative vote of a majority of members present at a meeting of the Council where a quorum is present shall be required for all actions taken by the Council.

2.7.3 Chair. The length of term of the Sports Administration Chairperson will be two years, and no person shall be permitted to serve consecutive two year terms.

2.7.3.1 Process. The Conference office will issue a call for nominations to fill the position. The position will be open to the any member of the Sports Administration Council. After the call for nominations is closed, there will then be time for voting. The Conference office liaison will coordinate the call for nominations and voting process via email. Each member institution shall have one vote and a simple majority of all members entitled to vote will decide the position. The same procedure will be used if an “emergency” vote is needed to fill a vacancy that occurs during an individual’s term in office. Terms will begin July 1.
2.8 Vice Presidents Council. This Council consists of the designated Vice President to whom the Athletics Department reports.

2.8.1 Role. The Vice Presidents Council shall serve at the direction of the Council of Presidents.

2.8.2 Meetings. There shall be a minimum of one regular business meeting per academic year. This meeting shall be held in conjunction with one of the Council of Presidents meeting (either June or November). Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Vice Presidents Council. A quorum of the membership shall be necessary to conduct business. A quorum shall constitute a simple majority of the member institutions. Each member institution will have one vote in the Vice Presidents Council. A quorum of the membership shall be necessary to conduct business. The affirmative vote of a majority of members present at a meeting of the Council where a quorum is present shall be required for all actions taken by the Council.

2.8.3 Chair. The length of term of the Vice Presidents Chairperson will be two years, and no person shall be permitted to serve consecutive two year terms.

2.8.3.1 Process. The Conference office will issue a call for nominations to fill the position. The position will be open to the any member of the Vice Presidents Council. After the call for nominations is closed, there will then be time for voting. The Conference office liaison will coordinate the call for nominations and voting process via email. Each member institution shall have one vote and a simple majority of all members entitled to vote will decide the position. The same procedure will be used if an “emergency” vote is needed to fill a vacancy that occurs during an individual's term in office. Terms will begin July 1.

2.8.3.2 Committee Representation. The Chair shall represent the Vice Presidents Council at all Council of Presidents meeting with the exception of executive session meetings.

2.9 Sport Council. Each Conference sponsored sport shall have a sport council, with each institutional head coach a member of the Sport Council for his or her sport.

2.9.1 Role. Each Sport Council addresses issues unique to its sport.

2.9.2 Meetings. There shall be a minimum of one regular business meeting per academic year. When warranted, this meeting may be held via conference call. Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Sport Council. A quorum of the member institutions shall be necessary to conduct business. A quorum shall consist of at least one representative from a simple majority of the member institutions. Each member institution will have one vote in the Sport Council.

2.9.3 Chair. The length of term for each Sport Council Chairperson will be two years, and no person shall be permitted to serve consecutive two year terms.

2.9.3.1 Process. The Conference office will issue a call for nominations to fill the position. The position will be open to the any member of the Sport Council, with exception to head coaches in their first year as head coach at their institution. After the call for nominations is closed, there will then be time for voting. The Conference office liaison will coordinate the call for nominations and voting process via email. Each member institution shall have one vote and a simple majority of all members entitled to vote will decide the position. The same procedure will be used if an
“emergency” vote is needed to fill a vacancy that occurs during an individual’s term in office. Terms will begin August 1.

Article 3 - Recruiting

3.1 NCAA Rules. All member institutions shall abide by the recruiting rules set forth in NCAA Bylaw 13, as adopted by the Division II membership of the NCAA, with the exception of those institutions sponsoring a sport at the Division I level in which more restrictive legislation is applicable.

3.2 Documentation. All recruiting records, including those pertaining to campus visits by prospects shall be available on campus for review by authorized Conference personnel or NCAA representatives. These records must document contacts, evaluations, phone calls, tryouts, travel, lodging, student hosts, meals and complimentary admissions, if applicable.

