

2007-2008 Proposed NAIA Constitution and Bylaws Amendments

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments, which must be sponsored by an authorized NAIA council, a regional coordinating committee, an NAIA standing committee, an NAIA association, or an affiliated conference, shall be submitted in writing to the NAIA Chief Executive Officer/President. All proposed amendments must be postmarked no later than 90 days prior to the annual meeting of the Association. The proposed amendments shall be mailed by the NAIA National Office to each regional chair, each active member institution in good standing, and each affiliated conference commissioner/president no later than 30 days before the start of the national convention.

The proposed amendment, with the opinion of the Council of Presidents, shall be read to the voting delegates at the annual meeting. After discussion of the proposed amendment on the floor of the annual meeting, the voting delegates shall vote. Upon receiving a two-thirds approval vote by the delegates, the proposed amendment shall become effective on August 1 following approval of the proposal unless otherwise stated.

Constitution Amendment # 1

SUBJECT: STRUCTURE CHANGE

Amend Article IV, Section A, as follows:

Active membership in the NAIA is open to four-year colleges and universities, and upper-level, two-year institutions in the United States and Canada that award the bachelor's (baccalaureate) degree, or its equivalent. Active member institutions must be not-for-profit organizations and, in the United States, fully accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools/Commission on Higher Education (MAS/CHE); New England Association of Schools and Colleges-Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE); North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA); Southern Association of Colleges and Schools-Commission on Colleges (SACS-CC); Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NASC); Western Association of Schools and Colleges-Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges (WASC-Sr.); in Canada, be a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

[NOTE: Applies to institutions accepted into membership after September 26, 2000]

~~Membership requires a review by the appropriate regional management committee with a recommendation submitted to the NAIA Chief Executive Officer/President for final action by the Council of Presidents.~~

Associate membership status shall be accorded to four-year colleges and universities, and two-year institutions in the United States and Canada that award bachelor's (baccalaureate) degree(s) but do not hold full membership in one of the bodies listed above.

AND

Amend Article IV, Section E, as follows:

~~Regions may recommend termination by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active member institutions within a region. The National Eligibility Committee and/or the National Conduct and Ethics Committee may recommend institutional termination. Formal action of institutional termination rests solely with the Council of Presidents.~~

AND

Amend Articles V, Section F and G, as follows:

SECTION F.

The ~~Administrative Executive~~ Committee of the Council of Presidents shall consist of the chair, the chair-elect and three members of the council who shall be appointed by the chair. The three appointed members, together with the officers, shall compose the five-member ~~Administrative Executive~~ Committee of the Council of Presidents.

SECTION G.

The ~~Administrative Executive~~ Committee of the Council of Presidents shall be authorized to transact the necessary business of the Association in the interim between meetings of the Council of Presidents.

AND

Amend Article VII, Section A, as follows:

The National Coordinating Committee shall consist of the chair and the chair-elect of the ~~Council of Athletics Administrators National Administrative Council~~, and the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, ~~and the Council of Affiliated Conferences and Independents~~, plus three at-large members elected by the membership of the NAIA at the annual meeting of the Association. Candidates shall be nominated and elected in a manner to ensure gender equity.

Amend Article VIII, as follows:

SECTION A.

The members of the ~~Council of Athletics Administrators~~ National Administrative Council must be qualified by experience or title in holding a position in which they have or have had athletics administrative responsibilities, and have or have had direct knowledge of athletics budget and personnel matters. Members of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives must be designated by a member institution's Chief Executive Officer as the institution's FAR; however, one member shall be an elected officer of the NAIA Registrars Association, not necessarily serving as the institution's faculty athletics representative. ~~Members of the Council of Affiliated Conferences and Independents either must be officers of the Association or Affiliated Conferences, representatives from Affiliated Conference members, or from independent institutions.~~

SECTION B.

Each council must develop a nomination/election process that ensures ~~there be at least one member of each council from each of the regions of the NAIA~~ adequate representation from conferences and independent institutions. Whenever possible, at least three council members must be women and at least three council members must be men. When the gender requirement is not met, gender shall take preference ~~over regional alignment~~ in the selection of at-large members. Each council shall consist of proportionate representation from affiliated conference and independent membership.

SECTION C.

