



# Great South Athletic Conference Constitution

Updated : Tuesday, August 10th, 2004

## Article I - NAME

The name of the association is the Great South Athletic Conference (GSAC).

## Article II - PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

### Mission Statement:

The purpose of the GSAC is to provide an association through which the membership may encourage organized competition in intercollegiate sports. In particular, we recognize athletics as integral to the campus life program of our students and as essential to the total development of our student-athletes. We direct significant institutional resources to our athletic programs to assure that student-athletes have appropriate coaching, facilities, equipment, and opportunities for travel to compete against other conference schools.

## Article III - PRINCIPLES

### Section 1

It is a cardinal principle of each GSAC member that the President of each institution has the ultimate responsibility to oversee its athletic department. The Board of Presidents has direct responsibility for the governance and supervision of all conference activities.

### Section 2

GSAC member institutions are committed to maintaining strict academic standards.

### Section 3

GSAC member institutions are committed to sponsoring varsity athletics to maximize the number and variety of sports available to their students. The primary emphasis of each member's athletic program is placed on regional in-season competition and conference championships.

### Section 4

The GSAC is committed to the principle of equity and gives equal emphasis to men's and women's sports.

### Section 5

The GSAC is committed to the principle that a quality college athletic program is beneficial to the well-being of an institution in that it benefits the entire campus community as well as the student-athletes. Each member institution also recognizes the importance of athletic participation in the overall educational experience.

### Section 6

The GSAC is committed to the development of sportsmanship and positive social attitudes in all constituents, including student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and spectators.

## Section 7

It is a cardinal principle of the GSAC that participation in sports at GSAC institutions shall be solely from student interest and enjoyment of athletic competition, and that no financial aid should be given to any student which is conditioned upon athletic ability or participation in intercollegiate sports.

## Section 8

The GSAC and its member institutions shall place confidence in the integrity of each conference member to adhere to the regulations and policies of the GSAC and NCAA Division III.

## Section 9

The Chief Executive Officers of the member institutions, which make up the Board of Presidents, shall ultimately be responsible for all policies of the GSAC.

## Article IV- MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1 - Current GSAC Members

Members of the GSAC are (date of membership)

Agnes Scott College/ Decatur, GA (2002)  
Fisk University/ Nashville, TN (2000)  
Huntingdon College/ Montgomery, AL (2002)  
LaGrange College/ LaGrange, GA (2000)  
Maryville College/ Maryville, TN (2000)  
Piedmont College/ Demorest, GA (2000)  
Wesleyan College/ Macon, GA (2002)

### Section 2 - Membership Criteria

Membership in the GSAC shall be limited to the following profile of institutions, with these characteristics listed in general order of priority:

- A. Schools that are members or are NCAA Division III active or provisional in good standing. In order to participate in a conference championship as a provisional member of NCAA Division III, all student-athletes in a given sport can not be receiving athletic related financial aid. *(Revised 5/2003)*
- B. Private, liberal arts colleges and universities — Institutions in this association should have a historical and continuing meaningful tie to a religious faith tradition. *(Revised 7/2004)*
- C. Small student population — in general, schools in the association will have a traditional undergraduate student enrollment under 2,000. *(Revised 7/2004)*
- D. Quality academic reputation — We seek schools committed to excellence in the totality of their educational endeavors.
- E. Reasonable geographic area — In general, we desire schools in close geographic proximity where travel to and from competitor institutions in the period of one day (meaning no overnight accommodation is necessary) is the norm, thereby minimizing time out of the classroom for students and travel-related expenses.

### Section 3 - Application to become a GSAC Member

- A. An institution wishing to become a member of the GSAC shall submit a membership application to the GSAC commissioner, along with a \$1000 application fee.

- B. Part of the application process will include an on-site visit to be arranged by the Conference Commissioner. The visitation shall include at least three representatives of the conference. This visit will be financed by the host institution.

#### Section 4 - Membership Requirements

- A. To qualify for continuing active membership in the GSAC, an institution shall sponsor, at a minimum, the following conference sports:
  - 1. Five men's sports (At least three must be team sports, one in each of the three seasons.)
  - 2. Five women's sports (At least three must be team sports, one in each of the three seasons.)
- B. Election to membership requires approval by unanimous vote of the Board of Presidents.

#### Section 5 - Termination of Membership

- A. Any member institution failing to maintain the conditions of membership as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the GSAC may be terminated or suspended by a 2/3 vote at an official meeting of the GSAC Board of Presidents. Such actions must be preceded by:
  - 1. Notice of intention to move disciplinary action must be given in writing to the athletic director of the member institution within 10 working days of the infraction.
  - 2. Notice of intention to move termination, suspension must be given to the Board of Presidents, the Athletics Directors Council and Commissioner by the chair of the Board of Presidents at least 60 days prior to an official meeting of the conference; and,
  - 3. Such notice shall be given to the member school by the chair and is included in the agenda items to be presented at an official meeting of the conference.

