



## **SPORT GUIDELINES for MEN'S and WOMEN'S SOCCER**

### ***ARTICLE I: Season of Competition Information***

#### **NAIA 24 Week Rule with KCAC Modifications:**

- Per NAIA guidelines, Men's and Women's Soccer shall have a maximum 24-week practice and competition season as established by each member institution. For the KCAC, frequency of play, practice and scheduling policies shall be restricted to the following period of time: beginning on Monday of the week in which August 15 falls and ceasing no later than May 15 per NAIA guidelines.
  1. Frequency of play, practice, and scheduling outside of this period (beginning the Monday of the week in which August 15 falls until May 15 each year) is governed by each member institution and will not be regulated by the NAIA.
  2. Member institutions may be engaged in conditioning activities beginning on August 1 in preparation for the fall season of competition. However, no practice or outside competition is allowed between August 1 and the start of the practice and competition season, which begins on Monday of the week in which August 15 falls.
  3. There shall be no more than three break periods during the 24 weeks. NAIA approved postseason participation shall not be counted as part of the 24-week period. A week is defined as Sunday (12:01 a.m.) through Saturday (11:59 p.m.). Any practice or competition during this period shall constitute one of the 24 weeks permitted.

#### **Specific Rules on Contact:**

- Athletic-related contact, which includes practice, conditioning, and/or competition activities, will be limited to 20 hours per week once classes have begun for the fall semester at the specific KCAC institution.
  - Prior to classes beginning for the fall semester, specific to each KCAC institution, the 20 hour contact rule will not apply.

- Each contest, which includes games, exhibitions, and scrimmages, will be counted as 2 hours within the 20 hours of contact during the week.
- For all KCAC teams, there will be one day per week with no athletic-related activities, which includes practice, conditioning, or competition.

## ***ARTICLE II: Sport-Specific Rules for KCAC Soccer***

### **NAIA Coaching Manuals:**

- **WEBLINK:** [NAIA Men's Soccer Coaches' Manual](#)
- **WEBLINK:** [NAIA Women's Soccer Coaches' Manual](#)

### **Sport-Specific Rules for the KCAC:**

- The official ball for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics is the Brine NAIA Championship Ball. Brine will provide balls for the KCAC Men's and Women's Championships.
- The official edition of the current National Collegiate Athletic Association Soccer Rules shall be used. Rulebooks can be purchased through the NAIA National Office or downloaded from the NCAA website.
- An official NCAA game roster, including players, coaches, and other bench personnel, must be submitted to the official scorekeeper, opposing coach, and game officials no later than 15 minutes prior to kick off. In addition, the record of each player's total number of cautions (yellow cards) and ejections (red cards) must appear in the column beside the player's name. A copy of the official game roster that includes each player's total number of cautions and ejections will be made available at the end of the game should the referee need to file a written report to the governing sports authority (NCAA Rules: Rule 2, Section 2).
- Conference games should be scheduled to limit the time out of class for the players involved. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday dates are preferred for scheduling because it conflicts less with high school games and gives us greater access to game officials. Games may begin early when both coaches agree to such an arrangement, and it is acceptable with the game officials.

## ***ARTICLE III: Championship Event Information***

### **Section 1: Regular Season Champion**

- The final standings of the KCAC single round robin match play shall determine the conference champion. In the event of a tie, co-champions will be named.

**Section 2: Postseason Format**

- The format for KCAC postseason play, will consist of the Top Six of 10 conference schools (according to regular season conference finish) being seeded into a single elimination tournament.
- Seeds one and two will draw a bye in the Quarterfinals.
- Seed three will host seed six and seed four will host seed five in the Quarterfinals on their home fields.
- Winners will advance to the Semifinals. Seed one will play the winner of seed four vs. seed five and seed two will play the winner of seed three vs. seed six. These matches will be played at the home sites of the higher seed.
- The Championship Matches for both the Men and Women will be hosted at a single site to create a Championship Weekend.