Each council shall be elected by its constituency. The term of office shall be for three years. Individuals may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Each council shall have a chair and chair-elect. The ~~Council of Athletics Administrators National Administrative Committee~~ shall consist of one representative from each affiliated conference, the regional chairs, the President and Vice-President of the Athletics Directors Association, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Association of Affiliated Conferences, one representative from the Association of Independent Institutions (All) per 10 members of the All and two a sufficient number of at-large members to ensure the gender requirements are met. There will be a minimum of ten (10) athletics director and ten (10) conference commissioners on the National Administrative Committee. ~~The Council of Affiliated Conferences and Independents shall be the four (4)~~

~~officers of the Association of Affiliated Conferences, an Affiliated Conference representative from each NAIA region, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Association of Independent Institutions. The initial selection shall be staggered in order to ensure a two-thirds (2/3) council retention each year. The Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall consist of the regional faculty athletics representatives fourteen (14) faculty athletics representatives selected with appropriate geographic balance, the chair and chair-elect of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, three at-large members from the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association the chair of the National Eligibility Committee and an elected officer of the NAIA Registrars Association.~~

AND

Amend Article IX, Section C, as follows:

~~Vacancies on the Council of Athletics Administrators, National Administrative Committee and Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives and/or Council of Affiliated Conferences and Independents shall be filled by holding a regular election or by appointment by the appropriate council. Should the vacancy be filled by appointment, the appointee(s) shall serve for the remainder of the term, at which time the nomination/election process outlined in Article VIII of the Constitution shall apply.~~

AND

Remove Article X, as follows:

~~SECTION A.~~

~~Membership alignment within each region shall be structured by the Council of Affiliated Conferences and Independents and the Council of Athletics Administrators. Geographic proximity of the member institutions shall be considered. Membership realignment shall be vested in the Council of Affiliated Conferences and Independents and the Council of Athletics Administrators, after consultation with the membership within regions involved in proposed changes.~~

~~SECTION B.~~

~~Each region shall select qualified representatives to serve as the Regional Management Committee. The Regional Management Committee shall control the activities within the region, subject to NAIA regulations as set forth in the NAIA Constitution and Bylaws and as elaborated in the Regional Organization section of the NAIA Policy Handbook.~~

~~The Regional Management Committee shall, at a minimum, consist of the regional chair, the national office regional director (non-voting member), affiliated conference commissioners within the region, the Council of Presidents representative from each affiliated conference in the region, and one representative from an independent institution, if applicable.~~

~~The process by which regional representatives qualify for national tournaments, meets or games, where regional qualifying is required, must be approved by a regional management committee.~~

~~SECTION C.~~

~~Each region shall select qualified representatives to serve as the Regional Eligibility Committee for independent members assigned to the region. The Regional Eligibility Committee shall have the responsibility to administer eligibility rules and policies for the independent institutions within the region as adopted by the Association.~~

~~Members shall be elected for three year terms. The chair shall be elected from among those members who have already served at least one year on an Eligibility Committee.~~

~~Reappointment to this committee is permissible.~~

SECTION D.

Vacancies on the Regional Management Committee shall be filled as follows:

- 1) Conference Commissioners — Selected by the conference;
- 2) Council of Presidents representatives — Elected by institution presidents within the conference, as stated in Article V;
- 3) Independent representatives — Selected by independent institutions within the region;
- 4) Additional members — Selected by the regional committee as prescribed by the region.

Remove Article XI, as follows:

SECTION A.

~~The Regional Chair shall be elected for a three-year term by a majority vote of the athletics directors in the region. This election shall be held prior to June 1. The duties of the Regional Chair shall be those assigned by the Council of Athletics Administrators.~~

SECTION B.

~~The athletics directors in the region shall also elect a Vice Chair. The Secretary/Treasurer of the region shall be appointed by the Regional Chair.~~

SECTION C.

~~The NAIA Regional Director shall inform the region in advance of the expiration of the three-year term of office of the Regional Chair. The Regional Director will request nominations and conduct the election. A Regional Chair may be re-elected to this office by being given a vote of confidence at the expiration of the regular term of office.~~

~~A vote of confidence for the position of Regional Chair may be conducted by the Regional Director of the region at the end of a regular term of office, or may be called for at any time by request of one-third of the athletic directors of institutions holding active NAIA membership in a given region. The request should be directed to the Regional Director who shall be authorized to administer the vote of the athletic directors in the region. Should the Regional Chair not receive a majority vote, a new election shall be held to fill the position.~~

~~A vote of confidence may be called, at any time, for the position of Regional Chair by request of one-third of the active membership of a given region. This request should be directed to the NAIA Chief Executive Officer/President who shall be authorized to administer the vote of the Regional Management Committee. Should the Regional Chair not receive a majority vote, a new election shall be held to fill the position.~~

AND

Amend Article XII, Section B, as follows:

SECTION B.

Each active member institution in good standing shall have one vote at the annual meeting. The institutional vote shall be cast by the chief executive officer of the institution or by a faculty or staff member from that institution as designated by the chief executive officer of the member institution.

~~Each chair of a Regional Management Committee shall have one vote as the regional representative at the annual meeting of the Association.~~

Each NAIA Affiliated Conference shall be granted one vote as designated by the commissioner, or, if the conference has no commissioner, the president of the conference.

All voting delegates shall be authorized to the NAIA Chief Executive Officer/President one week prior to the annual meeting.

(Remainder of section is unchanged.)

