

**SOCCER REGULATIONS**  
(Updated July 2008)

## DAKOTA ATHLETIC CONFERENCE SOCCER REGULATIONS

### Section 1. Participation requirement.

- (a) Soccer is an optional sport of the Conference, however all member institutions are encouraged to field a team and participate for the championship.

### Section 2. Conduct of Participants.

- (a) The highest standards of sportsmanship and conduct are expected of players, coaches, and others associated with the game.
- (b) It is the duty of the coach to be in control of his players at all times in order to prevent any unsportsmanlike act towards opponents, officials, or spectators.
- (c) Coaches are expected to comply wholeheartedly with the intent and spirit of the rules.
- (d) Coaches are to refrain from commenting to the media on the quality of the officiating.

### Section 3. Letters of Intent and Recruitment.

- (a) All incoming student athletes receiving aid as defined by the NAIA shall be required to sign the Dakota Athletic Conference Letter of Intent. Student athletes may be released from a Letter of Intent only by the institution's Athletic Director. A copy of the signed Letter of Intent shall be forwarded to the Conference Commissioner within 14 days after signing. September 1 is the first date an athlete may be signed to a letter for the next academic year.
- (b) This policy applies to all sports and to all athletes. All coaches are required to follow this policy.
- (c) A weekly list of Conference signee's will be distributed to all member Institutions.
- (d) Schools are responsible for releasing the names of their signees to the media. Schools are not to use the names or number of signees to other institutions in any publication or release to the media.
- (e) If, during the school year or summer vacation period, the Athletic Director, or Coach of a member institution is contacted or becomes aware of contact by an athlete who is enrolled or signed a letter of intent at another institution, it shall become the responsibility of the contacted (Athletic Director) to notify in writing the institution where the athlete is enrolled or signed within 10 days following the first contact.
- (f) A coach or another representative of a member institution may respond to a contact by an athlete only after the enrolled athlete's institution (Athletic Director) has been notified.
- (g) A coach or another representative of a member institution shall not initiate contact with an athlete who has enrolled or signed a letter of Intent at another institution.
- (h) Violation of any part of the recruitment policy shall cause an immediate investigation by the National Conduct and Ethics Committee for appropriate action.

### Section 4. Disciplinary Authority of the Commissioner.

- (a) The Commissioner shall have the authority to take disciplinary action, short of expulsion, against Conference members for violation of Conference or NAIA rules. Any appeal of a decision by the Commissioner shall be made to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

### Section 5. Sports Committees.

- (a) There shall be a committee for each sport which the Conference sponsors. The members of the committee shall be all

the head coaches in each sport. For each such committee, the members shall elect a Chair, Vice Chair and a Secretary. Each officer shall be limited to two years in one position. After two years the Chair Elect Vice Chair will move up to the Chair position and the Secretary will move up to the Vice Chair and the Committee shall select a new Secretary. Effective fall of 2005. The Chairperson has the authority to call meetings providing two weeks notice is given. Notice of the meeting shall be given to the Athletic Director in charge of the sports portfolio and the Commissioner. Each Athletic Director will be assigned a sports portfolio and will serve as the liaison between the sports committee and the Athletic Director's Council. The Chair or his designee may appear before the Athletic Director's Council to present the views of the committee on matters related to their sport and to make recommendations for change. The Secretary is charged with the responsibility of preparing and distributing the minutes of all meetings. Copies are to be sent to all committee members, the Athletic Director in charge of that portfolio and the Commissioner.

Section 6. Schedule.

- (a) The maximum number of games an institution may schedule is eighteen (18).
- (b) Two scrimmages may be held.
- (c) Institutions must play a minimum of 10 contests against upper level, degree-granting institutions in the U.S. or Canada to be eligible for NAIA Postseason competition.
- (d) Matches against junior colleges do not count on the official record or statistics.

Section 7. Post-Season Competition.

- (a) Playoff procedures are to follow NAIA and region guidelines.

Section 8. Practice.

- (a) Practice is defined in the NAIA Bylaws in Article I, Section E6 as an activity organized and/or directed by an identified member of the coaching staff of that sport in which appropriate equipment is used or instruction and/or evaluation of the athlete takes place.
- (b) The starting IN-SEASON PRACTICE date for all fall sports will be the date established by the Council of Athletic Directors. The starting IN-SEASON PRACTICE date for all winter sports is October 1. The starting IN-SEASON PRACTICE date for all spring sports is February 1.
- (c) IN-SEASON PRACTICE and competition for all sports shall end on the last date of the NAIA competition for each sport.
- (d) Baseball and Softball will be allowed 25 out-of-season practices days. All other sports will be allowed 10 OUT-OF-SEASON PRACTICE DAYS. The term in which each sport may conduct out of season practices follows: (no scrimmage or games will be allowed)

<p><u>FALL</u> Baseball Softball Tennis Track &amp; Field (Indoor &amp; Outdoor)</p>	<p><u>SPRING</u> Football Volleyball Soccer Golf</p>	<p><u>SPRING OR FALL</u> Basketball Wrestling</p>
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Section 9. Traveling Squad.

- (a) The traveling squad is limited to 21 players.

Section 10. Equipment and Facilities.

