

# **OHIO REGIONAL CAMPUS CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION**

## **Article I Name**

The name of this association shall be the Ohio Regional Campus Conference, hereinafter referred to as the Conference.

## **Article II Territory**

The State of Ohio shall constitute the conference territory.

## **Article III Purpose**

The purpose and function of this Conference is to promote athletics, to keep it in proper bounds by making it an incidental and not the principle feature of college and university life, and to regulate it by wise and prudent measure in order that it may improve the physical condition of education for which universities and colleges were established.

The Conference is composed of the following institutions: Miami University Hamilton, Miami University Middletown, Ohio State University Lima/Rhodes State, Ohio State University Newark/Central Ohio Technical College, Ohio University Chillicothe, Ohio University Lancaster, Ohio University Eastern/Belmont Technical College, Ohio University Zanesville/Zane State, University of Akron Wayne College, Wright State University Lake, and Ohio State University Mansfield/ North Central State College

## **Article IV Membership**

Upon the recommendation of two (2) member institutions, new members may be elected to the conference under the same procedures as are provided in Article IX for amending the constitution.

To be admitted to the conference it is recommended that the new member must have established teams in the following sports: women's volleyball, women's basketball, men's basketball, and one of the conference spring sports.

A member institution may be suspended from the conference if for a period of two years if they do not field a team in the following sports: women's volleyball, women's basketball, men's basketball, and one of the conference spring sports.

A member institution may be suspended or expelled from the Conference only upon two-thirds vote of the delegates eligible to vote and present at a regular meeting or a special meeting called to consider such action.

## **Article V**

### **Voting Delegates**

The members of this Conference shall be entitled to one vote each. (Each member institution shall designate one voting delegate in voting matters.)

## **Article VI**

### **Meetings**

To constitute a Quorum for the transaction of business at regular meetings of the Conference, two-thirds of the member institutions must be represented by voting delegates. It is recommended only voting members attend business meetings.

## **Article VII**

### **Officers**

Elected at the winter meeting each “even” year are the officers of the conference: Commissioner and Secretary/Treasurer. Terms of the office shall be two (2) years. Vacancies of the office that open will be filled by election at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

## **Article VIII**

### **Powers and Duties**

The Commissioner shall reside at all meetings and shall appoint standing and special committees with the approval of the majority of the voting delegates. He/She shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Conference to which he is responsible.

## **Article IX**

### **Amendment**

This constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a simple majority of the voting members provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing, two weeks before the meeting, to the Commissioner of the Conference and, providing that the Commissioner shall have fulfilled his responsibility by sending complete copies of the proposed amendment to all members at least seven days before the meeting.

**Article X**  
**Date Effective**

The original Constitution was adopted September 20, 1973. Amendments shall be effective on any date determined by the Conference and the effective date shall be recorded in the printed Constitution.

**Bylaws**

**Article I**

**Conference Competition**

Volleyball, Basketball, Softball and Baseball – All four sports are played by NCAA rules.

Volleyball- It is required that each team plays every other in their division twice to qualify for the Conference divisional championship.

Basketball- It is required that each team plays every other team in their division twice and teams from the opposite division once to qualify for the Conference divisional championship.

Softball- It is required that each team plays every other team twice to qualify for the Conference championship.

Baseball-It is required that each team plays every other team in their division four times to qualify for the Conference divisional championship.

The Conference championship shall be determined on the basis of won/lost percentage during regular season conference play. In the event of a tie for the Conference championship, co-champions shall be named. All conference games must be played unless outcomes do not determine conference standings. Exceptions to the above must be approved by a majority of the members.

Golf – As adopted in a spring meeting 1996.

1. Each Conference school will host an invitational tournament or be in a two-year rotation to host a tournament (this will be determined by the numbers of conference schools fielding golf teams). The conference champion will be determined by the point totals at the end of the conference play. The winner of each week's tournament will receive 9 points, second place 8 points, third place 7 points, and so on.

Tennis – a tournament will be held each year to determine championships in tennis.

Limitations set for conference teams participating in Conference and State Tournaments:

Individual participants in tennis must complete in a minimum of one match prior to participation in the conference tournament. Teams must play the following minimum schedule requirements to be eligible:

Basketball – minimum of ten (10) scheduled games.

Volleyball – minimum of seven (7) scheduled matches.

Golf/Tennis – minimum of one (1) scheduled match.

Baseball/Softball – minimum of ten (10) scheduled games.

Footnote: Additional sports may be added if more than one-half of Conference schools participate in a particular activity.