INTENT: To amend the Constitution to reflect the new NAIA structure.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: NAIA Council of Presidents

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments must be sponsored by an authorized NAIA council, a regional coordinating committee, an NAIA standing committee, an NAIA association, or an affiliated conference.

All proposed amendments to the NAIA Bylaws shall be submitted in writing to the NAIA Chief Executive Officer/President. Such proposals must be postmarked no later than 90 days prior to the annual meeting of the Association. The proposed amendments shall be mailed from the National Office to each active member institution in good standing and affiliated conference commissioner/president no later than 30 days before the annual meeting.

The proposed amendments, with the opinion of the NAIA Constitution and Bylaws Committee, shall be read to the voting delegates at the annual meeting.

After discussion of the proposed amendment on the floor of the annual meeting, the voting delegates shall vote. Upon receiving a majority approval vote by the delegates, the proposed amendment shall become effective on August 1 following approval of the proposal unless otherwise stated.

Article VIII of the NAIA Bylaws, "Standing Committees," shall be excluded from the above amendment procedures.

Bylaws Amendment # 1

SUBJECT: STRUCTURE CHANGE

Amend Article IV, Section B, as follows:

An important role of the NAIA is to provide the most democratic process possible for its membership in the matter of organization of national competitions, planning and procedures of the NAIA, growth of program, and the determination of policies of the organization.

In the interest of democratic participation, the basic structure of the NAIA is the conference for members which are affiliated or the ~~region~~ Association of Independent Institutions for independent institutions.

~~Conference/regional~~ tournaments or championships are encouraged in all sports recognized by the NAIA.

AND

Amend Article IV, Section E, as follows:

~~COUNCIL OF ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATORS DUTIES~~ NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The ~~Council of Athletics Administrators~~ National Administrative Council shall exercise authority in the following matters.

1. Initiating operational policies for conference and national competition, national statistical services, and national awards.
2. Providing administrative supervision of all NAIA Coaches Associations, the Athletics Trainers Association, Conduct and Ethics Committee, and those associations/committees assigned by them which deal with conference and national competition.
3. Annually reviewing and establishing the ~~conference/regional/~~and national qualification plans for postseason competition for all sports
4. Reviewing and acting on all recommendations from those associations/committees within their area of responsibility.
5. Conducting nominations and elections in accordance with the Constitution when openings on the Council arise.

The chair of the ~~Council of Athletics Administrators~~ National Administrative Council shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Council of Presidents.

~~SECTION F. COUNCIL OF AFFILIATED CONFERENCES AND INDEPENDENTS DUTIES~~

~~The Council of Affiliated Conferences and Independents shall exercise authority in the following matters.~~

- ~~1. Initiating operational policies of regional events, national statistical services, and national awards.~~
- ~~2. Providing administrative supervision of those committees assigned to them which deal with regional competition.~~
- ~~3. Reviewing and acting on all recommendations from those committees within their area of responsibility.~~
- ~~4. Conducting nominations and elections in accordance with the Constitution when openings on the council arise.~~

~~The chair of the Council of Affiliated Conferences and Independents shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Council of Presidents.~~

AND

Amend Article V, Section K, Item 4, as follows:

The Eligibility Chair shall inform the ~~Regional Chair~~, the Conference Commissioner/President (where appropriate) and the national eligibility staff liaison of each new eligibility case being investigated upon receipt of the case.

AND

Amend Article V, Section K, Item 6 and Item 7as follows:

6. A recommendation from the eligibility committee as to the disposition of the case shall be submitted by the Eligibility Chair on behalf of the ~~conference/region~~ to the chief executive officer of the institution being investigated and the national eligibility staff liaison for dispersal to the National Eligibility Committee.

7. The chief executive officer, after reviewing the case and the ~~regional~~ eligibility committee recommendation or conference action, may within seven days of receipt send a response to the national eligibility staff liaison which will be included in the material sent to the NAIA National Eligibility Committee.

AND

Amend Article V, Section K, Item 10 as follows:

~~Regions or~~ conferences may not make final determinations relative to cases where a violation has occurred. All eligibility cases must be processed through the NAIA National Eligibility Committee or the NAIA National Conduct and Ethics Committee for appropriate action.

(Remainder of section remains unchanged)

INTENT: To amend the appropriate Bylaws to reflect the new NAIA structure.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: NAIA Council of Presidents

Bylaws Amendment # 2

SUBJECT: FREQUENCY OF PLAY AND SCHEDULING – MEN’S SOCCER

Amend Article I, Section E, Item 1, as follows:

1. The maximum number of varsity games, contests or playing dates an institution may schedule is listed below. The number of junior varsity or freshman games, contests or playing dates scheduled during a given term cannot exceed the number of varsity games, contests or playing dates scheduled during that term. Further, no student may compete in a sport in an academic year in more than the number of games, contests or playing dates listed below (this includes varsity, junior varsity, freshman, etc.), excluding NAIA-approved postseason participation.

