

RULES

SECTION 5 ORGANIZATION

5.1 Organization. Each Member Institution shall be represented in the Conference by a Chief Executive Officer (who shall be the President or Chancellor of each Member Institution and who shall serve as such Member Institution’s representative on the Board of Directors), a Faculty Athletics Representative, an Athletics Director, and a Senior Woman Administrator. The Conference shall be governed and administered by the Board of Directors (also the “Board” or the “Board of Directors”), and the following Advisory Committees, as authorized in the Bylaws of the Conference: a Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives (the “FAR Council”), a Board of Athletics Directors (also the “AD Board”) and a Board of Senior Woman Administrators (also the “SWA Board”) (each of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, the Board of Athletics Directors and the Board of Senior Woman Administrators may be referred to herein collectively as “Advisory Committees” and each individually as an “Advisory Committee”). In addition, as authorized in the Bylaws, the Conference shall have such Standing Committees as are specified in Section 5.4 herein.

5.1.1 Board of Directors. The Chief Executive Officer of each Member Institution (President or Chancellor) who is ultimately responsible for intercollegiate athletics shall serve on the Board of Directors. As the governing board of the Conference, the Board has authority over all functions and activities of the Conference not otherwise specifically limited by a Conference Rule. The powers and responsibilities of the Board of Directors are set forth in the Bylaws.

5.1.2 Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives.

- (a) The Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall consist of a representative of each Member Institution appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of such Member Institution and shall be a person of professional rank who does not receive pay primarily for services rendered in connection with intercollegiate athletics (each a “Faculty Athletics Representative”). It is the responsibility of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives to act on recommendations from the Board of Athletics Directors and Board of Senior Woman Administrators, to recommend rule and policy changes or adaptations, act on all eligibility matters, recommend a Conference budget, review recommendations from the Conference office, refer items for the attention of the Board of Athletics Directors and the Board of Senior Woman Administrators, act on recommendations from Standing Committees which are referred to it, and evaluate accomplishment of the Conference’s purposes.
- (b) Except for eligibility matters of individual student-athletes, actions of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall be forwarded to the Board of Directors for affirmation or approval. At the request of any three (3) members of the Board of Directors, any such forwarded action of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives will be placed on the agenda for an Annual, Regular or Special Meeting of the Board of Directors and the Board of Directors will determine its final disposition. Except for those matters specified in Section 1.5.2, if three (3) members of the Board of Directors do not request such action to be placed on the agenda of the Board of Directors within a period of thirty (30) days after notification of the Board of Directors, the action of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives will be considered to be affirmed. Actions of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives requiring time-sensitive resolution can be so designated by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and shall be referred to the Board for expedited action.

5.1.3 Board of Athletics Directors. The Board of Athletics Directors shall consist of representatives of each Member Institution appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of such institution who shall be a Director of Athletics at that Member Institution (each an “Athletics Director”). The Athletics Director shall be a full-time employee of the Member Institution. The Board of Athletics Directors shall:

- (a) Constitute the body of the Conference responsible for carrying out Conference operations and implement policies and procedures related to competition, including scheduling, television and bowl negotiations, championship and tournament site selection and procedures, and officiating; and
- (b) Be responsible for oversight of all authorized enterprises and activities of the Conference.

Actions of the Board of Athletics Directors shall be forwarded to the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives for further action. If approved by the FAR Council, the effectiveness of any action shall be determined in accordance with Section 5.1.2-(b).

5.1.4 Board of Senior Woman Administrators. The Board of Senior Woman Administrators shall consist of the highest ranking female intercollegiate athletics administrator (or the next highest ranking female athletics administrator provided the Athletics Director is female) of each Member Institution as appointed by the institution. The Senior Woman Administrator shall be a full-time female employee of the Member Institution. Actions of the Board of Senior Woman Administrators shall be forwarded to the Board of Athletics Directors. The SWA Board shall:

- (a) Constitute the body of the Conference responsible for providing initial review of sport committee recommendations, policies and procedures related to all competition other than football and men’s basketball; and
- (b) Assist in the operation of the Conference by providing advice and advocacy involving any Conference issue and more specifically by providing leadership through proposing Conference actions and policies for the enhancement of gender equity and diversity.

