

**GPAC SPORT REGULATIONS/BY-LAWS**  
**(April 2009 Update)**

**ARTICLE V -- GPAC SPORTS REGULATIONS/BY-LAWS**

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## **Section I. BASEBALL**

1. Major League Baseball rules, with NAIA modifications, shall be used for all conference and non-conference games hosted by GPAC schools.
2. The official baseball of the conference is the Rawlings R1 NAIA R100 game ball. The official ball shall be used for all games, both conference and non-conference, hosted by GPAC schools.
3. A forfeiture equal to total officiating fees and mileage for each game not played shall be imposed on any school failing to fulfill its scheduled conference competition dates, payable to the host school.
4. No guarantees shall be exchanged for regularly scheduled conference games.
5. The conference shall hire an Assignor of Officials to assign officials for all conference and non-conference games and tournaments hosted by GPAC schools. The Assignor shall assign two qualified officials for all games.

### **The fees for 2011 will be:**

- a. Officiating Fee - \$130 per doubleheader, per official
- b. Officiating Fee - \$75 per single game, per official
- c. Mileage Fee - .44 per mile round trip for one official (longest distance)
- d. Post-Season Officiating Fee - \$85 per single game, per official

In the event of inclement weather, officials will be paid the single game fee plus applicable mileage if a game/doubleheader is called after they arrive on site. If a single game or the first game of a doubleheader is called after starting, officials will be paid the single game fee plus applicable mileage. If the second game of a doubleheader is called after starting, officials will be paid the doubleheader fee plus applicable mileage. It is incumbent on officials to be available via mobile phone en route to the game site to be notified promptly of a rainout. No fee or mileage will be paid to officials if a game/doubleheader is called prior to their arrival on site.

6. Two-year conference master schedules shall be approved by the Steering Committee on a bi-annual basis. The conference schedule shall consist of 24 games.
7. A game on the conference master schedule may be played on an alternate date by mutual consent of head coaches with the approval of both athletic directors and the commissioner.
8. It is the responsibility of the home team to notify the visiting team on the scheduled day of the contest if field conditions are such that the contest cannot be played as scheduled. The home team shall take into account the travel time of the visiting team and make such a decision before the visiting team's departure whenever possible.

9. If a conference doubleheader is unable to be held due to weather, the following is the makeup policy:
  - a. The doubleheader shall be made up before the next weekend's doubleheaders (first lost doubleheader will take priority). Order of games will be secondary if multiple make up games are needed. A make up date must be mutually agreed upon by both schools. In the event that a game can not be made within the week after the regularly schedule doubleheader, two built in make up dates shall be used. The first makeup date will be the Tuesday of the third week of the season, the second make up date will be the Tuesday before the final weekend of the season. Make up games from the first half of the season, in order lost, shall have the priority for the first built in make up date. Make up games from the second half of the season, in order lost, shall have the priority for the second built in make up date. If no games from the second half need to be made up by the second date, games from the first half can be carried over to the second makeup date.
  - b. No team will be required to play conference games on more than two consecutive academic days without the consent of its athletic director.
  - c. All games will be considered weekend games (so a Thursday doubleheader is a part of the weekend if a make-up is needed).
  - d. Non-league games shall be moved or cancelled in order to play league games.
  - e. When a doubleheader is cancelled due to inclement weather, after a team has traveled more than 100 miles, it will not be rescheduled. Teams on weekend road trips shall not be required to stay overnight more than budgeted/planned. When you travel to a site, stay overnight, and the game is cancelled due to inclement weather, the game will not be rescheduled if you traveled over 100 miles.
  - f. Teams may reverse the site of a doubleheader when one field is playable and the other is not upon mutual consent of both schools. The new host school shall pay for officials. The scheduled home team shall remain the same. This shall not affect the site of a second doubleheader if scheduled between the teams involved. A neutral site may be used by mutual consent of both schools.
  - g. If a game is under the 100 mile travel rule and game two of the double header reaches the status of "official" (by the rule book) and is rained out – the game will be considered complete and will not be resumed or made up at a later date.
10. Final conference standings and a regular season champion shall be determined using a percentage basis including all conference games played (only the 24 scheduled games in the league, games against conference teams played as non-conference will not count in the standings or the tie-breakers). A team must play 18 of its scheduled conference games to be eligible for the conference championship and the post-season tournament. In the event of a first-place tie, all teams involved shall be declared co-champions. The regular season champion (or co-champions) shall be awarded a championship trophy by the conference. Ties shall not be broken in the final conference standings for official records and distribution of points in the conference all-sports competition. The regular season champion shall be awarded the league's first bid to the NAIA National Championship Tournament.
11. A post-season conference tournament, "The Great Plains Athletic Conference Baseball Championships," shall be played for the purpose of determining the

conference's second automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship Tournament. If the regular season champion wins the post-season tournament, the tournament runner-up will receive the automatic bid. Only teams that have declared their intent to participate in the NAIA post-season are eligible for the tournament. The post-season tournament winner shall be awarded a championship plaque by the conference. The post-season tournament shall include eight teams (seeded 1-8) based on the final regular season conference standings. For seeding, ties in the standings shall be broken using the following criteria:

- a. Head-to-head competition
- b. Comparative winning percentage against conference opponents starting at the top of the final regular-season standings and working down
- c. Head-to-head runs differential (maximum five runs per game)
- d. Coin toss

The post-season tournament shall follow this format:

- a. NAIA Eight Team double-elimination format. Day one would be seven-inning games, and the final two days would be nine-inning games.
- b. The 10-run rule shall be used in all games except championship games.
- c. In the event the tournament is not completed, the following criteria will be used to determine the GPAC automatic representative to the NAIA National Championship Tournament:
  - i. If the tournament is cancelled before any games are played, the regular season champion will be the GPAC first automatic representative and the regular season runner-up will be the second GPAC representative.
  - ii. If the tournament is cancelled any time after play has begun and there is a lone undefeated team remaining, that team will be the GPAC second automatic representative.
  - iii. If the tournament is cancelled any time after play has begun and there is not a lone undefeated team remaining, the highest-seeded team still in contention will be the GPAC second automatic representative.
- d. The tournament will be contested Thursday through Saturday (with Sunday option) with the host school securing the use of two fields with the following contingency plans for weather:

*If there is only one day left to get the tournament in (Saturday), the tournament format will be a 8 team single elimination. If no games were played by 12pm, the format will go to a 6 team single elimination, with the #1 (because they have secured a national bid by way of regular season*

*championship) and #8 teams being eliminated. If no games are played by 3pm the format will be a 4-team single elimination, with #6 and #7 seeds being eliminated. If no games are played by 6pm then the format goes to a 2-team single elimination w/ #5 and #4 being eliminated (#2 will play #3 for the championship and bid to nationals). If Sunday is an option, and a format has been determined and games have been played, that format will be followed through into Sunday.*

- e. The 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, etc place coaches will be the tournament director. The commissioner will contact these coaches (in order) following the regular season to determine who can serve as the tournament director.
  - f. The GPAC Baseball Championships shall be rotated on alternate years between the North and South schools of the conference (opposite the softball north and south rotation). Even years are in the North, Odd years are in the south.
12. An all-conference team shall be selected at the conclusion of the regular season based on a vote of head coaches. Each school will have a supply of blank all-conference certificates to be prepared in-house for players selected for the all-conference team. The all-conference team shall consist of 34 players, divided into first and second teams of 17 players each. The first and second teams shall each have the following positions: 1B, 2B, SS, 3B UTIL, OF (4), C (2), P (4), RP, DH. In addition, an honorable mention list will be compiled. The following process shall be used:
- a. Head coaches will nominate players from their respective teams and may nominate up to 12 total players, by position, per the all-conference breakdown above. Nominations will include name, position, year, hometown, statistics, and coaches' comments. Nominations will be compiled by the sport chair.
  - b. The sport chair and his/her sports information director will compile a ballot inclusive of all nominating information.
  - c. The ballot shall be distributed among head coaches. The coaches will vote for players who are not on their own team using a 6-5-4-3-2-1 point system for pitchers and outfielders and a 2-1 point system for other positions (excluding utility).
  - d. The top 12 scoring individuals (by position) will be named all-conference first team. The first-team utility player will then be chosen in a separate vote. Then the next 12 scoring individuals (by position) will be named second team, followed by the selection of a second-team utility player. Other individuals receiving votes in the original process will be given honorable mention. Coaches will be allowed to add one honorable mention (from their nominated players) at the end of the meeting.
  - e. The conference information director shall tabulate the coaches' voting and announce the all-conference teams and honorable mention list in the form of a

press release.

- f. Coaches will also vote on a Coach-of-the-Year, a Player-of-the-Year, and a Pitcher-of-the-Year. If a Pitcher-of-the-Year is selected as Player-of-the-Year, the Pitcher-of-the-Year award would be removed from the process. They may not vote for themselves or their own players.
  - g. Coaches will select a Gold Glove team of nine players (position specific). This team will be forwarded on to the NAIA for further post-season honors consideration.
13. The following pre-game schedule went into effect beginning with the 2005 season:

Weekday Games:

90 Minutes Before game time	-	Visitor Batting Practice
60 Minutes Before game time	-	Home Batting Practice
30 Minutes Before game time	-	Visitor Infield/Outfield
20 Minutes Before game time	-	Home Infield/Outfield
10 Minutes Before game time	-	Final Field Preparation/Line-ups

Weekend Games:

120 Minutes Before game time	-	Home Batting Practice
80 Minutes Before game time	-	Visitor Batting Practice
40 Minutes Before game time	-	Home Infield/Outfield
25 Minutes Before game time	-	Visitor Infield/Outfield
10 Minutes Before game time	-	Final Field Preparation/Line-ups

## **Section II. MEN'S BASKETBALL**

1. NCAA rules shall be used for all conference and non-conference games hosted by GPAC schools.
2. The official men's basketball of the conference is the Rawlings Franchise game ball. The official ball shall be used for all games, both conference and non-conference, hosted by GPAC schools.
3. A forfeiture equal to total officiating fees and mileage for each game not played shall be imposed on any school failing to fulfill its scheduled conference competition dates, payable to the host school.
4. No guarantees shall be exchanged for regularly scheduled conference games.
5. The host school will secure the services of qualified individuals for the following assignments at each conference game: scoreboard/game clock operator, shot clock operator, official scorer, statistician, public address announcer.
6. The conference shall hire a Supervisor of Officials to assign officials for all conference games, non-conference games, and tournaments hosted by GPAC schools. The Supervisor shall assign three qualified officials for all conference games. The host school shall pay the fees and mileage for the officiating crew.