Sport
Soccer – (M)

Number of Games/ Contests/ Playing
Dates

18 games played at any time during the sport season. Three (3) additional dates to be played only after the fall term has concluded. The three additional dates may be played during the weekend only.

INTENT: To permit soccer three additional playing dates during the spring academic term(s).

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: NAIA Men’s Soccer Coaches Association

Bylaws Amendment # 3

SUBJECT: FREQUENCY OF PLAY AND SCHEDULING – WOMEN'S SOCCER

Amend Article I, Section E, Item 1, as follows:

1. The maximum number of varsity games, contests or playing dates an institution may schedule is listed below. The number of junior varsity or freshman games, contests or playing dates scheduled during a given term cannot exceed the number of varsity games, contests or playing dates scheduled during that term. Further, no student may compete in a sport in an academic year in more than the number of games, contests or playing dates listed below (this includes varsity, junior varsity, freshman, etc.), excluding NAIA-approved postseason participation.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Number of Games/ Contests/ Playing Dates</u>
Soccer – <u>(W)</u>	<u>18 games played at any time during the 24-week season. Two (2) additional dates to be played only after the fall term has concluded. The two additional dates may be played during the weekend only.</u>

INTENT: To permit women's soccer teams two additional dates to be played during the spring academic term(s).

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: NAIA Women's Soccer Coaches Association

Bylaws Amendment # 4

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF INTENT

Amend Article I, Section K as follows:

DECLARATION OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN NAIA POSTSEASON COMPETITION

No later than May 1 each year, each active member institution shall be required to submit to the NAIA National Office its declaration of whether it intends to participate in the national championship program in the following sports. Men's Programs: cross country, soccer, football, basketball, baseball, tennis and golf. Women's Programs: cross country, soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, tennis and golf. Declarations apply to the academic year following the May 1 deadline.

Should an institution declare its intent not to participate in a national championship in the sports mentioned above, it shall not be considered for participation in NAIA postseason competition leading to the national championship in those sports for that season.

NOTE: Postseason competition is defined as conference, ~~region~~ or independent qualifying events. Further, those institutions shall waive their right to be included in the ratings in those specific sports.

Should an institution declare its intent to participate in a national championship program in any of the above sports, it must honor that commitment if the team in that sport meets the qualification standards established and is selected by the appropriate affiliated conference ~~or regional~~ committee. This regulation requires an institution to follow the commitment in each sport listed above to its conclusion, which terminates with a national championship, unless the following procedure is followed.

Should the institution's chief executive officer determine that an earlier declared sport team does not meet institutional standards to participate in any postseason competition, written notification of this decision must be sent to the NAIA National Office at least three weeks prior to the beginning of postseason competition. Failure to adhere to these procedures shall require the selected institutional team to fulfill its obligation of participating in postseason play to its conclusion.

If institution submits notification to remove their institution from the obligation of participation in the postseason for a particular sport for three consecutive seasons, that institution will be placed on NAIA suspension in that sport for the following academic year. Suspension does not allow the institution to participate in post-season events in that sport.

No declaration shall be required for the sports recognized by NAIA other than those listed in the first paragraph of this section.

To enter NAIA postseason play, an institution shall be required to meet conference, ~~sectional, regional~~ and/or national entry deadlines and qualifying standards where applicable.

INTENT: To penalize institutions that are unable to uphold their declaration of intent obligations during three consecutive seasons in the same sport.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: NAIA Council of Athletics Administrators

Bylaws Amendment # 5

SUBJECT: RECRUITMENT OF A TWO-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENT

Amend Article II, Section D, Item 1, as follows:

If, during the school year or summer vacation period, the athletics director, faculty athletics representative, or coach of a member institution is contacted or becomes aware of contact by an athlete who enrolled at another institution of higher learning (two-year or four-year), it shall be the responsibility of the contacted institution (athletics director or faculty athletics representative) to notify, in writing, the institution (athletics director or faculty athletics representative) where the athlete is presently enrolled within 10 days following the first contact.

A coach or another representative of a member institution shall not initiate contact with an athlete who has enrolled at another four-year institution. It is permissible to contact a student who is currently enrolled at a two-year institution once the student begins his/her second season of competition ~~completes the academic year in which the student utilizes his/her first season of competition.~~

INTENT: To permit recruitment of two-year-college students after the student has utilized his/her first season of competition.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediate (April 15, 2008)

SUBMITTED BY: Midwest Collegiate Conference

Bylaws Amendment # 6

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS

Amend Article IV, Section B, as follows:

An important role of the NAIA is to provide the most democratic process possible for its membership in the matter of organization of national competitions, planning and procedures of the NAIA, growth of program, and the determination of policies of the organization.