5.1.5 Noncontroversial Recommendations. An advisory group or standing committee whose charge is to take initial action on sport committee recommendations may use its discretion to designate a sport recommendation as noncontroversial, provided the recommendation has no budget impact, no adverse academic impact and does not significantly alter current policies and procedures. Such recommendations will be forwarded to all governance groups. Upon receipt of the report and for “check and balance” purposes, the governance groups will have 10 business days to request further review of any sport recommendation based on any concern that the matter could be considered controversial in nature. At the conclusion of the 10 business days, recommendations that do not receive a request for further review shall be considered affirmed. Designation of a recommendation as non-controversial requires a unanimous vote of the advisory group/standing committee. For purposes of this policy, a business day is any weekday that is not recognized as a national holiday, including any weekday which an institution is closed for other reasons (e.g., holiday break).

5.2 Chair and Vice Chair of Each Advisory Committee. Beginning July 1 of each year, the Faculty Athletics Representative, Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator from each Member Institution shall serve as Chair of each of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, Board of Senior Woman Administrators and the Board of Athletics Directors for one year in the following order. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair may exercise all of the powers of the Chair. The Vice-Chair shall be designated from the Member Institution that will serve as Chair for the ensuing year.

2013-2014	Kansas State University
2014-2015	Oklahoma State University
2015-2016	University of Kansas
2016-2017	Texas Tech University
2017-2018	Texas Christian University
2018-2019	West Virginia University
2019-2020	Baylor University
2020-2021	University of Oklahoma
2021-2022	Iowa State University
2022-2023	University of Texas at Austin

5.3 Procedures for Meetings of Advisory Committees.

- 5.3.1 Agenda Items.** In advance of each regularly scheduled Advisory Committee meeting, proposed agenda items shall be solicited from the committee's membership by the Conference staff. In consultation with the Commissioner, the chair of each Advisory Committee shall have the responsibility for preparing and distributing the agenda ten (10) days before the meeting and may place additional items on the agenda to be distributed. With the consent of seven of the members of an Advisory Committee, items requiring action may be added to the agenda established for a meeting of each of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, the Board of Athletics Directors or the Board of Senior Women Administrators, as the case may be. A discussion item may be added to the agenda of an Advisory Committee meeting at the discretion of the Chair. A discussion item added by the Chair may become an action item with the consent of the seven members of the committee.
- 5.3.2 Substitutions.** Substitute representatives shall not be permitted for Faculty Athletics Representatives, Athletics Directors or Senior Woman Administrators at regularly scheduled meetings of each such Advisory Committee, except when the Chief Executive Officer of a Member Institution requests such representation.
- 5.3.3 Annual Meetings.** At least one (1) Annual Meeting of each of the Advisory Committees shall be held. At the Annual Meeting, each Advisory Committee shall recognize the next Chair who shall serve a one-year term according to the rotation plan established by Section 5.2.
- 5.3.4 Regular Meetings.** Regular meetings of each of the Advisory Committees shall be held at such times as each such committee may determine; provided, however, in addition to the Annual Meeting of each of the Advisory Committees, there shall be at least three regular meetings of each such Advisory Committee.
- 5.3.5 Special Meetings.** Special Meetings of each of the Advisory Committees may be called by or at the request of a majority of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, the Chair of each such Advisory Committee, or five of the members of such Advisory Committee upon written or printed notice served personally on each member of the Advisory Committee or by mail, electronic mail or facsimile to his or her address.

