

REGION XIV ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

BY-LAWS

Updated – February 20, 2024

Article 1-Rules

Except where in conflict with Region XIV Athletic Conference rules and regulations, the rules governing all sports in the Conference shall be the official rules of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

Article II-Regional Directors

The men's and women's regional directors and assistant regional directors shall serve for two years. The regional directors and assistant regional directors shall be elected at the Spring meeting in even numbered years. The term of office shall begin August 1 of the even numbered year. In the event of a vacancy in a director's role until the next scheduled election and the new regional director shall appoint a person to the open assistant regional director's position. The regional directors and assistant regional directors shall have Conference duties as follows:

Directors

1. Represent Region XIV and the Conference at the NJCAA legislative assembly and any other NJCAA functions.
2. Attend Conference meetings.
3. Serve as members of the Executive Committee and Investigations Committee.
4. Serve as ex-officio members of all committees within the appropriate division.
5. Attend regional championship events in their division whenever possible.
6. Perform other duties as assigned by the Conference president and/or NJCAA.

Assistant Directors

1. Attend regional championship events in their division when the regional director cannot attend.
2. Attend NJCAA and Conference meetings when possible.
3. Assist the regional director in performance of the regional director's duties when called upon to do so.
4. Perform other duties as assigned by the Conference president and the appropriate regional director.

Article III-Sports Committees

Sport Committees shall exist for each sport that has two or more schools participating in that sport. The head coaches of the sport shall serve as members of the committee. The members of each committee will elect a chair of the committee. The individual sport committees, or the Presidents at a conference meeting, will develop and adopt rules and procedures for managing the individual sports. No rules or procedures are to be implemented by the individual sport committees until they have been approved by the Conference.

Article IV-Certification of Players

Certification of Players must be completed following the NJCAA policy and procedures in the NJCAA Handbook.

Article V-Conference Games

Section 1. The Conference recognizes all NJCAA sports in which two (2) or more Conference members participate, except football. Each member must participate in at least one sport recognized by the Conference.

Section 2. Championships will be awarded on a percentage basis. To be considered eligible for the championship each team must meet the playing criteria established by each respective sports committee and approved by the Conference. Note: A Conference championship award will not be given in a sport that has fewer than four participants.

Section 3. The number of certified players will be the number recommended by the individual sports committee and approved by the Conference.

Section 4. Contests will be on a home and home basis or as determined by each individual sports committee and approved by the Conference.

Section 5. Each member school will receive twenty (20) passes for entry into athletic contests.

Section 6. Game officials shall be the responsibility of the commissioner of officials of the respective sport as defined by each individual sports committee and approved by the Conference. If the sport doesn't have an Assignor, then the officials must meet the minimum guidelines in the sport procedures or set by the NJCAA.

Section 7. No complimentary passes are to be issued to players of visiting teams.

Section 8. In the event it is necessary to consider zoning the Conference for a particular sport, the individual sports committee for that sport shall develop a recommendation for consideration by the Conference. Such recommendation must take into consideration the maintenance of traditional rivalries, distances to be traveled, and other pertinent matters. If zoning occurs, the names of North Texas and South Texas will be utilized where appropriate.

Section 9. Proper security shall be the responsibility of the host school. It is recommended that at least one officer in uniform be present and clearly visible.

Section 10. Sports committee recommendations, as approved by the Conference, will become an addendum to Article V.

Section 11. FAILURE TO FULFILL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

A. A member team who fails to fulfill their assigned Region XIV Athletic Conference schedule (non-weather related) without prior written permission and approval from the Region XIV Executive Committee will have the following sanctions apply:

1. All games not played will be counted as a forfeit in the conference standings to determine post-season qualification and seeding.
2. May be declared ineligible for the postseason that academic year pending ruling by the Region XIV Executive Committee.

Article VI-Student Financial Assistance

Section 1. Scholarship limits for each sport will be seventy-five percent of the maximum number of LOI/scholarships that is allowed by the NJCAA in each sport. The number of LOI's will be consistent with NJCAA policy for each sport. Tennis shall follow the NJCAA without regard to the percentage ruling and basketball will remain at 12 scholarships allowed. Sports and number of scholarships allowed listed below:

Baseball	18	(24 x .75)
Basketball	12	Voted to remain at 12 when NJCAA voted to reduce LOI's from 16 to 15 in early 2000.
Cross Country	7.5	(10 combined x .75)
Golf	6	(8 x .75)
Soccer	18	(24 x .75)
Softball	18	(24 x .75)
Tennis	3 full 6 partial	
Volleyball	10.5	(14 x .75)

****For example** – Baseball may have 18 full scholarships that they can spread out over 24 players that must be on LOI's, Basketball may have 12 full scholarships spread over 15 players that must be on LOI, and so forth for each sport.

Section 2. Region XIV member schools will follow the NJCAA rules and policies for Grants-in-Aid outlined in the NJCAA Handbook.

Section 3. Sports committee recommendations, as approved by the Conference, will become an addendum to Article VI.

Article VII-Rules of Eligibility

Section 1. The most current rules of eligibility of the NJCAA will be used to determine eligibility for student-athletes competing in Region 14.

Section 2. Members may provide a student with the NJCAA National Letter of Intent to participate in any given sport. The NJCAA Letter of Intent must be electronically submitted in the NJCAA online Letter of Intent system for all athletic scholarship recipients. Said NJCAA Letter of Intent must be submitted prior to any expenditure of funds or conveyance of benefits takes place. Written notice of the terms of the original Grant-in-Aid for that academic year shall be given to the student-athlete via the NJCAA Online Letter of Intent system prior to any benefit being provided."