Article 4 - Eligibility

4.1 NCAA Rules. All member institutions shall abide by the eligibility rules contained in NCAA Bylaw 14 and adopted by the Division II membership of the NCAA, unless an institution has in place more stringent criteria.

4.2 Certification. It is the responsibility of each member institution to assure that only eligible student-athletes compete in regular season and Conference championship competition. Before any student-athlete can compete in an intercollegiate contest, the institution’s Faculty Athletics Representative and/or Registrar shall certify that individual is eligible. The NCAA eligibility checklist shall be sent to the Conference Office before the first competition (exempt/scrimmage/countable and regardless of championship or non-championship segment) and placed on file at the certifying institution for review as needed.

4.3 Participation of Ineligible Student-Athlete. In accordance with NCAA Bylaw 3.2.4, Northeast-10 member institutions are required to certify the eligibility of their student-athletes before the beginning of each academic year and to withhold ineligible student-athletes from all intercollegiate competition. Member institutions shall notify the Northeast-10 Conference office as soon as they become aware of any student-athlete who may have participated in regular-season competition but subsequently is determined to be ineligible for competition, regardless if this participation occurred during the current or previous academic years.

4.3.1 Penalties, Disciplinary Measures and Corrective Actions for Violations. Pursuant to the authority provided by the Council of Presidents, the Commissioner is responsible for administering violations and imposing penalties. Determination of applicable penalties includes the authority to accept an institutional penalty as satisfactory or, if appropriate, impose an additional penalty. Penalties, disciplinary measures and corrective actions may include any and all of the following:

4.3.1.1 An institutional fine of $250 for each violation in a NE10 regular-season contest per student-athlete, with the monetary penalty not to exceed $2,500 total for the institution;

   4.3.1.1.1 Exception. If the NCAA waives the monetary fine in conjunction with participation by an ineligible student-athlete, the NE10 shall also waive the monetary fine.
4.3.1.2 An institutional fine of $500 for each NE10 postseason competition per student-athlete. This fine is in addition to any regular-season violation fine;

4.3.1.2.1 Exception. If the NCAA waives the monetary fine in conjunction with participation by an ineligible student-athlete, the NE10 shall also waive the monetary fine.

4.3.1.3 Institutional recertification that its current athletics policies and practices conform to all requirements of NE10 and NCAA regulations;

4.3.1.4 An outside audit or review of the institution’s athletics policies and procedures (including, but not limited to, compliance policies and procedures);

4.3.1.5 Suspension of the head coach or other staff members for one or more competitions;

4.3.1.6 Other penalties, disciplinary measures and corrective actions, as appropriate.

4.3.2 Nullification: Once the member institution notifies the Northeast-10 Commissioner that a violation has occurred, the Conference shall impose the appropriate nullification penalty. A contest shall be nullified when a team has played an ineligible student-athlete during a Northeast-10 Conference competition. The ineligible student-athlete and the institution he or she represents will be penalized according to what type of sport (team or individual) the ineligible student athlete participates in.

4.3.2.1 Team Sports: All Northeast-10 contests in team sports in which an ineligible student-athlete competes shall be subject to a nullification penalty. The nullification penalties will be assessed to the Conference won-lost percentage at the end of the regular season. This penalty is per student-athlete, per contest. The penalty will be applied only at the end of the regular season (final ranking).

If a student-athlete was deemed ineligible and then reinstated through the NCAA reinstatement process, only those contests in which the student-athlete competed while ineligible will be nullified. The competition prior to or after that time will not be nullified.

Nullification penalty is a mathematical calculation, relevant to each NCAA sport, which reduces the percentage of a team’s win-loss record. The Conference shall utilize the nullification penalty published annually by the NCAA for each sport.

4.3.2.2 Individual Sports: For the individual sports of track & field and swimming & diving where access to the Conference championship occurs via performance marks during the regular-season, if a student athlete achieved the performance mark while ineligible, the mark shall not be recognized as eligible for entry into the Northeast-10 Championship. If the student-athlete achieved the performance mark while eligible, became ineligible and was then subsequently reinstated, the mark shall be eligible for entry into the Northeast-10 championship.