#### Section 6 - Annual Membership Dues

Any member institution failing to pay dues by September 15 shall be denied voting privileges and conference competition. Payment of dues shall result in the reinstatement of privileges at the beginning of the next set of playing seasons. Dues shall be set annually by the Board of Presidents.

#### Section 7 - Resignation from Membership

Any member institution wishing to resign from the GSAC shall send a written notice to the chair of the Board of Presidents and commissioner one calendar year in advance of the day of termination of membership.

### Article V - ORGANIZATION

#### Section 1 - Officers and Their Election

- A. Chair of Board of Presidents

The chair of the Board of Presidents of the GSAC shall be the President of one of the member schools. The office of Chair of the Board of Presidents shall rotate annually in alphabetical order of the member schools. The chair shall serve July 1- June 30 in correspondence with the GSAC fiscal year.

- 1. Duties of the Chair of the Board of Presidents
  - a. The chair of the Board of Presidents shall oversee and conduct the business sessions of the Executive Committee, the Board of Presidents, and any joint business session of the Board of Presidents and the Athletics Directors Council.
  - b. The chair of the Board of Presidents shall have direct supervision of the GSAC commissioner.

## B. Commissioner

The commissioner is a salaried position and shall be nominated by the Athletic Directors Council members and presented to the Chair of the President's Council for approval. The commissioner shall report to the Chair of the President's Council.

### 1. Duties of the Commissioner

- a. The commissioner serves as the chief administrative officer of the conference. Under the direct supervision of the chair of the Board of Presidents, the commissioner is responsible for assisting in the development, coordination, and implementation of conference policies.
- b. The commissioner is responsible for the operation of the GSAC office, which includes supervising the sports information director and the secretary.
- c. The commissioner shall maintain proper accounting records in the GSAC office and present a financial report and an annual budget to the Board of Presidents and its Executive Committee.
- d. The commissioner administers the conference policies as assigned by the Board of Presidents.
- e. The commissioner shall update, print and distribute the GSAC Operating Manual and Sports Policies to all member institutions by August 31.
- f. The commissioner will assist in the interpretation of NCAA and GSAC rules.
- g. The commissioner coordinates with the sports information director the public and media relations for the conference.
- h. The commissioner oversees the GSAC championships.
- i. During annual NCAA Convention and prior to NCAA member voting, the Commissioner shall conduct a GSAC member meeting to discuss NCAA topics up for vote, and establish the stand that GSAC will take as a conference.  
*(Revised 5/2003)*
- j. The GSAC shall make funds available in the annual budget to cover cost associated with enabling Commissioner to join said professional organizations as deemed appropriate.  
*(Revised 5/2003)*
- k. The commissioner compiles the conference statistics and maintains all conference records, including minutes of all conference meetings.
- l. The commissioner shall appoint and supervise a Sports Information Director who will be in charge of conference statistics as defined through the GSAC Sports Councils and the Chair of each sports council. The Commissioner shall in addition maintain all conference records to include minutes of all GSAC meetings. *(Revised 5/2003)*
- m. The commissioner arranges for conference meetings, including notices and agendas.

## Section 2 - Governance Committees

### A. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the GSAC shall include the chair of the Board of Presidents of the GSAC, the immediate past chair, and the immediate future chair.

#### 1. Duties of the Executive Committee:

- a. The Executive Committee shall act on matters of urgency between Board meetings.
- b. The Executive Committee, in consultation with the GSAC commissioner, shall set the agenda for each official meeting.

## B. Board of Presidents

The Board of Presidents shall include the CEO of each GSAC member institution. The Board of Presidents will annually elect the Chair of the Board of Presidents.

### 1. Duties of the Board of Presidents:

- a. The Board of Presidents shall meet once a year, preferably during the Fall in November or December. The Board may also meet at any time for special business sessions when called by the Chair of the Board of Presidents, or the Executive Committee.
- b. The Board of Presidents shall review and approve all recommended changes of the Constitution and Bylaws.
- c. The Board of Presidents shall review and approve applications for membership and all exemptions to membership requirements.
- d. The Board of Presidents may refer matters of proposed legislation to the Athletics Directors Council and respective Sports Councils for consideration before final action.
- e. The Board of Presidents shall approve all actions of the Athletics Directors Council and respective Sports Councils of the GSAC.
- f. The Board of Presidents may appoint special committees to study and investigate matters of the GSAC.
- g. The Board of Presidents shall approve the annual conference budget and office salaries, and assess annual dues. A proposed budget shall be submitted to the Board of Presidents at the fall meeting for approval.
- h. The Board of Presidents shall select and hire the GSAC Commissioner and set salary, length of contract, and other terms and conditions of employment.