Section 3. Any athlete having ever signed a letter-of-intent at a Region XIV institution will be considered a transfer. No student transfers are allowed within Region XIV except for the transfers back to an athlete's home legislative service area (as determined by the official residency under state rules (SB 397) at the time of original signing); or being granted an official NJCAA waiver by the previous Region XIV institution. A member institution must complete a transfer waiver for any athlete returning to their home legislative service area in order to satisfy a potential NJCAA audit (updated Sept. 2012).

Section 4. Sports committee recommendations, as approved by the Conference, will become an addendum to Article VII.

Article VIII-Code of Conduct

Region XIV members will follow the NJCAA Sportsmanship and Code of Conduct Policies and Penalties for each sport and for non-collegial incidents.

The basic principles of athletic competition in the Region XIV Athletic Conference stand for the highest ideals in sportsmanship. One of the primary objectives of competition is to develop and foster respect for fellow participants, officials, coaches and spectators. Therefore, a Code of Conduct is fundamental to the success of the athletic programs sponsored by the Conference. Each Conference member's athletes, staff and fans and individuals officiating athletic contests must abide by the policies as listed below:

Policy 1: Behavior rules

- A. **Violent Behavior.** Acts of violence or flagrant acts during or related to an intercollegiate athletic contest are not permitted. A violent act is one in which physical contact or an attempt to make physical contact occurs, the purpose of which is to damage, harm, intimidate, or otherwise injure a person or property. Engaging in hostile or abusive language or harassment that refers to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation and national origin and/or other threatening language.
- B. **Non-Violent and Unsportsmanlike Behavior.** Non-Violent unsportsmanlike behavior is defined as such as the use of tobacco/tobacco like products, profanity, vulgar gestures, trash talking, taunting or abusive language directed at players, coaches, referees, game management personnel and/or spectators.
- C. **Inappropriate Fan Behavior.** Each institution is responsible for the behavior of its fans. Coaches and other school officials are expected to control the fans supporting their institution's athletic teams. Failure to do so may result in law enforcement involvement.
- D. **Inappropriate Official's Behavior.** The Conference recognizes that those individuals responsible for officiating contests may be responsible for violations of decorum through negligence. These violations will be reported and handled as specified in the rules and regulations developed by the individual sports committee.

Policy 2: Reporting

- A. **Official Reporting.** Individuals serving as officials in a Conference athletic contest are responsible for reporting all violent behavior and any excessive nonviolent or unsportsmanlike behavior by a coach to a commissioner of officials for the individual sport, and to the President of the Conference within 3 days. Detailed information should be provided in order that contributing parties are positively identified.
- B. **President Reporting.** The Conference president shall immediately notify the president of the institutions involved and the executive committee. The Conference president may exercise one of the following options:
 - 1. Reach a decision agreeable to the presidents of both institutions.
 - 2. Reach a decision after discussion with the commissioner of officials, the presidents of the colleges involved, the Executive Committee, and other individuals as he deems appropriate.
 - 3. Appoint an ad-hoc committee to investigate and submit a decision to the Conference president.
 - 4. Conduct a vote of the institutions participating in the sport, which is at issue.
 - 5. Seek an opinion from the national office regarding issues of eligibility.
 - 6. Take other actions as appropriate to the individual circumstances.

The president of the Conference will make every attempt to conclude the investigation and reporting within one calendar week. If the Conference president is the president of an institution involved in an incident, the Conference president will step aside and the Conference vice-president will oversee the Conference response to alleged violations of the Code of Conduct. If in the event that the schools of the President and Vice President are involved, the immediate past President that is currently still serving as the President at a member institution will investigate and rule on the incident.

Policy 3: Conference Actions, Penalty, and Appeals Procedures

- A. **Conference Action.** If the determination is made that a punishment should be imposed, notification will first be given to the presidents of the colleges, which are affected. Punishment may include a letter of reprimand, probation, temporary suspension, or expulsion.
- B. **Letter of Reprimand.** Such letter shall be sent to the president of the sanctioned institution.
- C. **Probation.** If an athlete or coach is placed on probation, any further violation of the rules of the Conference or the NJCAA during the next twelve (12) months may result in further disciplinary action.
- D. **Suspension.** An athlete or coach who is suspended shall not have any contact, direct or indirect, with the team at a game site before, during or immediately following the game. Any suspension imposed must be served immediately. Violation of the suspension will result in forfeiture and may result in expulsion.
- E. **Expulsion.** An athlete or coach who is expelled from the program is not permitted to participate in any of the athletic programs recognized by the Conference.
- F. **Appeal Procedures.** If the imposed punishment was any action other than expulsion and the Executive Committee supports that sanction, there is no appeal of the Executive Committee's decision. If the decision is expulsion and the Executive Committee supports that sanction, the aggrieved school's president may appeal the decision to the Conference membership. The appeal request must be submitted in writing to the Conference president within five (5) days of being advised of the imposed punishment. The Conference president will call a meeting of the Conference or poll the Conference members within one (1) week of the decision of the Executive Committee for the purpose of affirming or overturning the expulsion. The Conference, by majority vote, may expel an athlete or coach.

Article IX-Amendments

No addition, alteration, or amendments shall be made to the By-Laws except at a regular meeting of the Conference. Such changes may be made at such a meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, providing two (2) week notice is given in writing. The advanced notice requirement may be waived by the unanimous consent of the members present at the meeting provided at least three-fourths (3/4) of the total membership is present.