



Great South Athletic Conference Bylaws

Updated : Tuesday, August 10th, 2004

Article I - ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1

The order of business for any regular or official meeting of the GSAC Board of Presidents, Athletics Directors Council and Sports Councils will be:

- A. Report of the Executive Committee or Chair
- B. Reports of any special committees or officers
- C. Report of the Commissioner (as necessary)
- D. Agenda
- E. New business
- F. Election of new officers (April or June meeting)
- G. Adjournment

Section 2

Notice of conference meetings and the request for agenda items shall be sent to member institutions from the GSAC office at least 45 days prior to the meeting; agenda items shall be received from member institutions in the GSAC office at least 30 days prior to the meeting; and final dates, times and agenda shall be received by member institutions at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

Section 3

The chair may alter the stated order of business of any meeting unless there is an objection from the floor. In that event, a majority vote of the designated voting delegates shall be required to alter the order of business.

Section 4

The order of business at any special called meeting shall be set by the chair, provided the business for which the meeting is called is given first attention. The commissioner will record all minutes and report them to the Board of Presidents, Athletics Directors Council and Sports Councils as appropriate.

Article II - CONFERENCE DUES

The annual dues are \$3,500 per member institution payable prior to September 15. The fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. This association operates as a non-profit organization and receives funds solely for the intent of administering its stated objectives.

Article III - ELIGIBILITY

Section 1 - Rules of Eligibility

- A. The member institutions of the GSAC will adhere to the eligibility rules of the NCAA Constitution and Bylaws in conducting their programs, except where the eligibility rules of the conference are more restrictive

than those of the NCAA.

- B. A copy of the NCAA Eligibility Squad List (NCAA form 02-4c) must be kept on file in the Commissioner's office. This squad list must be received before the first date of competition. Any changes to the squad list must be filed 24 hours prior to participation in a sport. Failure to comply will result in the player being ruled ineligible, and all contests that the ineligible player participates in will be forfeited.
(Revised 5/2003)
- C. Players on GSAC teams are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to show respect to the officials, the GSAC, and other member institutions at all times. Uncomplimentary remarks or unacceptable conduct may result in a public reprimand and possible suspension from future contests.
- D. If a student from one member institution wishes to transfer to another member institution, then he or she will not be eligible for participation for the next season of competition. The athletic directors of the institutions and the commissioner could appeal the transfer rule if all three parties are in agreement.

Section 2 - Conference Competition

- A. The scheduling of conference competition will take precedence over non-conference scheduling. All athletic contests within the conference should be scheduled as early as possible and followed up with contracts. The completed contract for competition should be returned within 30 days to both parties. Fulfilling conference scheduling commitments should take the highest priority. A forfeiture would be a last resort. A forfeiture ruling would be determined by the conference commissioner for seeding purposes only.
- B. All conference contests, festivals, tournaments and championships will be conducted under eligibility rules of the NCAA and the GSAC and include only varsity intercollegiate teams competing on the NCAA Division III level. The GSAC commissioner or the NCAA Legislative Services staff will render all rules and eligibility interpretations. When conference regulations differ from and are more restrictive than those of the NCAA, the commissioner will render interpretations.
- C. Conference championships should include an awards ceremony. All teams shall be present at the awards ceremony. Costs for the awards ceremony should not exceed \$250.00, and is to be bore by the host institution. A meal will not be served. The sports council will determine the time for the ceremony. The GSAC will provide t-shirts for sale to the host school. The t-shirts will be transferred to the host school at the cost in which the GSAC has to pay for them. The host institution may sell t-shirts for \$10. *(Revised 5/2003)*
- D. No regular-season conference competition may begin before 1:00 P.M. local time on Sunday, unless permission is granted through the conference office — based on agreement by both schools involved and specific reasons are given (travel, school activities, etc.)
(Revised 5/2003)
- E. The official scorebook — in those sports in which an official scorebook is maintained — is the final determining factor for ejections, fighting, etc. The act of an ejection and the consequences involved with any ejection must be recorded in the official scorebook by the official scorekeeper in all sports that require official scorekeeping. All conference contests are governed by NCAA rules. All ejections must be reported to the conference office within 48 hours by the hosting member institution. If an ejection occurs against non-conference competition, it is the responsibility of the GSAC member school to report the ejection to the GSAC Commissioner. Upon receipt of the ejection notification, the Commissioner will prepare an acknowledgement and forward documentation to the Athletic Director(s) of the school involved in the contest, the President of the affected school(s), and the Chair of the Sport Council for the affected sport.
(Revised 5/2003)
- F. All conference contests will be recorded on official NCAA score sheets for each sport. It is the home team's responsibility to provide accurate computerized game statistics using Stat Crew Software in the sports of volleyball, basketball, softball, soccer, and baseball upon conclusion of the contest. The home team's SID or an appointee is responsible for reporting the contest's results to the media and conference office upon conclusion of the contest. IF a member institution is not reporting results and/or statistics in a timely manner, according to the sport, the Conference Sports Information Director will notify the Conference Commissioner.