### **The fees for 2010-2011 will be:**

- a. Officiating Fee - \$110 per varsity game, per official
  - b. Mileage Fee - .44 per mile round trip for one official (longest distance)
  - c. Post-Season Officiating Fee - \$115 per game, per official
7. Two-year conference master schedules shall be approved by the Steering Committee on a bi-annual basis. The conference schedule shall consist of 18 games. Briar Cliff is the swing team for 2009-10 and 2010-11.  
Special Scheduling Considerations: 1.) Nebraska Wesleyan is not to be scheduled on the first available conference date, 2.) Northwestern is not to be scheduled on the third weekend in January, 3.) Concordia is not to be scheduled on the final weekend of January, 4.) Doane is not to be scheduled on the first weekend in February
  8. Primarily, the conference master schedule will designate "long distance" games for play on Saturdays and will designate "close distance" games for play on weeknights. Games played on Saturday will be as part of men-women doubleheaders. Games played during the week may be as part of men-women doubleheaders by mutual consent of coaches and approval of both athletic directors.
  9. A game on the conference master schedule may be played on an alternate date or at an alternate time by mutual consent of head coaches with the approval of both athletic directors. The default starting times for conference games are:

- a. Weeknight single varsity games 7:30 pm
  - b. Weeknight varsity doubleheaders 6:00 & 8:00 pm
  - c. Saturday afternoon varsity doubleheaders 2:00 & 4:00 pm
  - d. Saturday evening varsity doubleheaders (Must be mutually agreed upon) 5:30 & 7:30 pm
10. Both the home team and the visiting team shall have the discretion to postpone a conference game due to inclement weather, dangerous traveling conditions, or other extenuating circumstances. The home team shall take into account the travel time of the visiting team and make such a decision before the visiting team's departure whenever possible.
  11. Conference games postponed by inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances shall be made up on or prior to the final date of scheduled games on the master schedule. If a postponed game is not played by that specified date, both teams shall be given a loss for the purpose of seeding the conference tournament. A team must play all 18 of its scheduled conference games to be eligible for the conference championship.
  12. Final conference standings and a regular season champion shall be determined using a percentage basis including all conference games played (only the 18 scheduled games in the league, games against conference teams played as non-conference will not count in the standings or the tie-breakers). In the event of a first-place tie, all teams involved shall be declared co-champions. The regular season champion (or co-champions) shall be awarded a championship trophy by the conference. Ties shall not be broken in the final conference standings for official records and distribution of points in the conference all-sports competition.
  13. A post-season conference tournament, "The Great Plains Athletic Conference Men's Basketball Championships," shall be played for the purpose of determining one of the conference's two automatic bids to the NAIA Division II National Championships. Only teams that have declared their intent to participate in the NAIA post-season are eligible for the tournament. The post-season tournament winner shall be awarded a championship plaque by the conference. All weeknight double headers will start at 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm so that the building can be cleared between the games. All weekend double headers will start at 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm so that the building can be cleared between the games. All weekday single games will start at 7:00 pm and all weekend single games will start at 3:00 pm. Weekend tournament games can be played at night upon mutual consent of both athletic directors and head coaches.

The post-season tournament shall include twelve teams (seeded 1-12) based on the final regular season conference standings. The higher-seeded team shall host all games. For seeding, ties in the standings shall be broken using the following criteria:

1. Head to Head Competition

a. In the event of multi-team ties (more than 2), the head to head record is determined from all games played between the teams tied. From that record the tie is broken and all teams involved in the tie are placed in their respective order.

*Example: Three teams are tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> with a record of 9-7. Team B beat Team C once and split with Team D for a record of 2-1. Team C lost to Team B and split with Team D for a record of 1-2. Team D split with Team B and split with Team C for a record of 2-2. On a percentage basis Team B would be the #2 seed, Team D the #3 seed and Team B the #4 seed.*

b. If Criteria 1a. has been applied when multi-teams are tied and two or more teams remain tied, seed the teams that have been separated and start over with Criteria 1 for the teams that are still tied.

*Example: Three teams are tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> with a record of 9-7. Team B beat Team C once and split with Team D for a record of 2-1. Team C lost to Team B and Beat Team D twice for a record of 2-1. Team D split with Team B and lost twice to Team C for a record of 1-3. Team D would be seeded 4<sup>th</sup> and Team B and Team C remain tied. Go back to Criteria 1, Head to Head competition to break the tie between Team B and Team C for the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed. Team B beat Team C in their only meeting. Team B is seeded 2<sup>nd</sup> and Team C is seeded 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

2. Results against other conference teams, starting at the top of the final standings (not seedings) and working down until a win (not a loss or losses) creates a difference (2-0 is better than 1-0).

*Example: Team C and D are tied for the 10<sup>th</sup> seed. These two teams have split their head-to-head competition. Team C and D have lost to the top four teams in the league, but team D has one win against the fifth place team, and team C does not. Team D would be awarded the higher seed.*

*If Team C is 1-1 and Team D is 1-0, Team D would be awarded the higher seed based on win percentage. However, if Team C is 2-0 against that team, and Team D is 1-0 then team C would be awarded the higher seed based on more wins.*

3. Results against other conference teams starting with the first place team in the final standings (not seedings) and working down in order until a difference occurs. When comparing head to head results with other teams who are tied, use the combined record between the tied teams and the team with which you are breaking the tie (0-1 is better than 0-2).

*Example: Two teams are tied for 4<sup>th</sup> with a record of 8-8. Team C and Team D in head to head competition split, requiring the application of Criteria 2. There was also a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> between Team A and Team B. Team C split with Team A and split with Team B for a combined record of 2-2. Team D lost twice to Team A and split with Team B for a combined record of 1-2. Team C would be seeded 4<sup>th</sup> and Team D would be seeded 5<sup>th</sup>.*

#### 4. Coin Flip

(The Commissioner would be the one to flip the coin in conjunction (by phone) with the coaches involved)

The post-season tournament shall follow this format:

- a. First Round - #12 at #5, #11 at #6, #10 at #7, #9 at #8  
(The 1-4 seeds will have first round byes)
  - b. Quarterfinals - #8/#9 winner at #1, #5/#10 winner at #4, #7/#10 winner at #2, #6/#11 winner at #3.
  - c. Semifinals – #8/#9 vs. #1 winner vs. #5/#10 vs. #4 winner; #7/#10 vs. #2 winner vs. #6//#11 vs. #3 winner. Games at higher seed.
  - d. Finals – Semifinal Winners at highest remaining seed.
14. The conference's other automatic bid to the NAIA Division II National Championships shall be awarded to the highest-seeded team in the post-season tournament. If that team is also the winner of the tournament, the runner-up in the post-season tournament will receive the second automatic bid.
15. An all-conference team shall be selected at the conclusion of the regular season based on a vote of head coaches. Each school will have a supply of blank all-conference certificates to be prepared in-house for players selected for the all-conference team. The all-conference team shall consist of 10 first-team players and 10 second-team players. In addition, an honorable mention list will be compiled. The following process shall be used:
- a. Head coaches will nominate players from their respective teams. Nominations will include name, position, year, hometown, statistics, and coaches' comments. Nominations will be compiled by the sport chair.
  - b. The sport chair and his/her sports information director will compile a ballot inclusive of all nominating information.
  - c. The ballot shall be distributed among head coaches. Coaches will vote for 20 players who are not on their own team. Completed ballots will be submitted to the conference information director for tabulation using a 20-19-18-17-16-15-14-13-12-11-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 point scoring system.
  - d. The top 10 scoring individuals will be named all-conference first team and the next 10 scoring individuals will be named all-conference second team. Other individuals receiving votes will be given honorable mention. Each coach may also designate one additional player for honorable mention.
  - e. The conference information director shall tabulate the coaches' voting and announce the all-conference teams and honorable mention list in the form of a press release.

- f. The conference information director shall consult with the sport chair on ranking players on the official all-conference form to be submitted to the NAIA for All-America selection.

Coaches will also vote on a Coach-of-the-Year, Player-of-the-Year\*, Defensive Player-of-the-Year and Freshman-of-the-Year and may not vote for themselves or their own players.

\*The Player-of-the-Year for the men will be awarded to the player with the highest vote total in the all-conference balloting.

16. Conference schools may not provide dvd's of their conference games to anyone. Conference coaches may not provide scouting information on other conference teams to anyone.

### **Section III. WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

1. NCAA rules shall be used for all conference and non-conference games hosted by GPAC schools.
2. The official Women's basketball of the conference is the Rawlings Franchise game ball. The official ball shall be used for all games, both conference and non-conference, hosted by GPAC schools.
3. A forfeiture equal to total officiating fees and mileage for each game not played shall be imposed on any school failing to fulfill its scheduled conference competition dates, payable to the host school.
4. No guarantees shall be exchanged for regularly scheduled conference games.
5. The host school will secure the services of qualified individuals for the following assignments at each conference game: scoreboard/game clock operator, shot clock operator, official scorer, statistician, public address announcer.
6. The conference shall hire a Supervisor of Officials to assign officials for all conference games, non-conference games, and tournaments hosted by GPAC schools. The Supervisor shall assign three qualified officials for all conference games. The host school shall pay the fees and mileage for the officiating crew.