## **Article II Rules of Eligibility**

### **Rule 1 – Principal of Amateurism (professionalism)**

Participation in athletics at a Conference institution is restricted to amateur athletics. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletics for the physical, mental or social benefits he/she desires and for whom athletics is an avocation.

An athlete paid to play or coach a sport cannot participate in conference athletics. Junior High and High School Coaches are exempt from this rule. Example: A club golf pro is not eligible to play on a regional campus golf team.

### **Rule 2 – Academic Requirements**

In order to be eligible for competition, a student must be advancing toward undergraduate or graduate academic degree program and must carry at least seven quarter/semester hours at that campus of participation. A student in their first quarter/semester (incoming freshman) must earn a grade point of not lower than 1.5 on a 4.0 scale. A student who has used one year of athletic eligibility or has two (2) quarter/semesters work must earn a grade point average of no lower than 1.7 on a 4.0 scale. A student who is academically ineligible at a regional campus and transfers to a member institution must establish themselves academically before participating.

### **Rule 3 – Credit Requirements**

In order for athletic competition (Conference or non-conference) a student must successfully complete seven (7) quarter/semester hours at the campus of participation of each term the athlete participates. Of those seven hours, a minimum of four must be for grade. A student must accumulate a minimum of twenty-one (21) quarter hours if he/she participates all three quarters during an academic year. A student must accumulate a minimum of 14 semester hours if he/she participates both semesters during an academic year.

### **Rule 4 – Eligibility**

To be eligible for Conference or non-Conference games fall quarter a student must carry seven (7) quarter/semester hours. Players not registered for fall semester/quarter cannot participate in Conference or Non-Conference games prior to January 1.

### **Rule 5 – Student Teaching/Nursing**

A student is eligible to participate in Conference athletics while on student teaching or nursing assignment (registered at their main campus) providing they were registered and athletically eligible at the regional campus for which they are playing, the previous quarter/semester.

### **Article III Limit of Participation**

A student has four (4) years of athletic eligibility at one or more colleges or universities.

A player whose name is sent to the Commissioner via the eligibility roster is considered having used one year's eligibility unless ruled otherwise by the Conference Athletic Coordinators. The eligibility roster must be in the commissioner's office on or before the dates below:

Volleyball – October 15

Basketball – November 15 and January 15

Golf, Tennis, Baseball, Softball – April 15

Eligibility sheets must be received or post marked on or before the due dates. If they are not received by the due date the team will forfeit any contest prior to the due date as well as any contest until eligibility sheets are submitted to the commissioner.

Student athletes may receive a fifth year of eligibility with a maximum of four years in one sport. Only student athletes who have competed at least two years on the regional campus are eligible for the fifth year (Amended September 12, 1997)

### **Article IV Eligibility**

- (a) Eligibility Declarations. Once the eligibility date has passed, for a student to compete in any athletic contest, an eligibility declaration must be filed with and approved by the Commissioner. Subsequent eligibility is certified by the Athletic Coordinator on the forms furnished by the Commissioner's office.

The declarations shall include statements to the effect that eligibility requirements have been complied with. These statements shall be certified by the signature of authorized personnel of the institution.

- (b) Forfeiture of games. When a player is found to be ineligible for an athletic contest all athletic contests in which he/she has participated, after the date that act or conditions which rendered him/her ineligible, shall be forfeited to the respected opposing team(s). Any individual honors won by the ineligible player shall be forfeited.

### **Article V Exceptions**

Exceptions to the above rules of eligibility may be allowed in individual cases in which circumstances are extremely unusual and in which the exceptions will be in accord with the spirit and intent of all rules and regulations concerning eligibility.

For example, if a member of a squad becomes injured and the Athletic Coordinator can officially establish the fact that the player was injured. This can be done by sending a written communication to the Commissioner with the physician's signature on a statement, which says that his/her player had to quit the team for the current year because of the injury that incurred. This does not guarantee that a player would have another year of eligibility, but would serve as documentation that the player was injured. Thus this information would be used in reviewing his/her eligibility for another year of play.

An application for such exceptions shall be made by a member institution through its Director to the Commissioner. Such application shall include:

- (a) The complete academic transcripts from all universities, colleges, or junior colleges which they attended.
- (b) A record showing number of years of athletic participation by the individual at each university, college, or junior college attended.
- (c) A statement containing a summary of information pertinent to the case with all facts documented.

In the event of an appeal, a favorable vote of two-thirds of the delegates will be necessary to reverse the decision.