The Commissioner will notify the athletic director of the respective institution. Upon the second notice, the coach will have to pay a fine of \$100, payable to the Great South Athletic Conference within 10 working days of the notification. Subsequent offenses will result in a one game suspension as determined by the Commissioner.

(Revised 5/2003)

- G. The Sports Information Director of the home team should submit results via fax, voice mail, or e-mail no later than 11 AM EST the day following the game. Statistical information will not be due until 3 PM EST the following Monday after the competition. "Player of the Week" nominations should be sent to the respective sport chair by 1 PM EST each Monday. The sport chairpersons should submit the winner to the Conference SID by 3 PM each Monday.
- H. All conference contests will have a certified athletic trainer present. It is the home team's responsibility to provide the athletic trainer.
- I. There will be no verbal or written scouting reports to be given to opponents outside the conference. This includes no videotape exchanges. Conference coaches can agree to an exchange of videotapes prior to their scheduled contest. The videotape must be of games with non-conference opponents. It is recommended that the agreement be made between the head coaches and set up two weeks prior to the scheduled contest.

F. Section 3 - Financial Aid

GSAC member institutions shall strictly abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the NCAA Division III. For rules interpretations, contact the NCAA or conference office.

Article IV - RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section 1 - Operating Code of GSAC

The Constitution, Bylaws, and approved Sports Policies will be the operating code of the conference. The commissioner shall have the authority and power to rule on situations in the conference that are either not stated in the GSAC Operating Manual or require intervention to clarify disagreements among member institutions. Such authority and power should be protected and unchallenged by any proposed legal action of member institutions or their staffs.

Section 2 - Appeals Committee

Following any decision by the commissioner, an appeal can be made to the GSAC Executive Committee. Direct notice shall be given to the commissioner and the chair of the Executive Committee if an appeal is filed by a member institution. If an Executive Committee member's institution is involved in an appeal, the immediate past member of the committee shall work with the Executive Committee on the appeal. NCAA rules can be appealed to the NCAA Legislative Services Staff.

Article V - REPRESENTATION AND VOTING

Section 1 - Institutional Representation

Each active member institution in good standing with the GSAC and NCAA will be entitled to one vote at official meetings of the conference. Attendance and participation at meetings of the Board of Presidents will be limited to Presidents, Chancellors, or persons functioning as Chief Executive Officers at member institutions. If for some reason the CEO cannot attend a called meeting of the conference, he/she may appoint a representative to serve in his/her capacity with full voting privileges. The CEO will contact the chair of the Board of Presidents and conference office prior to the meeting to indicate his or her appointed representative.

Section 2 - Quorum and Voting

- A. All business matters presented for consideration at official meetings will be passed by a majority vote of the quorum present, except as otherwise specified in the Constitution or Bylaws. At least two thirds of the membership must be present to form a quorum and grant voting privileges.