#### **The fees for 2010-2011 will be:**

- a. Officiating Fee - \$110 per varsity game, per official
  - b. Mileage Fee - .44 per mile round trip for one official (longest distance)
  - c. Post-Season Officiating Fee - \$115 per game, per official
7. Two-year conference master schedules shall be approved by the Steering Committee on a bi-annual basis. The conference schedule shall consist of 18 games. Briar Cliff is the swing team for 2009-10 and 2010-11.  
Special Scheduling Considerations: 1.) Nebraska Wesleyan is not to be scheduled on the first available conference date, 2.) Northwestern is not to be scheduled on the third weekend in January, 3.) Concordia is not to be scheduled on the final weekend of January, 4.) Doane is not to be scheduled on the first weekend in February.
  8. Primarily, the conference master schedule will designate "long distance" games for play on Saturdays and will designate "close distance" games for play on weeknights. Games played on Saturday will be as part of men-women doubleheaders. Games played during the week may be as part of men-women doubleheaders by mutual consent of coaches and approval of both athletic directors.
  9. A game on the conference master schedule may be played on an alternate date or at an alternate time by mutual consent of head coaches with the approval of both athletic directors. The default starting times for conference games are:

- a. Weeknight single varsity games 7:30 pm
  - b. Weeknight varsity doubleheaders 6:00 & 8:00 pm
  - c. Saturday afternoon varsity doubleheaders 2:00 & 4:00 pm
  - d. Saturday evening varsity doubleheaders (Must be mutually agreed upon)  
5:30 & 7:30 pm
10. Both the home team and the visiting team shall have the discretion to postpone a conference game due to inclement weather, dangerous traveling conditions or other extenuating circumstances. The home team shall take into account the travel time of the visiting team and make such a decision before the visiting team's departure whenever possible.
  11. Conference games postponed by inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances shall be made up on or prior to the final date of scheduled games on the master schedule. If a postponed game is not played by that specified date, both teams shall be given a loss for the purpose of seeding the conference tournament. A team must play all 18 of its scheduled conference games to be eligible for the conference championship.
  12. Final conference standings and a regular season champion shall be determined using a percentage basis including all conference games played (only the 18 scheduled games in the league, games against conference teams played as non-conference will not count in the standings or the tie-breakers). In the event of a first-place tie, all teams involved shall be declared co-champions. The regular season champion (or co-champions) shall be awarded a championship trophy by the conference. Ties shall not be broken in the final conference standings for official records and distribution of points in the conference all-sports competition.
  13. A post-season conference tournament, "The Great Plains Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Championships," shall be played for the purpose of determining one of the conference's two automatic bids to the NAIA Division II National Championships. Only teams that have declared their intent to participate in the NAIA post-season are eligible for the tournament. The post-season tournament winner shall be awarded a championship plaque by the conference. All weeknight double headers will start at 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm so that the building can be cleared between the games. All weekend double headers will start at 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm so that the building can be cleared between the games. All weekday single games will start at 7:00PM and all weekend single games will start at 3:00 pm. Weekend tournament games can be played at night upon mutual consent of both athletic directors and head coaches.

The post-season tournament shall include twelve teams (seeded 1-12) based on the final regular season conference standings. The higher-seeded team shall host all games. For seeding, ties in the standings shall be broken using the following criteria:

1. Head to Head Competition

a. In the event of multi-team ties (more than 2), the head to head record is determined from all games played between the teams tied. From that record the tie is broken and all teams involved in the tie are placed in their respective order.

*Example: Three teams are tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> with a record of 9-7. Team B beat Team C once and split with Team D for a record of 2-1. Team C lost to Team B and split with Team D for a record of 1-2. Team D split with Team B and split with Team C for a record of 2-2. On a percentage basis Team B would be the #2 seed, Team D the #3 seed and Team C the #4 seed.*

b. If Criteria 1a. has been applied when multi-teams are tied and two or more teams remain tied, seed the teams that have been separated and start over with Criteria 1 for the teams that are still tied.

*Example: Three teams are tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> with a record of 9-7. Team B beat Team C once and split with Team D for a record of 2-1. Team C lost to Team B and Beat Team D twice for a record of 2-1. Team D split with Team B and lost twice to Team C for a record of 1-3. Team D would be seeded 4<sup>th</sup> and Team B and Team C remain tied. Go back to Criteria 1, Head to Head competition to break the tie between Team B and Team C for the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed. Team B beat Team C in their only meeting. Team B is seeded 2<sup>nd</sup> and Team C is seeded 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

2. Results against other conference teams, starting at the top of the final standings (not seedings) and working down until a win (not a loss or losses) creates a difference (2-0 is better than 1-0).

*Example: Team C and D are tied for the 10<sup>th</sup> seed. These two teams have split their head-to-head competition. Team C and D have lost to the top four teams in the league, but team D has one win against the fifth place team, and team C does not. Team D would be awarded the higher seed.*

*If Team C is 1-1 and Team D is 1-0, Team D would be awarded the higher seed based on win percentage. However, if Team C is 2-0 against that team, and Team D is 1-0 then team C would be awarded the higher seed based on more wins.*

3. Results against other conference teams starting with the first place team in the final standings (not seedings) and working down in order until a difference occurs. When comparing head to head results with other teams who are tied, use the combined record between the tied teams and the team with which you are breaking the tie (0-1 is better than 0-2).

*Example: Two teams are tied for 4<sup>th</sup> with a record of 8-8. Team C and Team D in head to head competition split, requiring the application of Criteria 2. There was also a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> between Team A and Team B. Team C split with Team A and split with Team B for a combined record of 2-2. Team D lost twice to Team A and split with Team B for a combined record of 1-2. Team C would be seeded 4<sup>th</sup> and Team D would be seeded 5<sup>th</sup>.*

#### 4. Coin Flip

(The Commissioner would be the one to flip the coin in conjunction (by phone) with the coaches involved)

The post-season tournament shall follow this format:

- a. First Round - #12 at #5, #11 at #6, #10 at #7, #9 at #8  
(The 1-4 seeds will have first round byes)
  - b. Quarterfinals - #8/#9 winner at #1, #5/#10 winner at #4, #7/#10 winner at #2, #6/#11 winner at #3.
  - c. Semifinals – #8/#9 vs. #1 winner vs. #5/#10 vs. #4 winner; #7/#10 vs. #2 winner vs. #6//#11 vs. #3 winner. Games at higher seed.
  - d. Finals – Semifinal Winners at highest remaining seed.
14. The conference's other automatic bid to the NAIA Division II National Championships shall be awarded to the highest-seeded team in the post-season tournament. If that team is also the winner of the tournament, the runner-up in the post-season tournament will receive the second automatic bid.
15. An all-conference team shall be selected at the conclusion of the regular season based on a vote of head coaches. Each school will have a supply of blank all-conference certificates to be prepared in-house for players selected for the all-conference team. The all-conference team shall consist of 10 first-team players and 10 second-team players. In addition, an honorable mention list will be compiled. The following process shall be used:
- a. Head coaches will nominate players from their respective teams. Nominations will include name, position, year, hometown, statistics, and coaches' comments. Nominations will be compiled by the sport chair.
  - b. The sport chair and his/her sports information director will compile a ballot inclusive of all nominating information.
  - c. The ballot shall be distributed among head coaches. The coaches will vote for 20 players who are not on their own team. Completed ballots will be submitted to the conference information director for tabulation using a 20-19-18-17-16-15-14-13-12-11-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 point scoring system.
  - d. The top 10 scoring individuals will be named all-conference first team and the next 10 scoring individuals will be named all-conference second team. Other individuals receiving votes will be given honorable mention. Each coach may also designate one additional player for honorable mention.
  - e. The conference information director shall tabulate the coaches' voting and announce the all-conference teams and honorable mention list in the form of a press release.

- f. The conference information director shall consult with the sport chair on ranking players on the official all-conference form to be submitted to the NAIA for All-America selection.

Coaches will also vote on a Coach-of-the-Year, Player-of-the-Year\*, Defensive Player-of-the-Year and Freshman-of-the-Year and may not vote for themselves or their own players.

\*The Player-of-the-Year for the men will be awarded to the player with the highest vote total in the all-conference balloting.

16. Conference schools may not provide dvd's of their conference games to anyone. Conference coaches may not provide scouting information on other conference teams to anyone.

#### **Section IV. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY**

1. NCAA rules shall be used for all meets hosted by GPAC schools.
2. Official equipment shall be as defined by the NAIA.
3. A post-season conference meet, "The Great Plains Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships," shall be contested for the purpose of determining the men and women's conference champions. All schools may participate in the conference.
4. The official distance for the conference championship races shall be the same distance used at the NAIA national championship meet in that same season.
5. When the conference championship is also the NAIA qualifying meet, each conference school may enter up to ten women and up to ten men in the championship races. When the conference championship is separate from and precedes the qualifying meet, each school may enter up to ten women and up to ten men in the championship races. *Starting in 2008 the GPAC Cross Country Championships will serve as the National Qualifying Meet.*
6. The conference shall award trophies to the first-place men and women's teams as conference champions. The conference shall also provide individual medals to the top fifteen finishers in each of the championship races.
7. The site of the conference meet shall rotate alphabetically among all GPAC schools that meet host criteria as outlined in the cross country handbook.
8. The host school will coordinate postponement of the conference meet due to inclement weather, dangerous traveling conditions, or other extenuating circumstances. A postponed conference meet shall be rescheduled for the following Monday.
9. The Cross Country Sport Committee will serve as the "Games Committee" for the conference meet.
10. A sport handbook for cross country shall be used to enhance the sport by-laws. The handbook shall include standards for hosting a conference meet, procedures for conducting a conference meet, a record of the results, and a summary of the champions.
11. The host school shall use VP Timing (Bob Prince and Steve Vogel) from Sioux City, Iowa, as the Official Timer of the GPAC Cross Country Championships. Cost is \$500 plus expenses which is to be paid by entry fees collected for the event.

## **Section V. FOOTBALL**

1. A forfeiture of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per game is imposed upon any member failing to fulfill its scheduled dates in football.
2. No guarantees are to be exchanged for regularly scheduled conference football games.
3. The conference shall hire a Supervisor of Officials to assign officials for all conference and non-conference games. The Supervisor shall assign seven qualified officials for all games. The host school shall pay the fees and mileage for the officiating crew.

### **The fees for 2010 will be:**

- a. Officiating Fee - \$115 per official
  - b. Mileage Fee - .44 per mile round trip for two vehicles (longest distance)
  - c. All NAIA Football Series (playoffs) officials are assigned by the NAIA National Office.
4. Spring Football: A conference school may have up to fifteen days of organized practice following the school's spring semester break. Practice shall be defined as follows: An activity organized and/or directed by an identified member of the coaching staff with appropriate equipment and where evaluation of the athlete takes place. The use of shoulder pads and helmets are permitted for spring practice in the GPAC.
  5. Conference schools' first contests may not be scheduled prior to one week before conference play. Special exceptions may apply.
  6. Conference schools may have no more than thirty practice opportunities prior to their first scheduled contest. No more than two practices per day will be counted. A practice is defined by NAIA rules.
  7. The starting time for conference football games will be 1:00 p.m. However, the home team may adjust the starting time of games during special events such as Homecoming or Parent's Day. Night games may be played subject to mutual consent of the athletic directors of both home and visiting teams. Such adjustments must be made and the visiting team must be notified prior to the conclusion of the academic year immediately preceding the season affected. Adjustments in starting time for unexpected reasons, such as weather, must be done by mutual consent of the athletic directors of both home and visiting teams.
  8. The home team will wear colors and the visitors will wear white.