In the interest of democratic participation, the basic structure of the NAIA is the conference for members which are affiliated or the ~~region~~ the Association of Independent Institutions for independent institutions.

Conference/~~regional~~ tournaments or championships are encouraged in all sports recognized by the NAIA.

AND

Amend Article IX, Section C, Item 5, as follows:

NAIA members that are in good standing and not members of a conference shall hold membership in the Association of Independent Institutions (All). This Association makes recommendations to the Council of Affiliated Conferences and Independents regarding policies for operation of the national independent institution program for men's and women's programs. The association works to strengthen the independent institution's relationship to their region. It isolates problems common to all independent institutions and organizes to study and achieve solutions to these problems. This association shall meet once a year in conjunction with the National Convention. Each independent institution shall be eligible to have one vote on association business. The association shall elect its own President, Vice-President and Secretary. A faculty athletics representative and a registrar from an independent institution also will serve on the Executive Committee.

The Association of Independent Institutions shall:

1. Facilitate effective and active participation in the NAIA legislative process and governance structure;
2. Work with the appropriate NAIA committees regarding championship opportunities for All members;
3. Oversee the certification of eligibility for students at independent institutions and provide a mechanism for review of exception requests, violations and appeals;
4. Provide weekly statistics services in the sports of men's and women's soccer, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball;
5. Select All-Independent teams in the sports of men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball;
6. Provide recognition programs for students from all All member institutions;
7. Provide timely communication between the National Office and All members;
8. Develop budget and financial operations to ensure fiscal accountability and responsibility.

INTENT: To provide accurate information regarding the composition and responsibilities of the Association of Independent Institutions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: NAIA Association of Independent Institutions

Bylaws Amendment # 7

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE STUDENT

Create Article V, Section B, Item 15, as follows:

Prospective Student: An individual who has never identified or whose previous collegiate identification was with another collegiate institution. The individual remains a prospective student until the student:

- a. Practices with an institution's team during the 24-week season (as defined in Article I, Section E, Item 5); or
- b. Identifies with an institution in accordance with Article V, Section B, Item 8.

Prospective students are not permitted to practice or compete with an institution's team prior to the beginning of the 24-week season, regardless of the student's stated commitment to the institution. This prohibition includes practice and competition (including foreign tours) during the summer prior to the student's enrollment at the institution.

INTENT: To codify current NAIA restrictions on prospective students.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: NAIA National Eligibility Committee

Bylaws Amendment # 8

SUBJECT: SEASONS OF COMPETITION - TENNIS

Amend Article V, Section B, Item 17, as follows:

17. Season of Competition:

- a. Participation in one or more intercollegiate contests whether in a varsity, junior varsity, or freshman program. Seasons of competition for a transfer student will be determined under the rules of the association under which they competed.
- b. Participation in any athletic competition or training for which the participant receives compensation including remuneration for expenses after September 1 in the year of high school graduation or the equivalent.

NOTE:

1. If high school graduation or its equivalent cannot be ascertained then age 19 will be used as the determinant.
2. Unless specified elsewhere in the Bylaws (i.e. - Article V, Section F, Item 9) no student shall be charged more than one Season of Competition during any 12- month period.
3. Athletes charged a Season of Competition pursuant to this paragraph must also comply with other applicable NAIA Bylaws, including Article VII (Amateur Rules) and Article V, Section C (Eligibility Requirements).

c. TENNIS ONLY - After high school graduation, participation in the main draw of a Women's Tennis Association (WTA) or Association of Tennis Players (ATP) tournament.

EXCEPTION # 1: The student is not charged a season of competition for participation in a WTA or ATP main draw if the student provides written confirmation from the tournament that the student was awarded a wild card into the main draw.

EXCEPTION # 2: While enrolled as a full-time collegiate student, a student is not charged a season of competition if the student:

- 1) Completes the ITA amateur form prior to participation in the tournament;
- 2) Does not accept expense reimbursement (including reimbursement permitted by other NAIA regulations); and
- 3) Does not accept any prize money

INTENT: To provide a bench mark that identifies the experience in tennis that creates a season of competition.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: Golden State Athletic Conference

Bylaws Amendment # 9

SUBJECT: COMPETITIVE EXPERIENCE – AGE RULE

Amend Article V, Section B, Item 17, as follows:

17. Season of Competition:

a. Participation in one or more intercollegiate contests whether in a varsity, junior varsity, or freshman program. Seasons of competition for a transfer student will be determined under the rules of the association under which they competed.