- 5.3.6 Executive Meetings.** Executive Meetings consist of the Board of Directors, together with the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, Board of Athletics Directors, and Board of Senior Woman Administrators and shall be held upon the call of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. The Chair of the Board of Directors or his or her designee presides at such Executive Meetings. The agenda for such meetings can include any item relative to Conference operation, rules, or policies. At least one Executive Meeting shall be held each year.
- 5.3.7 Joint Meetings.** Joint Meetings consist of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, Board of Athletics Directors, and Board of Senior Woman Administrators, and shall be held upon the call of the Chair of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives. Each Member Institution will have one vote at such Joint Meeting, which vote will be placed by the Faculty Athletics Representative. The agenda for such meetings shall be prepared by the Chair of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives and can include any item relative to Conference operation, rules, or policies. Joint Meetings may be held at the time of each annual or regular meeting of the FAR Council, AD Board and SWA Board. Normally, at least two Joint meetings shall be held each year.
- 5.3.8 Enactment of Rules.** New Rules shall not be applied retroactively, except a currently enrolled student-athlete shall receive the benefit of any new Rule that works to the student-athlete's advantage.
- 5.3.9 Notice.** Notice of any meeting of an Advisory Committee shall be given at least ten (10) days previously thereto by written notice delivered personally, by facsimile, mail, overnight mail, or electronic mail to each member at his or her business address. If mailed or overnight mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, with postage thereon prepaid. If notice is given by electronic mail or facsimile, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered upon receipt. Except as otherwise provided in Section 5.3.1 herein, the business to be transacted at and the purpose of any meeting of each Advisory Committee must be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting.
- 5.3.10 Place of Meeting.** Meetings of each Advisory Committee shall be held at such place as provided in the resolution, notice, waiver of notice or call of such meeting, or if not otherwise designated, at the Principal Office of the Conference.
- 5.3.11 Conduct of Meeting.** Subject to the last sentence of this paragraph, the Chair of each Advisory Committee shall have the right and authority to prescribe such rules, regulations and procedures and to do all such acts and things as are necessary or desirable for the proper conduct of the meeting. At any time at the beginning of or during a meeting, however, a member may demand on the record of such meeting that Robert's Rules of Order be followed with respect to any subsequent action at such meeting with respect to a specific issue specified in such demand.
- 5.3.12 Quorum.** Seven or more members of each Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the vote of six or more members of such Advisory Committee shall be required for the approval of any matter before such Advisory Committee. If less than seven members are present at a meeting, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting without further notice. If a duly-called meeting begins with a quorum and subsequently enough members leave so that the meeting lacks a quorum, the consideration of business may continue subject to the requirement that matters for consideration still must be approved by six or more members. Except as otherwise requested by a member, the vote of

individual members of each Advisory Committee on any matter shall not be recorded in the minutes for such meeting. The individual votes of members of each Advisory Committee shall not be divulged by the Conference or by any other member of such Advisory Committee in press announcements, except as consented to in advance by such member.

5.3.13 Actions Without a Meeting. Any action that is required to be or may be taken at an Advisory Committee meeting may be taken without a meeting if consents in writing, setting forth the action so taken, are executed by all of the members of such Advisory Committee. Such consents shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote at a meeting duly held. Such consents shall be filed with the minutes of such Advisory Committee.

5.3.14 Participation. Members of an Advisory Committee may participate in a meeting by means of teleconference or similar communication equipment as long as all persons participating in the meeting can hear each person; participation in a meeting in this manner shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

5.4 Standing Committees.

5.4.1 Procedures for Meetings. Unless otherwise provided, appointments to Standing Committees will be made by the Administrative Committee. Each Standing Committee shall meet on an “as needed” basis. Meetings of the Standing Committees may be called by the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, the Commissioner, or by the Chair or a majority of the members of such Standing Committee. Unless waived in writing by each member, notice of any meeting of a Standing Committee shall be given at least ten (10) days previously thereto by written notice delivered personally, by facsimile, mail, electronic mail, or overnight mail to each member of such Standing Committee at his or her business address. Meetings of each Standing Committee shall be held at such place as shall be provided for in the notice of such meeting. Members of a Standing Committee may participate in a meeting by means of a teleconference or other similar communication equipment as long as all persons participating in the meeting can hear each person. Recommendations shall be forwarded in a manner consistent with Exhibit I (Governance Structure).

5.4.2 Administrative Committee. The Administrative Committee shall be responsible for (1) the process for determining membership and chairship of Standing Committees on the basis of interest and experience; (2) coordinating the Conference’s nominating process for NCAA Committees; and (3) assisting the Conference staff in planning the Conference’s meetings and services. The membership of the Committee shall be comprised of the then current chair of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, the immediate outgoing chair of the Board of Athletics Directors, and the incoming chair of the Board of Senior Woman Administrators, each serving one-year terms. The composition will also include two additional members from each Advisory Committee and the two additional FARs shall be the immediate outgoing chair and the incoming chair. At least six of the institutions must be represented.

5.4.3 Audit Committee. The Audit Committee’s primary purposes are to: (1) assist Board oversight of the integrity of the Conference’s financial statements and systems of internal controls regarding finance, accounting, and legal compliance; and (2) exercise its direct responsibility for the appointment, compensation, oversight and retention of the Conference’s independent auditors in performing audit services for the Conference and assist Board oversight of such auditor’s qualifications, independence and performance. This Committee shall be comprised of the immediate past Chair of the Board, the current Vice-Chair of the Board, and the Treasurer of the Board, with

the Big 12 Chief Financial Officer serving as staff liaison to the Committee. The Treasurer shall serve as the Chair of the Audit Committee. The Chief Financial Officer of the University from which the Chair represents shall be considered an ex-officio member of the Committee.