## C. Athletics Directors Council

The Athletics Directors Council shall include the athletic director or appointee from each member institution. Member institutions are strongly encouraged to have a representative at all meetings. On matters that require a vote, each member institution shall have one vote.

### 1. Duties of the Athletics Directors Council

- a. Elect a Chair of the Athletics Directors Council. The chair of the Athletics Directors Council shall conduct all meetings of the Council. The commissioner shall record the minutes of the meeting. The commissioner shall report in writing all actions of the Council to the Board of Presidents for approval. The term of the chair shall run July 1 - June 30 in correspondence with the GSAC fiscal year.
- b. The Athletics Directors Council recommends legislation to the Board of Presidents.
- c. The Athletics Directors Council meets semi-annually (during the fall in November or December with the Board of Presidents and in the spring).
- d. The Athletics Directors Council accepts reports from the Sports Councils, and makes recommendations to the Board of Presidents.

- e. The Athletics Directors Council shall present for approval to the Commissioner all medical hardship requests. The commissioner has the right to move forward with, or deny the request and present to the NCAA for final approval.  
*(Revised 5/2003)*
- f. The Athletics Directors Council shall approve the operating policies for each sport sponsored by the GSAC.
- g. The Athletics Directors Council makes scheduling decisions within the overall framework for championships as approved by the Board of Presidents. If any schedule in any sport conflicts with a member institution's exam schedule, the game(s) will be rescheduled under the responsibility of the respective athletics directors involved. The conference office will make every effort to develop schedules that work around exam schedules.
- h. The Athletic Directors Council shall annually select a chair to preside at meetings and report recommendations for GSAC competition to the Athletics Directors Council. Each chair's term shall run July 1 - June 30 in correspondence with the GSAC fiscal year. In addition, the Athletics Directors Council shall appoint a GSAC institution Athletic Director to oversee activities of the individual sports council and the Chair of the sports council.  
*(Revised 5/2003)*

#### D. Sports Councils

The Sports Councils include the head coach, the head athletic trainer, and the sports information director from each member institution that sponsors one of the GSAC sports. Included in the sports councils are the athletic trainers. A sport council shall be established for each sport where the GSAC provides a championship opportunity.

##### 1. Duties of the Sports Councils:

- a. The Sports Councils of Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Volleyball, Cross Country, Athletic Trainers, and Sports Information Directors shall meet annually at the site of the conference championship.
- b. The Sports Councils shall make recommendations to the Athletics Directors Council for changes in the operating policies for their particular sport. Changes recommended at annual meetings must be approved by the Athletics Directors Council and/or the Board of Presidents.

### Section III - Additional Official Appointed Positions

#### A. Sport Council Chair

Each sport council shall nominate a chair and present to the Athletics Directors Council the nominee for final approval.

##### 1. Duties of the Sport Council Chair

- a. Receive Player of the Week ballots, determine the Player of the Week recipient, and forward the recipient's information to the GSAC SID.
- b. Establish sports protocol, and act as a liaison between the coaches and the sport Athletic Director.  
*(Revised 5/2003)*
- c. Preside at sports council meetings which will be held annually at the championship site and conduct an annual meeting with all sport coaches during the annual GSAC meeting to be held each spring.  
*(Revised 5/2003)*

#### B. GSAC Sports Information Director

The GSAC Sports Information Director is a part-time appointment and shall be hired by the commissioner. The Sports Information Director position is a paid position with salary paid in 12 monthly payments determined by the Athletics Directors Council with final approval granted through the official GSAC channels.

C. GSAC Secretary

The GSAC secretary is a part-time appointment and shall be hired by the commissioner. The GSAC Secretary appointment is at the discretion of the Commissioner. Upon initial appointment, a salary will be determined.

Section IV - Additional Official Councils

A. Student-Athlete Advisory Council

The Student-Athlete Advisory Council shall include one representative from each member institution. Each GSAC member institution's AD shall appoint one (1) individual from their school to represent that schools student-athletes in making proposals to and/or discussing issues that have arisen from the GSAC Governance.  
*(Revised 5/2003)*

A GSAC member institution AD shall be appointed to advise the SAAC and shall establish an agenda for the GSAC annual spring meeting. The SAAC will meet at the GSAC annual spring meeting and present proposals to the Athletics Directors Council.  
*(Revised 5/2003)*

Article VI - BYLAWS

Bylaws may be adopted which are consistent with the provision of the Constitution as may be needed. Bylaws must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Presidents at any official meeting of the GSAC.

Article VII - AMENDMENTS

This constitution shall be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Presidents. Such proposed amendments should be included in the agenda items submitted to the chair of the Board of Presidents and GSAC commissioner at least 30 days prior to official conference meetings.