~~b. Participation in any athletic competition or training for which the participant receives compensation including remuneration for expenses after September 1 in the year of high school graduation or the equivalent.~~

NOTE:

~~1. If high school graduation or its equivalent cannot be ascertained then age 19 will be used as the determinant.~~

~~2. Unless specified elsewhere in the Bylaws (i.e. – Article V, Section F, Item 9) no student shall be charged more than one Season of Competition during any 12-month period.~~

~~3. Athletes charged a Season of Competition pursuant to this paragraph must also comply with other applicable NAIA Bylaws, including Article VII (Amateur Rules) and Article V, Section C (Eligibility Requirements).~~

-AND-

Amend Article V, Section E, Item 4

No student shall be permitted to participate in intercollegiate athletics for more than four (4) seasons in any sport.

Beginning August 1 of the year of the student's 21st birthday, and during each subsequent year, the maximum number of seasons in which a student can compete will be reduced by one season for each year the student is not charged a season of competition. The student's birthday must be verified using:

- a. Passport;

OR

- b. Birth Certificate; and
- c. Other Government-Issued Identification

EXCEPTION: The student's seasons of competition will not be reduced during the year in which the student served in active military duty in the Canadian or United States Armed Forces.

INTENT: To eliminate the current "competitive experience rule" and limit the age disparity between NAIA athletes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008
SUBMITTED BY: Golden State Athletic Conference

Bylaws Amendment # 10

SUBJECT: COMPETITIVE EXPERIENCE RULE – POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPETITION

Amend Article V, Section B, Item 17, as follows:

17. Season of Competition:

a. Participation in one or more intercollegiate contests whether in a varsity, junior varsity, or freshman program. Seasons of competition for a transfer student will be determined under the rules of the association under which they competed.

b. Participation in any athletic competition or training for which the participant receives compensation including remuneration for expenses after September 1 in the year of high school graduation or the equivalent.

EXCEPTION: An individual who trains or competes as a member of a non-collegiate post-secondary education (i.e., preparatory school) team will not be charged a season of competition.

(Remainder of section unchanged)

INTENT: To permit students to participate in non-collegiate post-secondary education competition without being charged a season of competition.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008
SUBMITTED BY: NAIA Men's Basketball Coaches Association

NOTE: *This proposal is moot, and will not be considered, if Bylaws Amendment # 9 is adopted*

Bylaws Amendment # 11

SUBJECT: FRESHMAN ELIGIBILITY – STATE TESTING

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 2, as follows:

An entering freshman student must meet two of the three entry-level requirements:

a. A minimum score of 18 on the Enhanced ACT or 860 on the SAT (for tests taken on or after April 1, 1995).

NOTE: In order to meet the requirement of [Article V, Section C, item 2, paragraph a](#) above, an entering freshman must achieve a score of 18 or higher on the Enhanced ACT or a score of 860 or higher, achieved on the **Critical Reading and Math** sections of the SAT. The test score must be achieved at a

single test sitting administered by a certified tester on a National, or International or official state assessment testing date to apply to this requirement. A test taken under any conditions other than those listed is considered by both testing agencies to be a residual test and cannot be used for certification purposes. The ACT/SAT must be taken prior to the beginning of the term in which the student initially participates.

(Remainder of section unchanged)

INTENT: To permit students to use test scores earned during state assessments to meet freshman eligibility requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: NAIA Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives

Bylaws Amendment # 12

SUBJECT: FRESHMAN ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS – CLASS RANK

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 2, as follows:

2. An entering freshman student must meet two of the three entry-level requirements:

a. A minimum score of 18 on the Enhanced ACT or 860 on the SAT (for tests taken on or after April 1, 1995).

NOTE: In order to meet the requirement of [Article V, Section C, item 2, paragraph a](#) above, an entering freshman must achieve a score of 18 or higher on the Enhanced ACT or a score of 860 or higher, achieved on the **Critical Reading and Math** sections of the SAT. The test score must be achieved at a single test sitting administered by a certified tester on a National or International testing date to apply to this requirement. The ACT/SAT must be taken prior to the beginning of the term in which the student initially participates.

b. An overall high school grade point average of 2.000 or higher on a 4.000 scale;

c. Graduate in the upper half of the student's high school graduating class. The class rank must appear on the student's transcript, leaving certificate or other academic document. If the student's class rank does not appear on the above-mentioned documents, a letter from the student's principal or headmaster, written on the school's letterhead and with the school's official seal, stating that the student meets the class rank requirement can be accepted.

INTENT: To require that the class rank letter be written on the school's letterhead and contain the school's official seal.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: Florida Sun Conference

Bylaws Amendment # 13

SUBJECT: GRADE-POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENT

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 8, as follows:

~~8. Upon reaching junior academic standing as defined by the institution,~~ Beginning with the student's third semester/fourth quarter (or equivalent), a student must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of

at least 2.000 on a 4.000 scale. The 2.000 cumulative grade point average (GPA) or higher must be certified each subsequent grading period in which the student wishes to compete ~~after junior academic standing is reached.~~

The GPA for students with continuing identification at your institution shall be calculated according to the official institutional policy for all students. The GPA for entering transfer students shall be calculated by dividing all quality points achieved by the total number of hours attempted for all courses listed on all official transcripts from all institutions previously attended.