9. The traveling school shall use discretion in determining the number on a traveling squad.
10. The home team will provide a doctor and/or ambulance service at the game site.
11. Digital hard drive (.AVI files) copies of games (cutup and clipped) will be exchanged with conference opponents. Copies of the games three and two weeks prior to the conference game must be in the hands of the opponent on the Thursday nine days prior to the conference game. The game immediately preceding the conference game must be in the hands of the opponent on Sunday the week of the scheduled conference game. (Beginning in 2010 Game Tape Exchange will be used for on-line exchange, exchange rules will be developed during the summer of 2010 for the fall season).
12. A conference school will provide their own phone system for conference games. The home team shall provide facilities within the press box for two visiting coaches that will be equal to or similar to the facilities of the home team. The home team shall provide space for visiting conference team's video camera operators equal or similar to space given to the home team camera operators.
13. The conference game ball will be the approved NAIA ball (Rawlings ST-5) and will be provided by the host school. Specifics on the game ball (how many, etc...) listed in the GPAC Football Coaches Manual.
14. Voting of the all-conference football team will follow the procedure outlined in the GPAC Football Coaches Manual. Coaches are to nominate their own players and provide statistics. This is to be done and compiled by the league SID prior to the coaches' meeting. The team will then be selected from this list.
15. The conference supports a home-and-home schedule for schools that are having trouble filling their schedules. If two teams schedule home-and-home games, each game shall count equally in determining the winner between those two teams. The Conference master schedule will consist of 10 scheduled games. This schedule will be compiled and approved on a two-year basis. All games will count towards the conference standings (only the 10 scheduled games in the league, games against conference teams played as non-conference will not count in the standings or the tie-breakers).  
Special Scheduling Considerations: Morningside College is not to be scheduled at home on the last weekend of September. They can be on the road or have a bye week because of the unavailability of their home field at Elwood Olsen Stadium.
16. Determination of conference representative to the NAIA football playoffs.
  - a. The team must be the GPAC conference champion.
  - b. If there is a tie, the team with the best record in head-to-head competition will be selected, unless that team does not meet the national play-off criteria. If the team with the best record in head-to-head competition does not meet the national play-

off criteria, then the other tying team will be selected as the conference representative, provided they meet the national play-off criteria.

- c. If a tie still exists, select the team with the most victories against the next highest conference opponent(s).
- d. If a tie still exists, select the team with the largest victories (14 points or more) against the next highest conference opponent(s). Continue as needed against each successive position in the conference standings.
- e. If a tie still exists, select the team that is rated highest in the NAIA Football Coaches Association final rating prior to the playoff.
- f. If a tie still exists, select the team that has least recently attended a playoff.

## **Section VI. MEN'S GOLF**

1. USGA rules, with NAIA modifications, shall be used for the conference tournament.
2. The GPAC Men's Golf Champion will be determined by four 18 hole - one day meets contested throughout the year for a total of 72 holes. Two of the championship meets will be played in the fall and two will be played in the spring. One fall meet will be in the northern part of the conference with the other in the south, with the same in the spring (one north, one south). A rotation system will be used for hosting the championship meets. The dates of the meets will be set the proceeding year by the golf coaches and approved by the athletic directors. A minimum of ten (10) days must be placed between the two fall and two spring meets. In case of inclement weather, the meet will be rescheduled to a date determined by the host with approval of the conference commissioner. The 10 day rule may be suspended in these cases. In the event that the meet is postponed after it is started, the host will set the makeup date which needs to be within two weeks of the original date of the meet.

The four meets will be scored on a cumulative stroke basis, with the medalist awarded in the same way. For an individual or team to win the conference championship they must play in all four meets. Teams play five individuals and score four at the conference meets

- a. If two or more teams are tied for first place at the conclusion of play on the final championship meet of the year, a sudden-victory playoff will begin on a designated hole (as determined by the host or the club professional).
- b. Counting the best four scores for each team on each hole, play will continue hole-by-hole until a winner has been declared. This format will also apply if two or more individuals are tied for first place. If an individual is involved in both a team and medalist playoff, his score for the team will also count as his individual score.
- c. The individual medallist will be determined by medal score, using total number of holes played in the conference championship meets. If two or more players are tied for first place at the conclusion of play on the final championship meet of the year, a sudden-victory playoff will begin on a designated hole (as determined by the host or club professional). The individual medalist is also designated as the GPAC Player-of-the-Year.
- d. A rules committee, made up of three head coaches, will be in place for the conference tournament. The rules committee shall consist of the host head coach, the host head coach from the previous qualifying event, and the host head coach for the next qualifying event. The club professional of the host course may serve as an ex-officio member of the rules committee.
- e. The conference tournament shall only be contested at a course which meets the following minimum criteria: 18-hole layout, a driving range that accommodates a minimum of ten players, and a practice green.

- f. Practice rounds on the championship course the day prior to each championship event are prohibited.
3. The top ten individuals in the four conference meets will receive medals and be designated as all-conference. To qualify for these ten spots the individual must play in all four meets. Ties will not be broken in the individual standings with the exception of first place.

In addition each school may nominate up to two additional golfers for all-conference honors (with pertinent information). A vote of conference coaches shall be conducted over e-mail after the championship meet and an additional five golfers will be named all-conference. To be eligible for these five extra spots, a nominee must play in a minimum of five meets prior to the championship. The voting process will take place the week after the final championship meet.

4. Coaches will vote for a GPAC Coach-of-the-Year at the conclusion of the conference tournament. They may not vote for themselves.

## **Section VII. WOMEN'S GOLF**

1. USGA rules, with NAIA modifications, shall be used for the conference tournament.
2. The GPAC Women's Golf Champion will be determined by four 18 hole - one day meets contested throughout the year for a total of 72 holes. Two of the championship meets will be played in the fall and two will be played in the spring. One fall meet will be in the northern part of the conference with the other in the south, with the same in the spring (one north, one south). A rotation system will be used for hosting the championship meets. The dates of the meets will be set the proceeding year by the golf coaches and approved by the athletic directors. A minimum of ten (10) days must be placed between the two fall and two spring meets. In case of inclement weather, the meet will be rescheduled to a date determined by the host with approval of the conference commissioner. The 10 day rule may be suspended in these cases. In the event that the meet is postponed after it is started, the host will set the makeup date which needs to be within two weeks of the original date of the meet.

The four meets will be scored on a cumulative stroke basis, with the medalist awarded in the same way. For an individual or team to win the conference championship they must play in all four meets. Teams play five individuals and score four at the conference meets

- a. If two or more teams are tied for first place at the conclusion of play on the final championship meet of the year, a sudden-victory playoff will begin on a designated hole (as determined by the host or the club professional).
- b. Counting the best four scores for each team on each hole, play will continue hole-by-hole until a winner has been declared. This format will also apply if two or more individuals are tied for first place. If an individual is involved in both a team and medalist playoff, his score for the team will also count as his individual score.
- c. The individual medalist will be determined by medal score, using total number of holes played in the conference championship meets. If two or more players are tied for first place at the conclusion of play on the final championship meet of the year, a sudden-victory playoff will begin on a designated hole (as determined by the host or club professional). The individual medalist is also designated as the GPAC Player-of-the-Year.
- d. A rules committee, made up of three head coaches, will be in place for the conference tournament. The rules committee shall consist of the host head coach, the host head coach from the previous qualifying event, and the host head coach for the next qualifying event. The club professional of the host course may serve as an ex-officio member of the rules committee.
- e. The conference tournament shall only be contested at a course which meets the following minimum criteria: 18-hole layout, a driving range that accommodates a minimum of ten players, and a practice green.

- f. Practice rounds on the championship course the day prior to each championship event are prohibited.
3. The top ten individuals in the four conference meets will receive medals and be designated as all-conference. To qualify for these ten spots the individual must play in all four meets. Ties will not be broken in the individual standings with the exception of first place.

In addition each school may nominate up to two additional golfers for all-conference honors (with pertinent information). A vote of conference coaches shall be conducted over e-mail after the championship meet and an additional five golfers will be named all-conference. To be eligible for these five extra spots, a nominee must play in a minimum of five meets prior to the championship. The voting process will take place the week after the final championship meet.

4. Coaches will vote for a GPAC Coach-of-the-Year at the conclusion of the conference tournament. They may not vote for themselves.

## **Section VIII. MEN'S SOCCER**

1. NCAA rules shall be used for all conference and non-conference games hosted by GPAC schools. NAIA adaptations will apply.
2. The official men's soccer ball of the conference is the Brine Championship game ball. The official ball shall be used for all games, both conference and non-conference, hosted by GPAC schools. The home team shall provide four official balls for a game.
3. A forfeiture equal to total officiating fees and mileage for each game not played shall be imposed on any school failing to fulfill its scheduled conference competition dates, payable to the host school.
4. No guarantees shall be exchanged for regularly scheduled conference games.
5. The conference shall establish a contract with the GPISOA to assign NISOA officials for all conference and non-conference games hosted by GPAC schools. The host school shall pay the fees and mileage for the officiating crew.

### **The fees for 2010 will be:**

- a. \$105 for the R1 Referee, and \$90 for the R2 Line Judges.
  - b. Mileage is .44 per mile round trip for one official (longest distance)
6. Two-year conference master schedules shall be approved by the Steering Committee on a bi-annual basis. The conference schedule shall consist of a single round-robin of 12 games.
  7. A game on the conference master schedule may be played on an alternate date by mutual consent of head coaches with the approval of both athletic directors.
  8. Both the home team and the visiting team shall have the discretion to postpone a conference game due to inclement weather, dangerous traveling conditions, or other extenuating circumstances. The home team shall take into account the travel time of the visiting team and make such a decision before the visiting team's departure whenever possible.
  9. Conference games postponed by inclement weather, field conditions, or other extenuating circumstances shall be made up on or prior to the date determined by the NAIA for the closing of Longo ratings. If a postponed game is not played by that specified date, both teams shall be given a loss for the purposes of seeding the conference tournament. Schools involved shall do all within their power to play postponed games, including finding an alternate site or playing the game on the home field of the scheduled visiting team. A team must play all of its scheduled conference games to be eligible for the conference championship.
  10. Final conference standings and a regular season champion shall be determined using a point system including all conference games played (only the 12 scheduled matches

in the league, games against conference teams played as non-conference will not count in the standings or the tie-breakers). Three points will be awarded for each conference win, one point for each conference tie, and no points for a conference loss. In the event of a first-place tie, all teams involved shall be declared co-champions. The regular season champion (or co-champions) shall be awarded a championship trophy by the conference. Ties shall not be broken in the final conference standings for official records and distribution of points in the conference all-sports competition. The regular season conference champion will receive an automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship. In the event of a tie for the championship, the team with the highest seed for the GPAC Championships will receive the berth. If Nebraska Wesleyan wins the regular season the next highest seed will be awarded the NAIA National Tournament berth.