4.3.3 Participation in Conference Championships While Ineligible. When a student-athlete competing as an individual or representing the institution in a team championship is declared ineligible during or after the competition, or a penalty has been imposed or action taken as set forth in NCAA Bylaw 19.5 of the NCAA enforcement program, the Northeast-10 Conference may require the following:
4.3.3.1 Individual Competition. The individual’s performance may be stricken from the championship records, the points the student has contributed to the team’s total may be deleted, the team standings may be adjusted accordingly, and any awards involved may be returned to the Conference. For those championships in which individual results are recorded by time, points or stroke totals (i.e., cross country, golf, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field and swimming and diving), the placement of other competitors may be altered and awards presented accordingly.

4.3.3.2 Team Competition. The record of the team’s performance may be vacated and/or deleted, the team’s place in the final standings may be vacated, and the team’s trophy and the ineligible student-athlete’s award may be returned to the Conference.

4.3.3.3 Penalties, Disciplinary Measures and Corrective Actions for Violations. Pursuant to the authority provided by the Council of Presidents, the Commissioner is responsible for administering violations and imposing penalties. Determination of applicable penalties includes the authority to accept an institutional penalty as satisfactory or, if appropriate, impose an additional penalty. Penalties, disciplinary measures and corrective actions may include any and all of the following:

4.3.3.3.1 An institutional fine of $500 for each NE10 postseason competition per student-athlete. This fine is in addition to any regular-season violation fine;

4.3.3.3.2 Institutional recertification that its current athletics policies and practices conform to all requirements of Northeast-10 and NCAA regulations;

4.3.3.3.3 An outside audit or review of the institution’s athletics policies and procedures (including, but not limited to, compliance policies and procedures);

4.3.3.3.4 Suspension of the head coach or other staff members for one or more competitions;

4.3.3.3.5 Other penalties, disciplinary measures and corrective actions, as appropriate.

Article 5 - Financial Aid

5.1 NCAA Rules. All member institutions shall abide by the financial aid rules and limits set forth in NCAA Bylaw 15, as adopted by the Division II membership of the NCAA. A copy of the NCAA Squad List must be sent annually to the Conference office for all sports no later than October 15 and a final copy between May 1 and May 15.

Article 6 - Playing and Practice Seasons

6.1 Playing and Practice Seasons. All member institutions shall abide by the playing and practice season rules and limits set forth in NCAA Bylaw 17, as adopted by the DII membership of the NCAA, except in instances when the Conference established more stringent regulations.

Article 7 - Penalties and Appeals
7.1 Reports of Alleged Violations. The Commissioner shall receive and investigate reports of alleged violations of Northeast-10 and NCAA bylaws and policies. Reports must be submitted in writing by the Director of Athletics or institutions Faculty Athletic Representative. Reports submitted by other institutional representatives will not be acted upon. The Commissioner also has the authority and responsibility to investigate concerns or allegations raised by other individuals not associated with any Conference institution, provided they are submitted in writing.

7.2 Role of the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall be the principle enforcement officer for the Conference. The Commissioner is empowered to conduct such investigations as may be necessary to determine whether a violation has occurred. Should there be reasonable grounds to suspect a violation of NCAA bylaws and/or Conference Code has taken place, the Commissioner shall immediately notify the involved institution's President, Director of Athletics and Faculty Athletics Representative. The institution will have an adequate opportunity to provide relevant information to the Commissioner related to the alleged violation. Following review of this information, the Commissioner will inform the institution's President of the final disposition of the investigation and, if necessary, impose penalties as provided for in 7.3. Should the Commissioner conclude that NCAA rules have been violated, the information and penalties imposed by the Conference will be forwarded to the NCAA enforcement staff as required by NCAA Constitution 2.8.1.