5.4.4 Interpretations Committee.

- (a) **Scope of Authority:** The Interpretations Committee has authority to:
- i) Interpret a conference rule on an appeal from a member institution pursuant to C.R. 7.1.
 - ii) Interpret a conference rule on a referral by the Commissioner. The Commissioner has the discretion to refer a request for an interpretation either to the Council of FARs or to the Interpretations Committee.
 - iii) Grant a waiver pursuant to C.R. 7.6 when the Council of FARs on a temporary basis specifically has delegated such authority to the Interpretations Committee.
 - iv) Render a decision on appeal from a member institution of a positive drug test finding in accordance with the Conference's drug testing protocol. Any such decision is final and unappealable.
- (b) **Composition.** The Interpretations Committee shall consist of the current and next chair of the Council of FARs (according to the rotation set forth in Section 5.2) and the Commissioner. In the event a matter involves the Member Institution of one of the FARs on the Interpretations Committee, that FAR shall be replaced by the immediate past chair of the Council of FARs or the successor FAR from that institution. In the event a matter involves both FARs on the committee, the second replacement FAR shall be from the member institution next in the rotation to chair the Council of FAR.
- (c) **Appeal to Council of FARs.** Appeal to Council of FARs. An interpretation of the Interpretations Committee pursuant to (a) (i) or (a)(ii) above is final as to the particular case for which the interpretation was rendered subject only to an appeal to the Council of FARs by the FAR of the involved member institution. The Council of FARs may approve, disapprove or modify an interpretation; the decision of the Council of FARs is final.
- (d) **Review by Council of FARs of Unappealed Interpretation pursuant to (a)(i) or (a)(ii) above.** An unappealed interpretation rendered by the Commissioner or the Interpretations Committee is final as to the particular case for which the interpretation was rendered. Any such unappealed interpretation otherwise shall be in effect only until the first in-person meeting of the Council of FARs held after the interpretation is rendered. At that meeting, the Council of FARs may approve, disapprove, or modify the interpretation. In the event it disapproves or modifies the waiver decision, the Council of FARs will issue an interpretation, prospective in effect, that corrects the decision of the Interpretations Committee. The Council of FARs also may embody its decision in a Conference rule.
- (e) **Waiver.** A waiver decision made by the Interpretations Committee pursuant to a temporary delegation from the Council of FARs is

final as to the particular case for which the interpretation was rendered. Any such waiver decision shall be reported to the Council of FARs for its review at its first in-person meeting held after the interpretation is rendered. The Council of FARs will decide whether to approve, disapprove, or modify the waiver decision. In the event it disapproves or modifies the waiver decision, the Council of FARs will issue an interpretation, prospective in effect, that corrects the decision of the Interpretations Committee. The Council of FARs also may embody its decision in a Conference rule.

- (f) **Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall have authority to review policy decisions of the Interpretations Committee or the Council of FARs sitting as an interpretative body, but shall not have authority to vote on matters involving individual student-athletes, including their eligibility.
- 5.4.5 Finance and Budget Committee.** The Finance and Budget Committee shall be responsible for advising the Conference on the development of the general Conference budget, including specific budgets for championships, tournaments, and other events. Its membership shall be comprised of two Faculty Athletics Representatives, the Commissioner, one Athletics Director and one Senior Woman Administrator.
- 5.4.6 Editorial Committee.** The Editorial Committee shall recommend language to update and revise the Conference rules consistent with Conference and NCAA actions. The committee shall consist of the Commissioner and two Faculty Athletics Representatives, one Director of Athletics and one Senior Woman Administrator.
- 5.4.7 Committee on Championships and Awards.** The Committee on Championships and Awards shall be comprised of three Athletics Directors, three Senior Woman Administrators and one Faculty Athletics Representative. This Committee shall be responsible for policies and procedures relative to championships and awards programs.
- 5.4.8 Television Committee.** The Television Committee shall consist of an Athletics Director from each Member Institution, and two Faculty Athletics Representatives and two Senior Woman Administrators. This Committee shall be responsible for evaluating Conference television contracts, policies, and operations and providing leadership in the development of new contracts and policies. The Faculty Athletics Representatives are to serve staggered four-year terms.
- 5.4.9 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.** The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (the "SAAC") shall deal with matters pertinent to all student-athletes in the Conference and the NCAA. Matters developed by the SAAC in its meeting may be appropriate to present to the Dr. Prentice Gautt Student-Athlete Welfare Committee for consideration and/or action. Its membership shall be comprised of a male and female student-athlete appointed from each Member Institution and the SAAC shall be assigned an Faculty Athletics Representative liaison.
- 5.4.10 Dr. Prentice Gautt Student-Athlete Welfare Committee.** The Dr. Prentice Gautt Student-Athlete Welfare Committee shall act in an advisory capacity for the SAAC and serve as the liaison between the SAAC and the FAR Council. It shall act as an advisory committee for the Directors of Life-Skills Services and the Head Athletics Trainers. It shall oversee the NCAA Student Assistance and Life Skills Enhancement Funds. The Committee shall approve the Dr. Prentice Gautt Postgraduate Scholarship recipients and