11. A post-season conference tournament, “The Great Plains Athletic Conference Men’s Soccer Championships,” shall be played for the purpose of determining the conference’s second automatic bid in the NAIA National Championship. If the team that claims the regular season NAIA National Tournament berth wins the GPAC tournament, the runner-up shall be awarded the second automatic berth. Only teams which have declared their intent to participate in the NAIA post-season are eligible for the tournament. The post-season tournament winner shall be awarded a championship plaque by the conference. All games shall start no later than 2 pm central time, unless lights are available. Games shall start no later than 7 pm when lights are used. The post-season tournament shall include eight teams (seeded 1-8) based on the final regular season conference standings. The higher-seeded team shall host all games. A field clock is required for a facility to be used for tournament games. For seeding, ties in the standings shall be broken using the following sequence:
  - a. Head-to-Head
  - b. Results against other conference teams, starting at the top of the final standings and working down until a difference occurs
  - c. Head-to-Head Goal Differential  
(for ties of 3+ teams; maximum 4 goal differential per game)
  - d. Longo points
  - e. Coin toss

The post-season tournament shall follow this format:

- a. Quarterfinals - #8 seed at #1 seed; #5 at #4, #7 at #2, #6 at #3
- b. Semi-finals - #8/#1 winner vs. #5/#4 winner; #7/#2 winner vs. #6/#3 winner
- c. Finals – winners of semi-final games, higher seed hosts

12. An all-conference team shall be selected at the conclusion of the regular-season based on a verbal vote of head coaches. Each school will have a supply of blank all-conference certificates to be prepared in-house for players selected for all-conference. The all-conference first team shall consist of 13 total players – 4 defenders, 4 midfielders, 4 forwards, and a goalkeeper. A second team of 13 players will be selected and an honorable mention list will be compiled (all players nominated will receive, at a minimum, honorable mention status). A weekly statistical report must be submitted to the conference office a minimum of six weeks during the season for a team's players to be eligible for all-conference honors. The following process shall be used:

- a. Head coaches will nominate players from their respective teams and may nominate players based on a tiered system (new in 2007):
  - 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Teams – 8 Nominees
  - 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Place Teams – 5 Nominees
  - 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Place Teams – 3 Nominees
  - 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Place Teams – 2 NomineesNominations will include name, position, year, hometown, statistics, and coaches' comments. Nominations will be e-mailed to the sport chair.
- b. The sport chair and his/her sports information director will compile a ballot inclusive of all nominating information. The ballot will include up to 54 total players.
- c. The all-conference ballot shall be distributed among head coaches via e-mail at the conclusion of the season. Coaches will verbally vote, via a conference call, for the all-conference team players. Coaches can not vote for their own players. Completed voting will be tallied by the conference information director while on the call. Voting will begin with forwards, then midfielders, then defenders, and concluded with goal keepers. The sport chairs shall conduct the conference call.
- d. The top 26 scoring individuals (by position) will be named all-conference first team and second team. All other individuals receiving votes will be given honorable mention status. Coaches will vote the order of players sent in to the NAIA for All-American consideration.
- e. The conference information director shall tabulate the coaches' voting and announce the all-conference teams in the form of a press release.

Coaches will also vote on a Coach-of-the-Year, Offensive Player-of-the-Year, and Defensive Player-of-the-Year. Player-of-the-Year must be voted off for purposes of turning one player into the NAIA for National Player-of-the-Year. They may not vote for themselves or their own players. To determine the candidate for national player-of-the-year, a vote off between the offensive and defensive players-of-the-year will occur.

13. Conference coaches may not provide scouting information on other conference teams to anyone.

14. Each conference school shall provide a game administrator at each home contest. This administrator can not be a soccer coach and has to be someone that is not normally required to be at a game (i.e. Trainer).

## **Section IX. WOMEN'S SOCCER**

1. NCAA rules shall be used for all conference and non-conference games hosted by GPAC schools. NAIA adaptations will apply.
2. The official women's soccer ball of the conference is the Brine Championship game ball. The official ball shall be used for all games, both conference and non-conference, hosted by GPAC schools. The home team shall provide four official balls for each game.
3. A forfeiture equal to total officiating fees and mileage for each game not played shall be imposed on any school failing to fulfill its scheduled conference competition dates, payable to the host school.
4. No guarantees shall be exchanged for regularly scheduled conference games.
5. The conference shall establish a contract with the GPISOA to assign NISOA officials for all conference games and all non-conference games hosted by GPAC schools. The host school shall pay the fees and mileage for the officiating crew.

### **The fees for 2010 will be:**

- a. \$105 for the R1 Referee, and \$90 for the R2 Line Judges.
  - b. Mileage is .44 per mile round trip for one official (longest distance)
6. Two-year conference master schedules shall be approved by the Steering Committee on a bi-annual basis. The conference schedule shall consist of a single round-robin of 12 games.
  7. A game on the conference master schedule may be played on an alternate date by mutual consent of head coaches with the approval of both athletic directors.
  8. Both the home team and the visiting team shall have the discretion to postpone a conference game due to inclement weather, dangerous traveling conditions, or other extenuating circumstances. The home team shall take into account the travel time of the visiting team and make such a decision before the visiting team's departure whenever possible.
  9. Conference games postponed by inclement weather, field conditions, or other extenuating circumstances shall be made up on or prior to the date determined by the NAIA for the closing of Longo ratings. If a postponed game is not played by that specified date, both teams shall be given a loss for the purposes of seeding the conference tournament. Schools involved shall do all within their power to play postponed games, including finding an alternate site or playing the game on the home field of the scheduled visiting team. A team must play all of its scheduled conference games to be eligible for the conference championship.

10. Final conference standings and a regular season champion shall be determined using a point system including all conference games played (only the 12 scheduled matches in the league, games against conference teams played as non-conference will not count in the standings or the tie-breakers). Three points will be awarded for each conference win, one point for each conference tie, and no points for a conference loss. In the event of a first-place tie, all teams involved shall be declared co-champions. The regular season champion (or co-champions) shall be awarded a championship trophy by the conference. Ties shall not be broken in the final conference standings for official records and distribution of points in the conference all-sports competition. The regular season champion will receive an automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship. In the event of a tie for the championship, the team with the highest seed for the GPAC Championships will receive the berth. If Nebraska Wesleyan wins the regular season the next highest seed will be awarded the NAIA National Tournament berth.
  
11. A post-season conference tournament, “The Great Plains Athletic Conference Women’s Soccer Championships,” shall be played for the purpose of determining the conference’s second automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship. If the team that claims the regular season NAIA National Tournament berth wins the GPAC tournament, the runner-up shall be awarded the second automatic berth. Only teams which have declared their intent to participate in the NAIA post-season are eligible for the tournament. The post-season tournament winner shall be awarded a championship plaque by the conference. All games shall start no later than 2 pm central time, unless lights are available. Games shall start no later than 7 pm when lights are used. The post-season tournament shall include eight teams (seeded 1-8) based on the final regular season conference standings. The higher-seeded team shall host all games. A field clock is required for a facility to be used for tournament games. For seeding, ties in the standings shall be broken using the following sequence:
  - a. Head-to-Head
  - b. Results against other conference teams, starting at the top of the final standings and working down until a difference occurs
  - c. Head-to-Head Goal Differential  
(for ties of 3+ teams; maximum 4 goal differential per game)
  - d. Longo
  - e. Coin toss

The post-season tournament shall follow this format:

- a. Quarterfinals - #8 seed at #1 seed; #5 at #4, #7 at #2, #6 at #3
- b. Semi-finals - #8/#1 winner vs. #5/#4 winner; #7/#2 winner vs. #6/#3 winner
- c. Finals – winners of semi-final games, higher seed hosts

12. An all-conference team shall be selected at the conclusion of the regular-season based on a verbal vote of head coaches. Each school will have a supply of blank all-conference certificates to be prepared in-house for players selected for all-conference. The all-conference first team shall consist of 13 total players – 4 defenders, 4 midfielders, 4 forwards, and a goalkeeper. A second team of 13 players will be selected and an honorable mention list will be compiled (all players nominated will receive, at a minimum, honorable mention status). A weekly statistical report must be submitted to the conference office a minimum of six weeks during the season for a team's players to be eligible for all-conference honors. The following process shall be used:
  - a. Head coaches will nominate players from their respective teams and may nominate players based on a tiered system (new in 2007):
    - 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Teams – 8 Nominees
    - 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Place Teams – 5 Nominees
    - 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Place Teams – 3 Nominees
    - 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Place Teams – 2 NomineesNominations will include name, position, year, hometown, statistics, and coaches' comments. Nominations will be e-mailed to the sport chair.
  - b. The sport chair and his/her sports information director will compile a ballot inclusive of all nominating information. The ballot will include up to 54 total players.
  - c. The all-conference ballot shall be distributed among head coaches via e-mail at the conclusion of the season. Coaches will verbally vote, via a conference call, for the all-conference team players. Coaches can not vote for their own players. Completed voting will be tallied by the conference information director while on the call. Voting will begin with forwards, then midfielders, then defenders, and concluded with goal keepers. The sport chairs shall conduct the conference call.
  - d. The top 26 scoring individuals (by position) will be named all-conference first team and second team. All other individuals receiving votes will be given honorable mention status. Coaches will vote the order of players sent in to the NAIA for All-American consideration.
  - e. The conference information director shall tabulate the coaches' voting and announce the all-conference teams in the form of a press release.

Coaches will also vote on a Coach-of-the-Year, Offensive Player-of-the-Year, and Defensive Player-of-the-Year. Player-of-the-Year must be voted off for purposes of turning one player into the NAIA for National Player-of-the-Year. They may not vote for themselves or their own players. To determine the candidate for national player-of-the-year, a vote off between the offensive and defensive players-of-the-year will occur.

13. Conference coaches may not provide scouting information on other conference teams to anyone.

14. Each conference school shall provide a game administrator at each home contest. This administrator can not be a soccer coach and has to be someone that is not normally required to be at a game (i.e. Trainer).

## **Section X. SOFTBALL**

1. NCAA rules, with NAIA modifications, shall be used for all conference and non-conference games hosted by GPAC schools. The international tiebreaker rule shall be used commencing in the top of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning for tied conference games.
2. The official softball of the conference is the Worth (NAIAFP) NAIA game ball. The official ball shall be used for all games, both conference and non-conference, hosted by GPAC schools.
3. All outfield foul lines must be marked prior to games being played. If a field is found to be not in regulation (for whatever reason, outside of safety) the game is to be played and the violation reported to the GPAC Conduct and Ethics Committee through the Commissioner.
4. A forfeiture equal to total officiating fees and mileage for each game not played shall be imposed on any school failing to fulfill its scheduled conference competition dates, payable to the host school.
5. No guarantees shall be exchanged for regularly scheduled conference games.
6. The conference shall hire an Assignor of Officials to assign officials for all conference and non-conference games and tournaments hosted by GPAC schools. The Assignor shall assign two qualified officials for each game. The host school shall pay the fees and mileage for the officiating crew.