7.3 Penalties. The Commissioner can impose the following penalties in the event a member institution is found to have violated NCAA bylaws and/or stipulations in the Conference Code. These penalties may be in addition to those imposed by the NCAA.

7.3.1 The offending institution, or staff member, may be reprimanded (publicly or privately) and warned against the repetition of the offense.

7.3.2 The offending staff member may be denied the privilege of recruiting any prospective student-athlete for a period of time; and the same restriction may be placed upon all staff members of the sport involved.

7.3.3 If an enrolled student-athlete, or a prospective student-athlete, is in violation of any NCAA or Conference regulation, the student-athlete may be declared ineligible for a specified period of time. The term of ineligibility may be determined by the Commissioner, unless specified elsewhere in these bylaws or by the NCAA.

7.3.4 The offending institution can be placed on probation for a period of one to three years.

7.3.5 The offending institution may be prohibited from participating in Conference championships and/or other post season events.

7.3.6 The offending institution may be financially penalized.

7.3.7 The offending institution may be denied the right to schedule games with other Conference members in the sport on which the violation occurred. Such action can be taken only with majority approval of the Directors of Athletics council.

7.4 Appeals. Decisions of the Commissioner can be appealed by an affected institution, staff member, or student-athlete to the Athletics Council Executive Committee. The appeal must be in writing and filed with the Commissioner within 48 hours of the receipt of the notice of the Commissioner's decision. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be rendered only after affording any institution, staff member, or student-athlete
involved in the case an opportunity to be heard and present evidence. The Executive Committee's decision is final. All decision making by the Executive Committee shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee.

7.4.1 Recusal of Athletics Council Executive Committee Member. Any member, or members of the Executive Committee representing an institution directly involved in a dispute, shall be ineligible to participate in the hearing or to vote. The vacancy, or vacancies, created by such ineligibility shall be filled by an uninvolved Conference representative, selected by the Commissioner.

7.5 Statute of Limitations. Generally, the penalty involved shall be applicable only to infractions reported to the Commissioner during the current season or within thirty (30) days after its closure. Exceptions will be made for those violations that resulted in a significant competitive advantage, are of such severity so as to be classified as "major", or demonstrate a pattern of abuse. Violations involving NCAA rules are not subject to such limitations and shall be penalized in accordance with NCAA requirements.

Article 8 - Ethical Conduct/Sportslike Behavior

8.1 General Principle. Individuals associated with the Northeast-10 Conference are expected to deport themselves with honesty, integrity and fair play. Their behavior shall at all times reflect the high standards of honor and dignity that characterize participation in competitive sports in the collegiate setting. Displays of sportslike behavior and mutual respect of competitors and officials shall be considered an integral part of all athletics competition. Administrators, coaches, student-athletes and officials shall abide by the rules governing both the NE10 and the NCAA and fully cooperate in any and all inquiries related to possible violations of those rules.

8.2 Institutional Responsibilities. Each member institution is responsible for instilling an atmosphere consistent with the provisions of NCAA Constitution 2.4 and NE10 Bylaw 8.1. In doing so, institutions will ensure that all individuals associated with the athletics program are aware of the institutions expectations for such conduct and that appropriate action is taken against those individuals who choose to act in an unacceptable manner.

8.3 Unsportslike Behavior. The Commissioner shall be authorized to investigate cases involving unsportslike conduct of any of the participants on teams representing member institutions. In all instances, the affected institution’s Director of Athletics will be notified by phone or letter of the purported behavior by the director issuing the complaint. If sufficient evidence is found of unsportslike conduct, the Commissioner shall be authorized to impose such penalties as in the Commissioner’s judgement the case warrants. Prior to final decision of the penalty, a report shall be submitted to the Commissioner regarding any actions the individual’s institution has taken or will take.