- B. Legislation regarding the Constitution, Bylaws, sports policies and schedules must be presented at the spring meeting. It is prohibited to propose and vote on any legislation except at an official meeting. Legislation regarding sports policies and schedules will be effective for the following season.
- C. Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) will be the parliamentary authority for the conduct of all meetings and will be the deciding reference used in case of parliamentary challenge.

Article VI - PROGRAM OF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Section 1 - Championships

The GSAC sponsors championships in these sports:

Men - Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, Tennis

Women - Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Volleyball

Section 2 -The GSAC will consider sponsoring a championship in any NCAA sport in which four or more conference schools have competed at the varsity level for at least one year.

Section 3 - A President's Cup for men and a President's Cup for women will be awarded to the GSAC schools that accumulate the highest points total in an academic year. This will be based on order of finish in the championships. An institution that does not field a team in a conference championship will not be awarded points in that sport. Ties will divide equally the total number of points allotted for those two or more positions. Men's and women's teams will be scored separately. Member institutions must declare and sponsor a sport as varsity status with the NCAA to participate and score in any conference championship.

Points Scoring System

1st place - 100

2nd place - 90

3rd place - 80

4th place - 70

5th place - 60

6th place - 50

7th place - 40

8th place - 30

9th place - 20

10th place - 10

Section 4 – All conference sports championships will be determined by a postseason tournament or meet.

Section 5 – All GSAC Championships hosting will initially be assigned by the commissioner. The assignment will be completed in a 5 year rotation giving each member school a chance to host a championship. Once assigned, the school assigned will have the option of hosting the championship or to pass on hosting.

If the assigned school agrees to host the championship, completion of a championship hosting contract must be completed and presented to the commissioner for review. Submission of the championship hosting contract must be completed before December 1 of the year prior to hosting a championship.

Every championship will be overseen by a championship committee. Each championship committee shall consist of the Athletic Director assigned to oversee the sport, the sport chair, and the Head Coach or Athletic director of the host school. Once the Commissioner has received the championship contract, copies must be made and forwarded to the championship committee for review.

Upon review, discussion will commence during an annual meeting to coincide with the NCAA convention, and held at the site of the NCAA convention. Discussion will focus on the capabilities of the designated host school and their capabilities to host the championship.

Once all discussion has taken place the committee will make a recommendation to the AD Council for the designated

school to host or to not allow them to host. If a recommendation is made to not allow a school to host a championship, the school that is next in line as designated by the commissioner will be asked to host the championship and the process will begin with their submission of a championship hosting contract. The review will take place during the annual spring AD Council meeting. *(Revised 7/2004)*

Section 6 - The host school will cover all tournament related expenses necessary to host a conference championship. The host school's athletic director will be the games chairperson. Tennis teams will split the cost of an indoor facility in case of inclement weather. Teams are responsible for their own rooms, meals, and transportation. Saturday is a full day for championship play. Sunday may be available to complete play. No contest will start earlier than 1 PM on Sunday unless approved by the conference commissioner. Any failure to exercise the full use of Saturday could result in the forfeiture of competition opportunities.

Section 7 – The GSAC will cover 50% of the associated cost of paid officials. It is the intention that as the GSAC grows a larger percentage will be paid eventually to cover all officiating costs associated with hosting a championship. *(Revised 7/2004)*

Section 8 - It is the responsibility of the host institution to send a package of information pertaining to lodging, directions to the school, restaurants, practice opportunities at the championship site, starting times, etc., to each GSAC member no later than six weeks prior to the championship. The host institution should work with local hotels and restaurants to assure the best possible rates and prices for visiting teams.

Section 9 - The host institution, in coordination with the conference's Sports Information Director, is responsible for pre- and post-meet publicity with the local, regional and national media. Results should be sent to local media and national wire services immediately following the championships and to all conference members during the subsequent week. This also applies to conference games that determine championships through regular season play.