### **The fees for 2011 will be:**

- a. Officiating Fee - \$105 per doubleheader/\$60 per single game, per official
- b. Mileage Fee - .44 per mile round trip for one official (longest distance)
- c. Post-Season Officiating Fee - \$65 per single game, per official

In the event of inclement weather, officials will be paid the single game fee plus applicable mileage if a game/doubleheader is called after they arrive on site. If a single game or the first game of a doubleheader is called after starting, officials will be paid the single game fee plus applicable mileage. If the second game of a doubleheader is called after starting, officials will be paid the doubleheader fee plus applicable mileage. It is incumbent on officials to be available via mobile phone en route to the game site to be notified promptly of a rainout. No fee or mileage will be paid to officials if a game/doubleheader is called prior to their arrival on site.

7. Two-year conference master schedules shall be approved by the Steering Committee on a bi-annual basis. The conference schedule shall consist of one doubleheader with all other GPAC teams (24 games).

8. A doubleheader on the conference master schedule may be played on an alternate date by mutual consent of head coaches with the approval of both athletic directors and the commissioner.
9. It is the responsibility of the home team to notify the visiting team on the scheduled day of the contest if field conditions are such that the contest cannot be played as scheduled. The home team shall take into account the travel time of the visiting team and make such a decision before the visiting team's departure whenever possible.
10. If a contest is unable to be held due to weather, the following is the makeup policy:
  - a. Doubleheaders should be made up on the first available date, with the deadline for all conference make-up games being the Tuesday prior to the post-season tournament.
  - b. If a game is postponed after a team is on the road, that game shall be canceled if the visiting team has traveled more than 100 miles.
  - c. When a doubleheader is cancelled due to inclement weather, after a team has traveled more than 100 miles, it will not be rescheduled. Teams on weekend road trips shall not be required to stay overnight more than budgeted/planned. When you travel to a site, stay overnight, and the game is cancelled due to inclement weather, the game will not be rescheduled if you traveled over 100 miles.
  - d. Teams may reverse the site of a doubleheader when one field is playable and the other is not. The host school shall pay for the officials. Both schools must agree to the change. The new host school shall pay for the officials, and the home team will remain the same (as originally scheduled).
  - e. A neutral site may be used by mutual consent of both head coaches and both athletic directors.
  - f. No team will be required to play conference games on more than two consecutive academic days without the consent of its athletic director.
  - g. All postponed games shall be made up by the Tuesday prior to the conference tournament. Unless article b or c. applies, then the games do not need to be made up.
  - h. If a game is under the 100 mile travel rule and game two of the double header reaches the status of "official" (by the rule book) and is rained out – the game will be considered complete and will not be resumed or made up at a later date.
  - i. Games that are halted will resume where they were left off. This assumes that they can be made up, see article b, c, and h.
11. Final conference standings and a regular season champion shall be determined using a percentage basis including all conference games played (only the 24 scheduled games

in the league, games against conference teams played as non-conference will not count in the standings or the tie-breakers). A team must play 18 of its scheduled conference games to be eligible for the conference championship and post-season tournament. In the event of a first-place tie, all teams involved shall be declared co-champions. The regular season champion (or co-champions) shall be awarded a championship trophy by the conference. Ties shall not be broken in the final conference standings for official records and distribution of points in the conference all-sports competition. The regular season champion shall be awarded the league's first bid to the NAIA National Championship Tournament.

12. A post-season conference tournament, "The Great Plains Athletic Conference Softball Championships," shall be played for the purpose of determining the conference's second automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship Tournament. Only teams that have declared their intent to participate in the NAIA post-season are eligible for the tournament. The post-season tournament winner shall be awarded a championship plaque by the conference. The post-season tournament shall include eight teams (seeded 1-8) based on the final regular season conference standings. The tournament host shall rotate between northern and southern schools of the conference every other year (opposite baseball). The A host site will meet the requirements of the NCAA rule book regarding field dimensions for post-season play. The ideal site will have available 4 lighted fields within the same complex and have available a central press box facility. The higher seeded team shall use the third base dugout through out the tournament, unless a team is staying on a field then the team moving to that field shall occupy the vacated dugout. The GPAC commissioner, in coordination with the softball chair, will review all proposals and then decide on who the host site will be each year.

For seeding, ties in the standings shall be broken using the following criteria:

- a. Head-to-head competition
- b. Comparative winning percentage against conference opponents starting at the top of the final regular-season standings and working down
- c. Head-to-head runs differential (maximum four runs per game)
- d. Coin toss

The post-season tournament shall follow this format:

- a. NAIA eight-team double-elimination bracket with seven-inning games.
- b. The 8-run rule shall be used in all games.
- c. In the event the tournament is not completed, the following criteria will be used to determine the GPAC second automatic representative to the NAIA National Championship Tournament:

- i. If the tournament is canceled before any games are played, the regular season runner-up will be the GPAC second automatic representative.
      - ii. If the tournament is canceled any time after play has begun and there is a lone undefeated team remaining, that team will be the GPAC second automatic representative to the NAIA National Championship Tournament.
      - iii. If the tournament is canceled any time after play has begun and there is not a lone undefeated team remaining, the highest-seeded team still in contention will be the GPAC second automatic representative to the NAIA National Championship Tournament.
    - d. The tournament will be contested Thursday – Saturday, with Sunday and Monday as rain dates (Sunday if possible) with the host school securing the use of two fields with the following contingency plans for weather:
      - i. If games cannot be played on Thursday, the tournament format shall remain an eight-team double-elimination bracket with games played on Friday and Saturday (with Sunday-Monday option).
      - ii. If games cannot be played Thursday and Friday, the tournament format shall be an eight-team single-elimination bracket played entirely on Saturday (with Sunday and Monday option).
      - iii. Sunday shall be used to facilitate completion of the tournament unless a team with a Sunday exemption remains in contention. If so, play shall continue on Monday until all games are completed.
      - iv. If Championship game #1 is played and the tournament is rained out, that winner would be declared GPAC Post-Season Champion.
13. An all-conference team shall be selected at the conclusion of the regular season based on a vote of head coaches. Each school will have a supply of blank all-conference certificates to be prepared in-house for players selected for the all-conference team. The all-conference teams would consist of 18 Players with the following breakdown: 3 Pitchers, 2 Catchers, 6 Infielders, 5 Outfielders, 1 Utility, 1 Designated Player This change would be reflected in By-Law 13. In addition, an honorable mention list will be compiled. The following process shall be used:
- a. Head coaches will nominate players from their respective teams, by position, per the all-conference breakdown above. Nominations will include name, position, year, hometown, conference, total statistics, and coaches' comments. Nominations will be compiled by the sport chair.
  - b. The sport chair and his/her sports information director will compile a ballot inclusive of all nominating information.
  - c. The ballot shall be distributed among head coaches. Coaches will vote for players who are not on their own team using a descending point system.

- d. The top 18 scoring individuals (by position) will be named all-conference first team and the next 18 scoring individuals (by position) will be named second team. Other individuals receiving votes will be given honorable mention.
- e. The conference information director shall tabulate the coaches' voting and announce the all-conference teams and honorable mention list in the form of a press release.
- f. The conference information director shall consult with the sport chair on ranking players on the official all-conference form to be submitted to the NAIA for All-America selection.

Coaches will also vote on a Coach-of-the-Year, a Player-of-the-Year, and a Pitcher-of-the-Year. They may not vote for themselves or their own players.

## **Section XI. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS**

1. USTA/ITA rules shall be used for all conference and non-conference matches hosted by GPAC schools.
2. The Wilson/NAIA tennis ball shall be the official conference ball.
3. Two-year master schedules shall be approved by the Steering Committee on a bi-annual basis. The conference schedule shall consist of a single round-robin schedule. A conference match shall consist of six singles matches, played best-of-three format, and three doubles matches, played eight-game pro set format. A 12-point tiebreaker shall be used in conference matches when a set score is tied at six games. Coaches must have a book on hand with all of their season's results available. This can be the ATA book or some other record keeping system. Furthermore, a teams entire singles and doubles lineup must be set prior to the start of the match (ITA rule).

### **Schedule Note:**

All teams must play out their regular season matches, even when one team has mathematically won the match. However, in the GPAC Tournament a team may choose to default the rest of the match once the point of winning has been reached. Moreover, it is highly encouraged in the "spirit of the game" that teams complete their matches in the GPAC Tennis Tournament. Also, a match that is designated as a conference match on the master schedule must be played. An alternate match can not be used as the conference counting match. For a team to host a conference double-header they must have a minimum of four courts, unless it is mutually agreed that less courts can be used.

4. A match on the conference master schedule may be played on an alternate date or at an alternate time by mutual consent of head coaches and with the approval of both athletic directors and the commissioner. Any costs incurred by moving a conference match indoors shall be the responsibility of the home team to pay.

Any indoor dual matches will use the following scoring protocol:

All doubles matches will follow 8-game pro-set scoring.

All singles matches will follow 2 out of 3 set scoring until a team wins five matches, after which all singles matches will follow 8-game pro-set scoring

Any singles matches in progress that have completed the first set will finish the match using 2 out of 3 set scoring.

Any singles matches in progress that have not finished the first set will finish the match using an 8 game pro-set format.

In the event a match is moved into a facility that lacks the adequate amount of courts to play 2 out of 3 in a reasonable time. If both coaches agree prior to the match an 8-game pro-set shall be used for the entire match. If both coaches do not agree to 8-game pro-sets the match will be played 2 out of 3 until a team has won and then 8-game pro-sets shall be used.

5. Both the home team and the visiting team shall have the discretion to postpone a conference match due to inclement weather, dangerous traveling conditions, or other extenuating circumstances. The home team shall take into account the travel time of the visiting team and make such a decision before the visiting team's departure whenever possible.
6. Conference matches postponed by inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances shall be made up on or before to the Wednesday prior to the conference tournament.
7. Final conference standings and a regular season champion shall be determined using a percentage basis including all conference matches played (only the matches scheduled in the league, matches against conference teams played as non-conference will not count in the standings or the tie-breakers). A team must play all of its scheduled conference matches to be eligible for the conference championship. In the event of a first-place tie, all teams involved shall be declared co-champions. The regular season champion (or co-champions) shall be awarded a championship trophy by the conference. Ties shall not be broken in the final conference standings for official records and distribution of points in the conference all-sports competition.
8. A post-season conference tournament, "The Great Plains Athletic Conference Tennis Championships," shall be played for the purpose of determining the conference's automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship. The tournament will be contested on a Friday and Saturday. Only teams that have declared their intent to participate in the NAIA post-season are eligible for the tournament. The post-season tournament winner shall be awarded a championship plaque by the conference. The post-season tournament shall include six teams (seeded 1-6) based on the final regular season conference standings. The post-season tournament shall be seeded based on the final regular season conference standings. The tournament shall be hosted by Midland Lutheran in Fremont, Nebraska or by Nebraska Wesleyan in Lincoln, Nebraska. The tournament will be moved indoors in the event of inclement weather.