**Section 3: Seeding**

- Seeding into the tournament will be determined by regular season conference finish.
- In the event of any ties, the following tie-breaking procedure will be used:
  1. Head to head competition
  2. Result of second non-conference match (if played)
  3. Goal differential from head to head competition
  4. Goal differential from ALL Conference games (maximum of four goals per game)
  5. Coin Flip

**Section 4: Tournament Site**

<b>LOCATIONS:</b>	<b>YEAR:</b>
Bethel College	Fall 2010
Bethany College	Fall 2011
Southwestern College	Fall 2012
Friends University	Fall 2013
McPherson College	Fall 2014

- *NOTE: This schedule is subject to review and is officially TBA. This schedule also allows for the soccer championships to be played at a conference site that is not hosting a football game on that date, which opens up the possibility of afternoon championship matches.*
- A KCAC College or University may host the tournament at a neutral site if the facility meets the requirements: have lights, locker rooms, stadium seating, scoreboard, and an audio/PA system.
- Each KCAC Soccer program will submit a payment of \$125.00 (\$250.00 for each college) to help cover the cost of hosting the tournament. All gate revenue, t-shirt revenue, and program sales will go back to the KCAC. All concession revenue will be kept by the host institution. The host institution must staff the event.

1. *One of the intents of this sport fee is to have the conference office cover the operational costs of the championship finals for Men's and Women's Soccer.*

**Section 4: Contingency Plan to Determine Automatic Qualifier**

- All tournament matches will have backup dates in case of inclement weather. However, the field surface is artificial turf at the championship site. Regardless of weather, the field surface will be playable. Furthermore, the field is lighted so games can be played at any time day or night. We will accommodate time changes as needed in order to complete the tournament.
- In the event the tournament cannot be completed, the KCAC will designate its regular season champion as the recipient of the automatic bid to the Men's Soccer National Championship Opening Round match.

**ARTICLE IV: Awards**

**Section 1: Nominating Procedures**

- KCAC Soccer Coaches will select a First and Second Team All-Conference consisting of 12 field players and one goalkeeper. An Honorable Mention Team consisting of 12 Field Players and one goalkeeper will also be chosen. The number of Nominations will be awards based on the Teams Conference Finish during the Regular Season.

<u>Conference Regular Season Finish</u>	<u>Total Number of Nominations</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	7
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	7
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	6
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	5
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	5
7 <sup>th</sup> Place	4
8 <sup>th</sup> Place	3
9 <sup>th</sup> Place	2
10 <sup>th</sup> Place:	2

- Nominations must be made on the appropriate nomination form sent out by the KCAC Soccer Chair.
- The nomination form must be returned to the soccer chair prior to the conference meeting.
- The voting will take place at the conference meeting on the Sunday following the last day of regular season conference play.
- Each school must have a soccer representative at the conference meeting.
  - Failure to have a representative at the conference meeting will leave those institutions players off the voting ballot.

## **Section 2: Specific Individual Awards**

- The coaches will nominate and vote on an Offensive Player of the Year, a Defensive Player of the Year, a Freshman of the Year, a Goalkeeper of the Year and a Newcomer of the Year.
- Coach of the Year in both Men's and Women's Soccer will also be awarded based on total number of votes.

## **Section 3: Team Awards**

- Plaques will be awarded to the Regular Season Champion Team and the Conference Tournament Champion Team

## ***ARTICLE VI: Duties of the Sport Chair***

- The duties of the KCAC Soccer Chair are as follows:
  - Help determine the proper policies and procedures at the conference level.
  - Serve under the direction of the KCAC Commissioner:
    - Assist the KCAC Commissioner when requested
    - Represent the KCAC coaches to the KCAC Commissioner
    - Keep the KCAC Commissioner informed and updated of proposals and concerns
  - Send a copy of the KCAC Soccer Guidelines to each conference coach prior to the start of the season.
  - Chair the meetings of the KCAC Soccer coaches.
  - Serve on the Games Committee at the KCAC Soccer Championships.
  - Inform the KCAC Soccer Championship Tournament Director of all procedures and guidelines.

## ***ARTICLE VII: Miscellaneous***

### **Pre-Match and Half-Time Protocols:**

- Host institutions should closely follow the recommended procedures as agreed upon by the KCAC Soccer Coaches and Athletic Directors.

#### **Pre-Match Protocol:**

60:00 Teams may begin Warm-up  
10:00 Captains & Officials Meet  
7:00 Teams clear field  
5:00 Introductions begin and National Anthem  
0:00 Game Begins

#### **Half-Time Protocol:**

15:00 Half-time begins  
3:00 Notify teams in Locker Rooms  
0:00 Second half begins

**NAIA Conference Raters:**

- One coach for will be selected by vote of the conference coaches to be a member of the NAIA rating committee for Soccer – one men’s coach and one women’s coach for their respective sports. The conference rater will be confirmed each summer at the KCAC Sport Management Conference and reported to the conference commissioner and the NAIA.