Section 10 - A conference all-academic team in each sport will be named. Only varsity student-athletes (academically sophomore standing and above) with a minimum grade point average of 3.25 for the term are eligible to be named to the all-academic team. The conference sports information director will administer the process. The GSAC Commissioner will administer the process. *(Revised 5/2003)*

Section 11 - Any Freshman Student-Athlete that has been named to the all-conference team remains eligible for the all-freshman team if one has been selected for the persons sport. A Freshman can be named "Freshman of the Year" for their given sport in addition to being named to the all-conference team. *(Revised 7/2004)*

Section 12 – A conference school can purchase for their student-athletes a t-shirt designated for sale by the host school. The t-shirt cannot cost more than \$10.00. *(Revised 7/2004)*

Section 13 – Upon notification that a school has been found to have reported a NCAA violation, a conference call of the AD Council will be called prior to any school leaving their campus to go to the championship. With a majority vote of the AD Council a school can be denied participation in the championship. *(Revised 7/2004)*

Article VII - CROWD CONTROL AT GSAC COMPETITION

Section 1 - The following statement shall be published in all member institutions' media guides or distributed separately at all member institutions' contests AND read over the public address system when available:

"The GSAC and the NCAA promote good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches, and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racial, or sexist comments, or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches or team representatives will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition. The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited."

Section 2- The director of athletics or appointee at each member institution has ultimate responsibility to maintain crowd control at all home athletics events.

Section 3 - The director of athletics will serve as the crowd control officer or appoint an individual knowledgeable in crowd control to supervise and plan for all athletics events. It is the duty of the crowd control officer to assign and train personnel

to perform the necessary duties at these events.

Section 4 - The crowd control officer will provide adequate police and/or security personnel before, during and after for all athletics events. During conference tournaments in the sports of basketball, soccer, and baseball, the host institution must have uniformed police and/or security personnel at each event. Specific instructions should be given to this security force. Plan ahead to have police and/or security personnel available for team benches, scorer's table or press box, entrances/exits, officials' dressing facilities, and any parking areas where officials, teams, coaches or spectators could meet.

Section 5 - The public address announcer must also be completely aware of procedures in case of necessary evacuation of the playing area for emergencies. The crowd control officer should instruct the announcer of these procedures in advance of the game.

Section 6 - All bands and cheerleaders will follow GSAC codes of conduct at all times. Bands will not play during any action on the field or court and play only before the game, during timeouts, during a break in the action, halftime, and after the game. Artificial noisemakers that may interfere with play are not allowed at any conference event and will be removed immediately by the crowd control officer or his/her staff. Cheerleaders will remain safely away from the action on the field or court at all times. Their safety must be taken into account at all times. Any conduct by band members or cheerleaders that is deemed inappropriate or disorderly in that it distracts or hampers a team from normal participation on the field or court may result in the assessment of a penalty or technical foul by game officials.

Section 7 - Respective member institutions should post reserve seating areas for students and fans of visiting teams. The area directly behind the visiting team's bench will be reserved for their fans. This will be done when appropriate and applicable.

Article VIII - GSAC CODE OF ETHICS

Section 1 - Abusive, profane, or insulting language directed at any player, coach, official, and staff member at a conference institution, or the commissioner, is completely unacceptable by anyone associated with the conference and its member schools. Such misconduct could result in disciplinary action by the individual's institution and/or the commissioner.

Section 2 - It is completely unacceptable for anyone to directly comment in a derogatory manner to a media member on a player, coach, official, any staff member of a conference institution, or the commissioner. Such misconduct could result in disciplinary action by the individual's institution and/or the commissioner.

Section 3 - A report on any ejections from athletics events involving conference teams will be reported to respective president(s) within 48 hours after a contest. The home athletics director will contact the conference office first, then a report will be filed by the conference office with the respective president(s). An ejection could result in disciplinary action by the individual's institution and/or the commissioner.

Section 4 - Neither a coach nor his/her representative may enter the official's dressing room facilities. The official's dressing room must remain private. A capable security guard must be responsible to maintain the privacy and safety of officials while they are on campus.

Article IX - AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Presidents at any official meeting of the conference. Any amendments must be submitted in writing as an agenda item to the chair of the Board of Presidents and GCAC commissioner no later than 30 days prior to an official meeting of the conference.