address student-athlete welfare issues including, but not limited to, health and safety issues and life-skills and leadership programming to enhance the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunities and protecting student-athlete well-being. Its membership shall be comprised of three Faculty Athletics Representatives, one Athletics Director, one Senior Woman Administrator, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the SAAC.

5.4.11 Drug Testing Appeals Committee. The Drug Testing Appeals Committee shall have oversight of the drug testing program and serve as the appellate body. The committee shall consist of three voting members with staggered term limits, including two faculty athletics representatives appointed by the chair of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives and a Commissioner appointed institutional team physician or director of sports medicine from an institution other than the two faculty athletics representatives. The Commissioner will chair the committee, but will not be a voting member. In the event an appeal involves the member institution of one of the committee members, the chair of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives will appoint a substitute Faculty Athletics Representative or team physician or director of sports medicine from another member institution. All decisions rendered by the committee are considered final.

5.4.12 Academic Committee. The Academic Committee shall address academic matters including, but not limited to, Conference eligibility rules, national academic issues, legislative proposals that have an impact on academics, NCAA Academic Performance Program and Conference academic awards except the Dr. Prentice Gautt Postgraduate Scholarship recipients. The Committee shall provide an annual review of Conference academic performance data to identify Conference trends in the Academic Performance Rate (APR) and Graduation Success Rate (GSR) and provide recommendations as appropriate. The Committee shall act as an advisory committee for the Directors of Student-Athlete Support Services. This Committee shall be comprised of four Faculty Athletics Representatives, two Directors of Student-Athlete Support Services and one athletics administrator.

5.4.13 Academic Performance Research. The Board of Directors may from time to time form a task force to examine issues relating to the academic performance of student-athletes pursuant to research protocols designed by the Academic Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, including the requirement that informed consent be obtained as appropriate. Any research conducted by the Academic Committee will be consistent with the Conference member institutional policies related to the protection of human research participants and data shall be submitted by the member institutions only on a de-identified basis in which the identity of the individual student-athlete cannot be identified from the information submitted. The Academic Committee will treat the institutional identity of any data that is submitted by a given institution as confidential and, except for reports of its own information back to the submitting institution, will be reported only on a consolidated basis in the aggregate for all member institutions without identifying the submitting institution. Reports that include aggregate data and broad summaries may be made available to member institutions for their own internal use only and may not be disclosed or reported by the Academic Committee or the member institutions to third parties outside of the Conference or its member institutions without the prior approval of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

5.4.14 Chairship. Chairs for standing committees shall be elected by the members of each such committee at the first meeting each fiscal year.

5.4.15 Staff Liaison. The Commissioner shall identify a staff member from the Conference office to serve as liaison and staff support to each of the Standing Committees.

5.5 Conference Meeting Expenses.

5.5.1 Expenses of Faculty Athletics Representatives, Athletics Directors and Senior Woman Administrators. The expenses of Faculty Athletics Representatives, Athletics Directors and Senior Woman Administrators (or respective designee) to attend annual, regular and special meetings shall be paid by each Member Institution.

5.5.2 Expenses of Coaches and Administrative Staff Members. The expenses of coaches and administrative staff members to attend annual, regular and special meetings shall be paid by each Member Institution.