For seeding, ties in the standings shall be broken using the following criteria:

- a. Head-to-head competition.
- b. Dual-meet scores against teams that are tied.
- c. Results against other conference teams, starting at the top of the final standings and working down until a difference occurs (2-0 is better than 1-0, 0-1, is better than 0-2).
- d. Results against other conference teams comparing dual scores (7-2 is better than 6-3, etc.) until a difference occurs.

The post-season tournament shall follow this format:

- a. Quarterfinals -#5 vs. #4 seed; #6 seed vs. #3 seed  
(The matches will be played on Friday – these matches will be played to completion, even if one team has secured the win)
  - b. Semi-finals - #5/#4 winner vs. #1 and the #6/#3 winner vs. #2  
(These matches will be played on Saturday morning – with walk off rule in play)
  - c. Finals – winners of semi-final matches  
(This match will be played on Saturday afternoon – with walk off rule in play)
9. The GPAC will fund a neutral official to work the GPAC Tennis Tournament. This official would be in charge of regulation and oversight of the matches during the tournament. The GPAC tennis coaches recommend that this individual be paid \$150 dollars for a two-day tournament (\$75 per day) plus mileage (.44 per mile round trip).
10. An all-conference team shall be selected at the conclusion of the regular season based on a vote of head coaches. Each school will have a supply of blank all-conference certificates to be prepared in-house for players selected to the all-conference team. Here is the All-Conference Selection Breakdown:  
*For singles:* Four #1 Singles Players, Three #2 Singles Players, Two #3 Singles Players, Two #4 Singles Players, Two #5 Singles Players, and Two #6 Singles Players (15 total individuals).  
*For doubles:* Three #1 Doubles Teams, Two #2 Doubles Teams, One #3 Doubles Team (6 total teams).  
 <Players are to be nominated by position>  
 Those who receive votes (and are not selected) will be considered honorable mention.

The following process shall be used:

- a. Head coaches will nominate players from their respective teams and may nominate up to six singles players and three doubles teams. Nominations will include name, position, year, hometown, statistics, and coaches' comments. Nominations will be compiled by the sport chair.
- b. The sport chair and his/her sports information director will compile a ballot inclusive of all nominating information.
- c. The ballot shall be distributed among head coaches (or at a meeting of head coaches). Coaches will vote for players who are not on their own team using a descending point scoring system for each singles spot and a descending point scoring system for each doubles spot (based on the number of selections needed at that spot). Completed ballots will be submitted to the conference information director for tabulation.
- d. The top scoring individuals and the top scoring doubles teams will be named all-conference first team. Other singles players and doubles teams receiving votes will be given honorable mention. No second team will be named.

- e. The conference information director shall tabulate the coaches' voting and announce the all-conference teams and honorable mention list in the form of a press release.

Coaches will also vote for a Coach-of-the-Year and a Player-of-the-Year. They may not vote for themselves or their own players.

## **Section XII. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD**

1. NCAA rules shall be used for all meets hosted by GPAC schools.
2. Official equipment shall be as defined by the NAIA. Implements will be checked in and certified.
3. A post-season conference meet, "The Great Plains Athletic Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships," shall be contested for the purpose of determining the men and women's conference champions. The conference meet shall be a one-day event. A \$100 entry fee will be required of all teams (except host) participating in the meet. *Beginning in 2009-2010 Multi Events will be added to the GPAC Indoor Championship as a scored event. The Multi Event will be held the day prior to the meet. The hosting rotation for the Multi Event will be determined at the coaches meeting annually.*
4. The following running events will be contested at the conference meet for both men and women with the order of events to be determined by the Indoor Track & Field Games Committee:

55-Meter Dash (60 Meters at Devaney Center)

55-Meter Hurdles (60 Meters at Devaney Center)

200-Meter Dash

400-Meter Dash

600-Meter Run

800-Meter Run

1,000-Meter Run

Mile Run

3,000-Meter Run

1,600-Meter Relay

3,200-Meter Relay

5,000-Meter Run

5. The following field events will be contested at the conference meet for both men and women with the order of events to be proposed by the host school and approved by the Indoor Track & Field Games Committee:

Pole Vault

Weight Throw

Shot Put

Long Jump

Triple Jump

High Jump

6. The conference shall award trophies to the first-place men and women's teams as conference champions. The conference shall also provide awards for the top six finishers in each individual event and for all participants on the top three finishing teams in relay events.
7. The GPAC Indoor Track & Field Performance List will be maintained throughout the season and will be used to select the top eighteen individuals eligible for each event at the conference meet. Each conference school may enter up to six individuals per event.
8. The site of the conference meet shall alternate between "north" and "south" hosts. The north host will be Dordt College and the south hosts will be Doane College and Nebraska Wesleyan University alternately.
9. The host school shall secure the services of two qualified starters for the conference meet, a meet referee, a field referee, and a running referee. These individuals shall be paid \$150 dollars each plus mileage.
10. The host school will coordinate postponement of the conference meet due to inclement weather, dangerous traveling conditions, or other extenuating circumstances. A postponed conference meet shall be rescheduled.
11. The Indoor Track & Field Sport Committee will serve as the "Games Committee" for the conference meet.
12. A sport handbook for indoor track & field shall be used to enhance the sport by-laws. The handbook shall include standards for hosting a conference meet, procedures for conducting a conference meet, a record of the results, and a summary of the champions.
13. The host school shall use VP Timing (Bob Prince and Steve Vogel) from Sioux City, Iowa, as the Official Timer of the GPAC Indoor Track and Field Championships. Cost is \$900 plus travel expenses which is to be paid by the gate receipts of the meet.
14. The top eight places in each event shall be considered "GPAC All-Conference"

### **Section XIII. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD**

1. NCAA rules shall be used for all meets hosted by GPAC schools.
2. Official equipment shall be as defined by the NAIA. Implements will be checked in and certified.
3. A post-season conference meet, "The Great Plains Athletic Conference Outdoor Track & Field Championships," shall be contested for the purpose of determining the men and women's conference champions. The conference meet shall be a one-day event, although the hammer throw may be contested at an alternate site and/or alternate date to ensure adequate safety and control. A \$100 entry fee will be required of all teams (except host) participating in the meet.  
*Beginning in 2009-2010 Multi Events will be added to the GPAC Outdoor Championship as a scored event. The Multi Event will be held the day prior to the meet. The hosting rotation for the Multi Event will be determined at the coaches meeting annually.*
4. The following running events will be contested at the conference meet for both men and women (unless otherwise noted) with the order of events to be determined by the Outdoor Track & Field Games Committee:

10,000-Meter Run

100-Meter Hurdles (Women)

110-Meter Hurdles (Men)

100-Meter Dash

3,000-Meter Run (Women)

3,000-Meter Steeplechase (Men)

400-Meter Relay

1,500-Meter Run

400-Meter Dash

800-Meter Run

400-Meter Hurdles

200-Meter Dash

5,000-Meter Run

1,600-Meter Relay

### 3,200-Meter Relay

5. The following field events will be contested at the conference meet for both men and women with the order of events to be proposed by the host school and approved by the Outdoor Track & Field Games Committee:

High Jump

Long Jump

Pole Vault

Discus

Javelin

Triple Jump

Hammer Throw

Shot Put

6. The conference shall award trophies to the first-place men and women's teams as conference champions. The conference shall also provide awards for the top six finishers in each individual event and for all participants in the top three finishing teams in relay events.
7. The GPAC Outdoor Track & Field Performance List will be maintained throughout the season and will be used to select the top twenty-four individuals eligible for each event at the conference meet. Each conference school may enter up to eight individuals per event.
8. The site of the conference meet shall rotate alphabetically among all conference schools that meet the host criteria, as outlined in the outdoor track & field handbook.
9. The host school shall secure the services of two qualified starters for the conference meet, a meet referee, a field referee, and a running referee. These individuals shall be paid \$150 dollars each plus mileage.
10. The host school will coordinate postponement of the conference meet due to inclement weather, dangerous traveling conditions, or other extenuating circumstances. A postponed conference meet shall be rescheduled.
11. The Outdoor Track & Field Sport Committee will serve as the "Games Committee" for the conference meet.
12. A sport handbook for outdoor track & field shall be used to enhance the sport by-laws. The handbook shall include standards for hosting a conference meet, a record

of the results, and a summary of the champions.

13. The host school shall use VP Timing (Bob Prince and Steve Vogel) from Sioux City, Iowa, as the Official Timer of the GPAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Cost is \$900 plus travel expenses which is to be paid by the gate receipts of the meet.
14. The top eight places in each event shall be considered “GPAC All-Conference”

## **Section XIV. VOLLEYBALL**

1. NCAA Official Volleyball rules shall be used for all conference and non-conference matches hosted by GPAC schools. NAIA adaptations will apply.
2. The official volleyball of the conference is the Tachikara SV-5W game ball. The official ball shall be used for all matches, conference and non-conference, hosted by GPAC schools..
3. A forfeiture equal to total officiating fees and mileage for each match not played shall be imposed on any school failing to fulfill its scheduled conference competition dates, payable to the host school.
4. No guarantees shall be exchanged for regularly scheduled conference matches.
5. The host school will secure the services of qualified individuals for the following assignments at each conference match: scoreboard operator, videotape operator, line judges, official scorer, and public address announcer. Line judges will not be members of the host team. Video cameras will be set up to simultaneously record a copy for the visiting team if a blank tape is provided.
6. The conference shall hire an Assignor of Officials to assign officials for all conference and non-conference matches and tournaments hosted by GPAC schools (including JV matches). The Supervisor shall assign two qualified officials for all conference matches. The host school shall pay the fees and mileage for the officiating crew.