## **Article VI Officials**

All officials will be assigned by the conference assignor in baseball, men's basketball, women's basketball, and women's volleyball. If schools wish to disapprove of an official they should communicate any problems to the Conference Commissioner or the assignor of that particular sport.

The assignors for each sport will be evaluated and selected on an annual basis.

## **Article VIII Duties of the Officers**

The Secretary/Treasurer of the Conference is authorized to purchase such medals and trophies as necessary for the Conference with the approval of a majority of the delegates.

Trophies are given to conference champions and runner-ups. Plaques are given to members of the championship teams and all-conference teams. Certificates are given to the second team and honorable mention selections. An "All Sports" banner is given to the Conference school accumulating the most points in each of the eight recognized sports (volleyball, men's and women's basketball, golf, men's and women's tennis, baseball and softball).

The Commissioner shall issue the call for meetings, reprint the Constitution and By-laws from time to time as may be necessary, and distribute them to each member institution's Director, Athletic Coordinator and Coaches.

The commissioner shall receive all eligibility blanks and certify each player's eligibility.

Section1. The Commissioner shall receive and investigate reports of alleged violations of the Conference Rules of Eligibility and General Regulations. He/she shall interpret the rules of the General and Special Regulations.

Section2. The Commissioner shall be the principal enforcement officer of the Conference Rules and Regulations. The Commissioner shall, upon the request of the Athletic Coordinator of any member institution showing reasonable grounds, or upon the Commissioner's initiative, make such investigation as may be necessary to determine whether there has been a violation of said Rules and Regulation. If such investigation reveals that a violation exists, the Commissioner shall inform the Athletic Coordinator of the member institution involved, and afford them an opportunity to be heard. If after a hearing, or failure of such institution to appear for a hearing, the Commissioner concludes there is a violation, the Commissioner is empowered to impose penalties as provided below.

- (a) The offending institution or staff member may be reprimanded by the Commissioner and warned against repetition of the offense.
- (b) The institution may be denied the right to schedule games for a designated period of time with other Conference members in the sport in which the violation occurred.
- (c) The Commissioner may order severance of athletic relations with the offending institution.

## **Article IX Appeals**

Section1. The decision of the Commissioner in any proceedings under Article VIII may be appealed. Such appeal must be made by the institution involved within ten (10) days after receiving notice of such action.

- (a) Appeals resulting from decisions of the Commissioner must be sent to the Commissioner, who upon receipt of the appeal must convene voting delegates. Two-thirds of the voting membership may overturn the decision of the Commissioner.
- (b) The Commissioner shall rule regarding any protests. If two-thirds of the members reject his ruling, it will be overruled in agreement with the constitution. If the Commissioner's school is involved, with the protest, then the Secretary/Treasurer will rule. If both schools would be involved, the conference will rule.

## **Article X General Regulations**

Section1. The Conference Commissioner shall be authorized to investigate cases involving un-sportsman like conduct of the participants on teams representing member institutions, and if

sufficient evidence is found that they have been guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, he shall be authorized to impose such penalties as in his judgement the case warrants.

Section2. Individuals employed by or associated with member institutions that have been designated by the institution's administration as athletic coordinators shall be responsible for the conduct of coaches and players. Coaches and students competing in the athletic program shall deport themselves with honesty and sportsmanship at all times to the end that athletes as a whole, their institutions and they, as individuals, shall stand for the honor and dignity of fair play.

Section3. The balloting for all conference players will be done in the following manner: Each coach will submit to the Commissioner's office a maximum of five (5) players in basketball, nine (9) in baseball/softball and four (4) in volleyball. The Commissioner will compile the list of nominations and each coach will vote for eight in volleyball, ten in basketball and nine in baseball/softball, not voting for his/her own players.

The player receiving the most votes will be awarded the Most Valuable Player Award. In golf the first team all-conference will consist of the players with the five best scoring averages that have played in the required number of tournaments. The second team will consist of the sixth through tenth best averages

All conference selection for men's and women's tennis will be determined at the conference tournament.

Section4. The conference dues shall be established for the following year at the spring meeting each year.

#### **Article XI Amendment**

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by the majority of member eligible to vote provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted, in writing, one week before the meeting to the Commissioner of the Conference, and to all members of the Conference.

The Bylaws were adopted September 20, 1973; revised September 1984, February 1988, September 1990, August 1995 and November 2003.

The original Constitution was adopted September 20, 1973. Amendments shall be effective on any date determined by the Conference and the effective date shall be recorded in the printed Constitution.

Revised: April 25,2010