AND

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 9, as follows:

(The first five paragraphs remain unchanged)

~~To participate in a third and/or fourth season in a sport, all students must have and maintain a total cumulative GPA of at least 2.000 on a 4.000 scale. The GPA for students with continuing identification at your institution shall be calculated according to the official institutional policy for all students. The GPA for entering transfer students shall be calculated by dividing all quality points achieved by the total number of hours attempted for all courses listed on all official transcripts from all institutions previously attended.~~

INTENT: To require students to meet grade-point average requirements beginning with the student's second academic year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008
SUBMITTED BY: Florida Sun Conference

Bylaws Amendment # 14

SUBJECT: COMPETITION BETWEEN TERMS

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 13, as follows:

~~A student who has not been identified at an institution during the preceding term does not become eligible at that institution until identification takes place the following term.~~

EXCEPTION: ~~For the fall term only, if athletic contests are scheduled before the opening date of classes, an enrolled student may compete, if otherwise eligible, prior to the first day of class.,~~ provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements.

For all other terms during the regular academic year, a student enrolled in the second (or subsequent) term may compete between terms (beginning on the day following the close of the concluding term), provided the student meets all eligibility requirements for the upcoming term.

INTENT: To permit a student who did not identify with the certifying institution during the preceding term, who enrolls at an institution after the conclusion of the term to compete prior to the start of the institution's second or subsequent term. This permits winter and spring sport students to compete before the start of the term in the same manner that fall sport students are permitted to compete prior to the start of the fall academic term.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008
SUBMITTED BY: Midwest Collegiate Conference

Bylaws Amendment # 15

SUBJECT: FIVE SEASONS OF COMPETITION

Amend Article V, Section C, Item 9 by adding new fifth paragraph.

To participate in the fifth season in a sport, all students must:

- a. have completed their third and fourth seasons of competition in a sport at the same institution where they will participate in the fifth season in that sport. The fifth season must be completed in the academic year immediately following the fourth season of competition;
- b. have completed 96 semester/144 quarter (or equivalent) institutional credit hours, as certified by the registrar;
- c. have certification by the registrar that graduation can be achieved and that those required classes are offered during the academic year of the fifth season of competition. A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation, and who is competing using the requirements outlined in Article V, Section D, Item 5, is considered to have met this requirement;
- d. be enrolled in courses required for graduation, as certified by the registrar. A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation, and who is competing using the requirements outlined in Article V, Section D, Item 5, is not required to be enrolled in the courses required for graduation;
- e. successfully complete a minimum of 12 institutional credit hours (a graduate student may be enrolled in less than 12 hours, but must be enrolled in a full-time class load as defined by the institution) at the end of the first term or second quarter of the fifth season if the student competes in a sport that is competed in more than one academic term.
- f. have and maintain a minimum total cumulative GPA of at least 2.000 on a 4.000 scale as calculated by the registrar according to the official institutional policy used for all students;
- g. be enrolled in 12 institutional credit hours (a graduate student may be enrolled in less than 12 hours, but must be enrolled in a full-time class load as defined by the institution) each term during the term(s) of attendance of the fifth season of competition. The exception to the 12 credit hour rule for students completing graduation requirements as listed in Article V, Section C, item 3 shall apply;
- h. be enrolled in every academic term (excepting inter-terms and summer terms) after the student has completed the fifth semester/eighth quarter of attendance. The student is not permitted to have any non-terms following the fifth semester/eighth quarter.

A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation, and who is competing using the requirements outlined in Article V, Section D, Item 5, is not required to be enrolled in the courses required for graduation.

AND

Revise Article V, Section C, item 9, fifth paragraph, first sentence, as follows:

To participate in a third and/or fourth and/or fifth season in a sport, all students must have and maintain a total cumulative GPA of at least 2.000 on a 4.000 scale.

AND

Revise Article V, Section D, item 1, as follows:

“A student may participate five seasons in one sport in 10 semesters of attendance, or its equivalent. In order to participate in the fifth season in a given sport, the 10 semesters need not be consecutive, except from the sixth to tenth semesters or ninth through fifteenth quarters.”

AND

Revise Article V, Section E, item 1 to read:

A student terminates athletic eligibility at the end of a term upon completing 10 semesters, or 12 trimesters, or 15 quarters in which the student is identified (See [Article V, Section B, item 8](#) of the NAIA Bylaws).

a. ~~**EXCEPTION:** A female student will be granted a two-semester or three-quarter one-time extension of the ten-semester rule due to pregnancy. The request for the extension period of time will be processed as an exceptional ruling to a standard rule.~~

b. ~~**EXCEPTION:** A student will be granted up to a two-semester or three-quarter one-time extension to the ten-semester rule due to a debilitating illness (i.e., cancer, chemical dependency, psychological illness) and treatment. The request for the extended period of time will be processed as an exceptional ruling to a standard rule.~~

AND

Revise Article V, Section E, item 4 as follows:

No student shall be permitted to participate in intercollegiate athletics for more than ~~four (4)~~ five (5) seasons in any sport.