### **The fees for 2010 will be:**

- a. Officiating Fee - \$110 per varsity match (including JV prelim), per official
  - b. Mileage Fee - .44 per mile round trip for one official (longest distance)
  - c. Post-Season Officiating Fee - \$90 per match, per official (R1 and R2)
  - d. Officiating Fee - \$85 per official for varsity tournament match or standalone varsity match
  - e. In the GPAC postseason tournament qualified line judges (i.e. high school certified) shall be used for all rounds of competition.  
Payment to be \$50 per line judge.
7. Two-year conference master schedules shall be approved by the Steering Committee on a bi-annual basis. The conference schedule shall consist of 16 games.
  8. A game on the conference master schedule may be played on an alternate date or at an alternate time by mutual consent of head coaches with the approval of both athletic directors. The default starting times for conference matches are:

- a. Weeknight varsity matches 7:30 pm
- b. Weeknight junior varsity prelims 6:00 pm
- c. Saturday varsity matches 3:00 pm, 6:00 pm, or 7:30 pm
- d. Saturday junior varsity prelims 1:30 pm, 4:30 pm, or 6:00 pm

On Saturday the default times are either 1:30 pm/3:00 pm or 4:30 pm/6:00 pm (home team decides). Matches that are played at 6:00 pm/7:30 pm on Saturday evening require mutual consent of both coaches. Junior varsity matches are best-of-three with rally scoring in the third game. The first two game shall be played to 25, with a rally game to 15 in game three. A maximum of 30 minutes should be put on the clock between the junior varsity and varsity match. The coin flip with the captions must occur prior to the standard warm-ups starting (a caption(s) must not leave their teams warm-up for the coin flip). A maximum of five minutes will be allowed between games two and three for an on-court promotion (home team decides). If no promotion occurs then games two and three will be played right after each other with no break.

- 9. Both the home team and the visiting teams shall have the discretion to postpone a conference match due to inclement weather, dangerous traveling conditions, or other extenuating circumstances. The home team shall take into account the travel time of the visiting team and make such a decision before the visiting team's departure whenever possible.
- 10. Conference matches postponed by inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances shall be made up on or prior to the final date of scheduled matches on the master schedule. If a postponed match is not played by that specified date, both teams shall be given a loss for the purposes of seeding the conference tournament. A team must play all 10 of its scheduled conference matches to be eligible for the conference championship.
- 11. Final conference standings and a regular season champion shall be determined using a percentage basis including all conference matches played (only the 16 scheduled matches in the league, games against conference teams played as non-conference will not count in the standings or the tie-breakers). In the event of a first-place tie, all teams involved shall be declared co-champions. The regular season champion (or co-champions) shall be awarded a championship trophy by the conference. Ties shall not be broken in the final conference standings for official records and distribution of points in the conference all-sports competition. The regular season conference champion will receive an automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship. In the event of a tie for the championship, the team with the highest seed for the GPAC Championships will receive the berth. If Nebraska Wesleyan wins the regular season the next highest seed will be awarded the NAIA National Tournament berth.
- 12. A post-season conference tournament, "The Great Plains Athletic Conference Volleyball Championships," shall be played for the purpose of determining the conference's second automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship. If the team

that claims the regular season NAIA National Tournament berth wins the GPAC tournament, the runner-up shall be awarded the second automatic berth. Only teams which have declared their intent to participate in the NAIA post-season are eligible for the tournament. The post-season tournament winner shall be awarded a championship plaque by the conference. The limits of the NAIA Official Roster will be used for the GPAC Tournament (other players and personal on that roster shall be admitted for free if they are with the official team party)

All weeknight matches shall start at 7:30 p.m., and all Saturday matches shall start at 3:00 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. The post-season tournament shall include twelve (12) teams (seeded 1-12) based on the final regular season conference standings. The higher-seeded teams shall host all matches. For seeding, ties in the standings shall be broken using the following criteria:

- a. Head-to-head
- b. If two teams are tied in the conference standings and split head-to-head matches, the one with the most games won playing each other would be the higher seed.
- c. If three or more teams are tied the comparative match records of the tied teams would be compared
- d. If c does not break the tie, then go to a percentage of conference games won (against all conference opponents)
- e. Results against other conference teams, starting at the top of the final standings and working down until a difference occurs (2-0 is better than 1-0, 0-1 is better than 0-2).
- f. Coin toss

The post-season tournament shall follow this format:

- a. First Round - #12 at #5, #11 at #6, #10 at #7, #9 at #8  
(The 1-4 seeds will have first round byes)
  - b. Quarterfinals - #8/#9 winner at #1, #5/#10 winner at #4, #7/#10 winner at #2, #6/#11 winner at #3.
  - c. Semifinals – #8/#9 vs. #1 winner vs. #5/#10 vs. #4 winner; #7/#10 vs. #2 winner vs. #6//#11 vs. #3 winner. Games at higher seed.
  - d. Finals – Semifinal Winners at highest remaining seed.
13. An all-conference team shall be selected at the conclusion of the regular season based on a vote of head coaches. Each school will have a supply of blank all-conference certificates to be prepared in-house for players selected for the all-conference team. The all-conference team shall consist of 14 first-team players and 14 second-team players. In addition, an honorable mention list will be compiled. The following process shall be used:

- a. Head coaches will nominate players from their respective teams. Nominations will include name, position, year, hometown, statistics, and coaches' comments. Nominations will be compiled by the sport chair.
- b. The sport chair and his/her sports information director will compile a ballot inclusive of all nominating information. This needs to be done in a timely manner.
- c. The ballot shall be distributed among head coaches. Coaches will first select the player-of-the-year; then coaches will vote for 13 players for first team all-conference. Completed ballots will be submitted to the conference information director for tabulation using an 13-12-11-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 point scoring system. Coaches may not vote for players on their own team for all-conference or Player-of-the-Year.
- d. The top 13 scoring individuals plus the player-of-the-year (14 total) will be named all-conference first team. A second vote will be conducted using a 14-13-12-11-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 point scoring system. The top 14 scoring individuals will be named all-conference second team. Any player receiving one vote will be given honorable mention.
- e. The conference information director shall tabulate the coaches' voting and announce the all-conference teams in the form of a press release.
- f. After first-team voting, coaches shall rank the top 14 players by consensus for submission on the official NAIA all-conference form.
- g. Each school shall be allowed to add two additional honorable mention player after the all-conference voting is complete. No additional honorable mentions may be added if two honorable mentions were selected during the normal conference voting procedures.

Coaches will also vote on a Coach-of-the-Year and Player-of-the-year (noted in item c. above) and may not vote for themselves or their own players.

14. The following is the dvd exchange policy for GPAC Volleyball
  - a. Each coach can request one match dvd from another conference school
  - b. The request must be made on or around August 14  
(e-mail request to each coach)
  - c. The dvd must be send out within one week of the match
  - d. The requested match can not be a weekend tournament match or a non-conference match

- e. Conference schools may not provide videotapes of their conference matches to anyone, unless the request is outlined in the policy listed above. Conference coaches may not provide scouting information on other conference teams to anyone.

Furthermore, conference schools may not video tape any matches that other conference schools are involved in (i.e.- Tape a match with a conference school in it at a tournament).

## **Section XV. WRESTLING**

1. NCAA wrestling rules should be used for all conference and non-conference matches hosted by GPAC schools.
2. A forfeiture equal to total officiating fees and mileage for each match not held shall be imposed on any school failing to fulfill its scheduled conference competition dates, payable to the host school.
3. No guarantees shall be exchanged for regularly scheduled conference matches.
4. The host school will secure the services of qualified individuals for the following assignments for each home match: scoreboard operator, official scorer, athletic trainer
5. Each wrestling school in the conference shall hire a qualified official for their home matches. For conference matches the official must be agreed upon by both schools by November 1 each year. In the event of a change for an official (for whatever reason) every effort should be made to notify the opposing coach in a timely matter. The host school shall pay the fees and mileage for the official.
  - a. The recommended officiating fee for home matches is \$95
  - b. The recommended mileage fee is .44 per mile round trip
  - c. The recommended tournament fee is \$200 (depends on size of tournament)
  - d. The GPAC shall assign the officials for the conference meet (through an assigner) and the fee shall be \$200 for the day and .44 mileage – round trip
6. Beginning with the 2009-2010 season there will be no regular season dual matches in the conference and no regular season standings will be kept.
7. A post season conference championship, “The Great Plains Athletic Conference Wrestling Championship,” shall be contested for the purpose of determining the conference champion. GPAC All-Sports points will be awarded based on the finish of the teams in the regular season standings. The conference tournament shall be held on the final Saturday of January. The post-season champion a tournament plaque from the league.
8. The GPAC shall follow the weight requirements and the weigh in procedures as outlined in the NCAA rulebook.
9. The GPAC wrestling coaches shall select a sport chair on a two-year rotating basis to represent the conference at the league and national level.
10. An All-Conference team shall be selected by the coaches at the conclusion of the GPAC Wrestling Championship. There will be a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team and a list of honorable mentions. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams will consist of 12 members each. Ten of the spots on the 1<sup>st</sup> team will be awarded to the weight class winners in the GPAC Tournament, the other two spots will be at-large selections by the coaches. The second team will consist of 12 spots of which 10 spots will be awarded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher in each weight class at the GPAC Tournament. The two at-larges will be voted on by the coaches at the conclusion of the meet. The second team will not be listed specific

by weight class, since some of those members could be moved to the first team as at-larges. The coaches will then nominate players for honorable mention consideration and six honorable mentions will be selected in a vote of league coaches. Coaches will also vote on a GPAC Wrestler-of-the-Year and Coach-of-the-Year at the conclusion of the conference meet.

## **Section XVI. ATHLETIC TRAINING**

1. The host institution will provide an ATC on site for acute injury management and proper supervision/provision of athletic training room resources for all in season varsity and junior varsity competition. The only exception is an ATC will be on call for men's and women's tennis and golf matches.
2. Institutions will be responsible for the care of the athletes of the visiting team if an ATC from the visiting team is not present. Written instructions for care of the traveling team should accompany the team or be communicated (phone call, email, fax, etc.) prior to team arriving. Coordination of needs must be arranged prior to arrival.

The host ATC will communicate (evaluation note, phone call, email, fax) with the visiting team ATC following an injury to a visiting athlete within 24 hours).

3. Institutions sponsoring football will be responsible for providing an ATC for away varsity and junior varsity contests.
4. Visiting teams will be responsible for their own athletic training supplies.
5. The ATC's of the host institution will make the following equipment available to the visiting team:
  - A. modalities
  - B. taping tables
  - C. emergency splints
  - D. crutches
  - E. football games only - backboard, C-Collar and head immobilizers
6. For varsity football games a physician must be on site. On-site ambulance is recommended.
7. The host institution will provide:
  - A. water
  - B. injury ice
  - C. game towels (specifically for volleyball and basketball); towels for showering will not be provided
  - D. biohazard materials collection and removal
  - E. football games only - two-way radio or cell phone number for communication between benches