5.5.3 Exception. When an individual member of an Advisory Committee, Coach or other institutional staff member is representing the Conference at a specified event or attending a meeting of the Standing Committee, the Conference shall pay the actual and necessary expenses of that individual to represent the Conference at that meeting.

5.6 Coaches' Meetings. Conference-sanctioned annual meetings of the head coaches at each Member Institution may occur at convenient, cost-effective locations. Each Member Institution shall be allowed one voting delegate per each group's meeting. Recommendations shall be forwarded in a manner consistent with Exhibit I (Governance Structure).

5.6.1 Head Coaches Mandatory Attendance Requirements. Head coaches must attend the Annual Conference Coaches Meeting or Teleconference and Conference Media Day. Exceptions to this attendance requirement can only be granted in writing by the Commissioner after the coach's athletics director submits a written request for a waiver. Violations of this rule will result in a \$10,000 institutional fine for a first offense and a \$25,000 institutional fine for a second and each subsequent offense.

5.7 Athletics Directors and Senior Woman Administrators Mandatory Attendance Requirement. Athletics Directors and Senior Woman Administrators must attend the Annual Conference Business Meeting (Spring Meeting). Exceptions to this attendance requirement can only be granted in writing by the Commissioner by requesting a waiver in writing. Violations of this rule will result in a \$10,000 institutional fine for a first offense and a \$25,000 institutional fine for a second offense and each subsequent offense.

5.8 Administrative Staff Meetings. The following administrative groups may hold Conference-sanctioned meetings at convenient, cost-effective locations: business managers, compliance coordinators, directors of student-athlete support services, sports information directors, ticket managers, marketing coordinators, licensing coordinators, athletic development directors, athletics medical personnel and game managers.

5.9 Meetings with Board of Athletics Directors. A representative of each of the coaches and administrative staff groups as provided in these Sections 5.6 and 5.8 shall meet with Board of Athletics Directors when requested.

5.10 Expenses. All expenses of university personnel in attending these meetings provided in these Sections 5.6 and 5.8 shall be paid by each Member Institution; provided, however, when a head coach represents Conference coaches in their sport at a meeting of the Board of Athletics Directors at a site that requires travel, the Conference shall pay the expenses of such coach.

5.11 Chairship. Chairs for each standing committee shall be elected by the members of each such group at its final meeting each fiscal year. The chair of each sport committee shall be the head coach from the institution which chairs the Conference for the year. For those sports which do not have full membership, an alternate rotation shall be established.

- 5.12 **Agenda Items.** The chair of each group specified in these Sections 5.6 and 5.8 shall solicit agenda items from the members of his/her group from the other Member Institutions. Agenda items can also come from one of the Advisory Committees, Board of Directors or from the Commissioner. The Commissioner is responsible for distributing the agenda prior to each meeting.

SECTION 6 **ELIGIBILITY**

- 6.1 **Eligibility Rules.** A student-athlete must comply with appropriate minimum requirements of the NCAA and the Conference in order to be eligible for athletically-related aid, for practice, and/or for competition in any intercollegiate sport.
- 6.1.1 **Exception.** The Conference rules in Section 6 do not apply to a sport if the Conference neither sponsors a championship nor schedules competition.
- 6.1.1.1 **Letter of Intent.** The Conference shall be a participant in the National Letter of Intent Program, and the Member Institutions shall conform to the program's operating procedures.
- 6.2 **Qualifiers and Nonqualifiers.** A student-athlete who initially enrolls at a Conference Member Institution must meet NCAA initial eligibility requirements for qualifiers, prior to their initial enrollment, either full-time or part-time, at any collegiate institution or receive a fully-approved NCAA Initial-Eligibility Waiver to be eligible for financial aid and competition. These rules apply to all student-athletes initially enrolling at Conference Member Institutions, regardless of whether athletic or institutional financial aid is awarded.

The following conference rule is applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full-time in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2016.