AND

Delete Article V, Section M

~~SECTION M. HARDSHIP REQUESTS~~

~~1. A hardship request is a request for an exception to the season-of-competition regulation. Hardships deal only with seasons of competition.~~

~~2. All hardship requests must meet the following criteria:~~

~~a. They must involve an injury or illness which is beyond the control of the student or coach and which incapacitates the student from competing further during the sport season in question as verified by the attending physician (M.D. or D.O.) who must have examined the student during the sport season in question.~~

~~b. The student involved shall not have participated in more contests or dates, excluding scrimmages, in the affected sport during the sports season than those listed for the sport:~~

Baseball	8 contests
Basketball	5 contests
* Cross Country	2 meets
Football	2 contests
* Golf	2 contests
Soccer	3 contests
Softball	3 dates
* Swimming & Diving	2 meets
Tennis	3 dates
* Track & Field - Indoor	1 meet

* Track & Field — Outdoor — 2 meets
Volleyball — 4 dates
* Wrestling — 3 dates

[* Scrimmages are not allowed in these sports.]

Hardships cannot be requested for students who are incapacitated in the last regular-season contest or postseason competition.

c. All applicable information must appear on the completed certificate. This certificate, along with a transcript from all previous institutions the student has attended, is to be sent to the National Office for processing.

d. Participation by a student after being examined by a physician for the incapacitating injury or illness and before receiving written medical clearance shall nullify hardship considerations.

3. The hardship request must be submitted by the Faculty Athletics Representative or Athletics Director of the institution requesting the exception. Before a request or appeal can be considered, the following material must be submitted:

a. A current transcript of the student involved.

b. A completed official NAIA Hardship Request Certificate.

4. Conference and/or regional recommendations, if any, shall be considered, but only the decision of the National Eligibility Committee shall be recognized by the NAIA in hardship cases.

INTENT: To provide the opportunity of five seasons of athletic participation and the educational experiences such participation offers to those students who have demonstrated academic progress toward a degree; to establish educational guidelines for those eligible to compete in a fifth season; to eliminate the "red-shirting" of students and to eliminate the hardship retrieval of a season of competition.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2009

SUBMITTED BY: NAIA Football Coaches Association

Bylaws Amendment # 16

SUBJECT: AMATEUR STATUS – INDOOR FOOTBALL

Amend Article VII, Section A, Item 2, as follows:

A student who becomes a professional in a particular sport recognized by the NAIA is considered a professional in that sport only (except for the sport-specific exception listed below) and therefore is ineligible for intercollegiate competition in that sport, except as permitted by the governing legislation of the NAIA.

EXCEPTION: A student who becomes a professional in cross country, indoor track and field or outdoor track and field is considered a professional in all three sports.

EXCEPTION: A student who becomes a professional in Indoor or Arena Football is considered a professional in the sport of football.

INTENT: To have a student who participates in professional indoor or arena football be considered a professional in football in the NAIA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: Great Plains Athletic Conference

Bylaws Amendment # 17

SUBJECT: AMATEUR STATUS – INDOOR SOCCER

Amend Article VII, Section A, Item 2, as follows:

A student who becomes a professional in a particular sport recognized by the NAIA is considered a professional in that sport only (except for the sport-specific exception listed below) and therefore is ineligible for intercollegiate competition in that sport, except as permitted by the governing legislation of the NAIA.

EXCEPTION: A student who becomes a professional in cross country, indoor track and field or outdoor track and field is considered a professional in all three sports.

EXCEPTION: A student who becomes a professional in Indoor Soccer is considered a professional in the sport of soccer.

INTENT: To have a student who participates in professional indoor soccer be considered a professional in soccer in the NAIA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: Great Plains Athletic Conference

Bylaws Amendment # 18

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER ASSOCIATION

Amend Article IX, Section C, Item 3, as follows:

~~Association of Affiliated Conferences (NAIA-AAC)~~ Conference Commissioners Association (NAIA-CCA)

This association recommends policies for the continued operation of the national conference affiliation program for men's and women's programs. The association works to strengthen interconference and conference-~~region~~ association relationships. It isolates problems common to NAIA conferences and organizes to study and achieve solutions to these problems. This association shall meet ~~once~~ twice a year in conjunction with the National Convention and NACDA Convention. Each affiliated conference shall have its Commissioner or President eligible to vote on association business. The association shall elect its own ~~President, Vice-President~~ Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.

INTENT: To change the name and organization of this group to accurately reflect its membership and intended function.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: NAIA Association of Affiliated Conferences