8.4 Unsportslike Conduct - Actions and Consequences. The Commissioner shall be authorized to notify the affected institution of all penalty or remedial action and may, in appropriate cases, make public announcement. Consequences contained in any specific sport playing rules take precedent over those in Conference bylaws 8.4.1, 8.4.2 and 8.4.3. However, depending on the severity of the action, the Commissioner may impose additional penalties if so warranted. Whenever a penalty of suspension is imposed at or near to the end of a season of competition, the penalty may be carried over into the next season of competition. Failure of an institution to enforce the suspension or to report the ejection of a student-athlete or coach to the Conference office in writing within 72 hours of the occurrence will result in an additional penalty.
8.4.1 Striking, attempting to strike, or otherwise physically abusing an official, coach, student athlete, cheerleader, mascot, or other person in attendance.

**8.4.1.1 First offense** - Suspension for the next two contests.

**8.4.1.2 Second offense** - Suspension for the next four contests.

**8.4.1.3 Third offense** - Suspension for no fewer than six nor more than ten contests as deemed appropriate.

**8.4.1.4** If the offender's actions result in serious bodily injury, the suspension may increase for as many as three additional contests.

8.4.2 Acts dangerous to others, unsafe behavior, inciting participants or spectators to violent or abusive action, obscene gestures, profanity or provocative language or action toward an official, student-athlete, coach, spectator, bench and scorers table personnel.

**8.4.2.1 First offense** - Suspension for the next contest.

**8.4.2.2 Second offense** - Suspension for the next two contests.

**8.4.2.3 Third offense** - Suspension for no fewer than six nor more than ten contests, depending upon how flagrant the act.

8.4.3 Publicly criticizing an official, Conference personnel, another member institution or any of its personnel.

**8.4.3.1 First offense** - A private letter of reprimand from the Commissioner to the violator and his or her Director of Athletics.

**8.4.3.2 Second offense** - A private letter of reprimand and one-contest suspension. The reprimand will be sent to the violator, his or her Director of Athletics, and President.

**8.4.3 Third offense** - A public reprimand and longer suspension to be determined by the Commissioner.

8.5 Public Comments. All individuals associated with the NE10 and/or its member institutions (e.g. administrators, coaches, game officials) are to refrain from making public comments of a negative or derogatory nature about other institutions, coaches, enrolled or prospective student-athletes or the Conference office. Individuals found to have violated this provision are subject to disciplinary action.

**8.5.1 Negative Recruiting Policy.** Negative recruiting by making unduly derogatory statements about another member university, any of its personnel or its athletic program, to a prospective student-athlete, the prospect's parents, high school coach or other person interested in the prospective student-athlete. Violators shall be subject to a public reprimand and a suspension of the privilege of recruiting off-campus for one year for an additional similar offense.
The following are provided as guidelines for types of statements or activities that would be deemed negative recruiting:

**8.5.1.1** Statements that are false, misleading or malicious.

**8.5.1.2** Statements intended to degrade other institutions (e.g. statement about the financial instability of another institution’s athletic department).

**8.5.1.3** Statements of a speculative nature (e.g. coaches continued employment, NCAA investigation).

**8.5.1.4** Statements against a person (e.g. statements about an individual’s integrity, sexual orientation, or history of previous substance abuse).

**8.6 Appeals.** Decisions of the Commissioner can be appealed by an affected institution, staff member, or student-athlete to the Athletics Council Executive Committee. The appeal must be in writing and filed with the Commissioner within 48 hours of the receipt of the notice of the Commissioner's decision. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be rendered only after affording any institution, staff member, or student-athlete involved in the case an opportunity to be heard and present evidence. The Executive Committee's decision is final. All decision making by the Executive Committee shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee.

8.6.1 Recusal of Athletics Council Executive Committee Member. Any member, or members of the Executive Committee representing an institution directly involved in a dispute, shall be ineligible to participate in the hearing or to vote. The vacancy, or vacancies, created by such ineligibility shall be filled by an uninvolved Conference representative, selected by the Commissioner.

**Article 9 – Health and Safety**

**9.1 Concussion Management Plan.** Per NCAA Bylaw 3.3.4.16, every Division II institution must have a concussion management plan for its student-athletes.