- (a) Strongly recommended that fields be the maximum size (120 x 80).
- (b) The official Conference game ball is the Brine Ball.

Section 11. Playing Rules and Officials.

- (a) The rules governing NAIA regular season and postseason play are the NCAA Soccer Rules.
- (b) Only the NISOA certified officials should be used for matches.

Section 12. Awards.

- (a) With the exception of a Most Valuable Player and Most Valuable Senior for Soccer, individual and team awards shall be given only when at least one-half or more of the Conference institutions participate in a sport.
- (b) The Conference coaches shall select the following individual awards at the end of the season. Each selection will receive a DAC Recognitions plaques.
  - 1. Most Valuable Senior
  - 2. Most Valuable Athlete
  - 3. Coach of the Year
- (c) All-Conference team shall be selected by the Conference coaches at the end of Conference competition. The number selected is to be consistent with the number allowed by the NAIA. Each athlete selected will be awarded a DAC recognition certificate.
- (d) A "Player of the Week" shall be selected each week of competition. The Conference coaches are to submit nominations for this honor at the time the weekly statistics are reported. Each athlete honored will be awarded a DAC certificate and will be recognized through a press release to the media.
- (e) Athletes with high academic achievement are honored at the end of each term as DAC ACADEMIC HONOR SCHOLARS. Individual certificates are awarded to each athlete that qualifies. (See Appendix G in the DAC manual for the qualification policy for this award.)
- (f) Selection Policy on DAC Most Valuable Graduating Senior Award and Most Valuable Player
  - 1. The athletes should have contributed greatly to the success of his or her own team and served as a role model for other squad members.
  - 2. The Sports Chair of each sport is responsible for conducting the selection process.
  - 3. Only one athlete is to be selected for each award.
  - 4. Each school should be given the opportunity to nominate an athlete for each award. The most valuable graduating senior athlete must be in his or her final year of eligibility. The most valuable player does not have to be a senior.
  - 5. All Coaches should be given the opportunity to vote by ranking all those nominated in order of preference. The points for each athlete nominated will then be calculated by using the following method:
 

#1 rank	10 points
#2 rank	9 points
#3 rank	8 points
#4 rank	7 points
#5 rank	6 points
#6 rank	5 points
#7 rank	4 points
#8 rank	3 points
#9 rank	2 points
#10 rank	1 point

Total the points from all ballots to determine the Most Valuable Graduating Senior and the Most Valuable Player.

Section 13. Conveying Information to Non-Conference Opponents.

- (a) Staff of member institutions shall not provide or exchange information in any form with representatives of non-

conference opponents if such information could be used for scouting purposes or in some other way to the disadvantage of any member institution's athletic teams.

Section 14. Pregame Information.

- (a) It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director or designee of the director at the host institution to provide information to the coach of the visiting team regarding access to the facilities, dressing room accommodations, starting time, officials assigned, and any special arrangements such as pregame or half-time ceremonies or other information important to the planning of the visiting team. This information shall be made available on arrival of the visiting team.

Section 15. Trainer and Training Room Services.

- (a) Each institution shall provide its own athletic trainer services, and the training room facilities of host institutions shall be made available to visiting teams for all contests.

Section 16. Conference Publicity and Statistics.

- (a) The Conference shall maintain a Conference Sports Information Director and all releases regarding official business of the Conference shall be released at the direction of the Commissioner. For each Intra Conference contest, host institutions shall have the responsibility to file statistical reports; for each contest with non-conference opponents, the member institution shall file the reports. All reports shall be filed immediately following each contest.

Section 17. DAC Policy on Delaying, Postponing and Rescheduling Contests.

- (a) Delay or Termination of Conference Events. The Dakota Athletic Conference recognizes four legitimate cause for delay or termination of a contest:
1. Obstruction of any type that cannot be removed from the playing facility.
  2. Failure of electrical power or other services necessary to continue a contest.
  3. Weather conditions that make it impossible to play or continue to play.
  4. Misconduct, by any persons, that jeopardizes the safety of persons playing or spectating. If the apparent cause is 1, 2 or 3 above, the referee or chief official shall determine when a contest is to be delayed, terminated, or resumed. For cause 4, the Athletic Director of the host institution, or the director's appointed representative, shall determine whether the contest is to be delayed, terminated, or resumed. Whenever a contest is delayed or terminated, a written report to the Commissioner explaining the circumstances shall be filed by the host Athletic Director immediately after the event. Rescheduling, if appropriate, shall be accomplished as soon as possible by the Athletic Director's of the involved institutions and the Commissioner
- (b) Weather Postponements. The Athletic Director of the traveling institution is to determine if weather and/or road conditions require a postponement of a scheduled contest. Rescheduling, if appropriate, shall be accomplished as soon as possible by the Athletic Directors of the involved institutions and the Commissioner.

Section 18. Alcohol and Tobacco Products.

The use of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco products is not permitted by participants, coaches, cheerleaders, trainers, game administrators, or officials in the playing areas during DAC or NAIA competition and practices for such competition. The coaching staff and the Athletic Director shall enforce this policy during practice sessions. The game administrator and/or the Umpire shall enforce this policy during competition. Enforcement of this policy shall follow the following steps: On the first offense, the individual(s) and team shall receive an official warning. A second offense will cause expulsion from practice or game.