- 6.2 **Qualifiers and Nonqualifiers.** A student-athlete who initially enrolls at a Conference Member Institution must meet NCAA initial eligibility requirements for qualifiers (NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.1) or academic redshirts (NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.2), prior to their initial enrollment, either full-time or part-time, at any collegiate institution or receive a fully-approved NCAA Initial-Eligibility Waiver to be eligible for financial aid and competition. These rules apply to all student-athletes initially enrolling at Conference Member Institutions, regardless of whether athletic or institutional financial aid is awarded.
- 6.2.1 **Summer Term Prior to Initial Full-Time Enrollment Exception.** Summer enrollment prior to initial full-time enrollment does not constitute enrollment for the purposes of C.R. 6.2.
- 6.2.2 **Partially-Approved NCAA Initial-Eligibility Waiver Exception.** A nonqualifier student-athlete who has received a partially-approved NCAA Initial-Eligibility Waiver is eligible for financial aid, practice and competition to the extent authorized by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility waiver decision and pursuant to NCAA Bylaws.
- 6.2.3 **Transfer Student-Athletes - Nonqualifiers.**
- 6.2.3.1 **Four-Year College Transfers.** A nonqualifier who transfers from a four-year college (regardless of prior enrollment at any other collegiate Institution) to a Conference Member Institution, shall not be eligible for financial aid or competition unless the following requirements have been met prior to enrollment at the Conference Member Institution:
- (a) Transferred from such four-year college after attendance

there for at least three semesters (excluding summer terms) as a full-time student and there satisfactorily completed at least 36 semester hours of transferable degree credit with a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.0; and

- (b) Completed satisfactorily at any collegiate institution at least 48 semester hours of transferable degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree at the certifying institution with a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.0.

6.2.3.1.1. 2-4-4 Transfers. A nonqualifier who transfers from a two-year college to a non- Conference four-year institution and then to a Conference Member Institution shall not be eligible for financial aid or competition unless the student-athlete:

- (a) Met the requirements of C.R. 6.2.3.3 prior to enrollment at the non-Conference four-year institution; or
- (b) Met the requirements of C.R. 6.2.3.1 prior to enrollment at the Conference Member Institution.

6.2.3.2 International Transfers. An international transfer student-athlete shall be immediately eligible for financial aid, practice and competition, provided the student-athlete meets all NCAA four-year college transfer requirements. The student must demonstrate foreign residency and attendance at the foreign institution.

6.2.3.3 Two-Year College Transfers. A nonqualifier who transfers from a two-year college (regardless of prior enrollment at any other collegiate institution) to a Conference Member Institution, shall not be eligible for financial aid or competition unless all NCAA transfer requirements have been met prior to enrollment at the Conference Member Institution. A 4-2-4 college transfer student must also have completed satisfactorily at any collegiate institution at least 48 semester hours of transferable degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree at the certifying institution.

The following conference rule is applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full-time in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2012.

6.2.3.3 Two-Year College Transfers. A nonqualifier who transfers from a two-year college (regardless of prior enrollment at any other collegiate institution) to a Conference Member Institution, shall not be eligible for financial aid or competition unless they have met the NCAA transfer requirements per NCAA Bylaw 14.5.4.2.1 or 14.5.4.2.2 prior to enrollment at the Conference Member Institution. A 4-2-4 college transfer student must also have completed satisfactorily at any collegiate institution at least 48 semester hours of transferable degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree at the certifying institution.

6.3 Intraconference Transfers. The eligibility of a student-athlete who transfers directly or indirectly from one Conference Member Institution to another shall be determined by NCAA regulations and the following Conference requirements. In the event NCAA

regulations require the student-athlete to complete one full academic year in residence before being eligible to compete in a sport, the student-athlete shall also forfeit one season of competition in that sport. The waiver of a NCAA transfer regulation for a student-athlete does not negate the need for a waiver of this section.

6.3.1 4-2-4 Transfers. A 4-2-4 transfer student-athlete who is in compliance with NCAA Bylaw 14.5.6 must complete one full academic year in residence before being eligible to compete in a sport and forfeit one season of competition unless, in sports other than football or basketball, the director of athletics of the Conference Member Institution of initial enrollment consents in writing to the student-athlete's enrollment at the second Conference Member Institution. Any consent given relating to the indirect intraconference transfer may be unconditional or conditioned on the student-athlete completing one full academic year in residence at the second conference Member Institution before competing.

6.3.1.1 Hearing Opportunity. If under C.R. 6.3.1, the director of athletics denies consent for a 4-2-4 transfer, the institution shall inform the student-athlete in writing that a hearing shall be provided upon request. If a hearing is requested, the hearing procedures established by the institution in conformity with NCAA legislation relating to the one-time transfer exception shall be applicable.

6.3.2 Certification Form. Prior to a student-athlete's transfer, the head coach, student-athlete and director of compliance shall sign the Conference C.R. 6.3.2 intraconference transfer form. The form shall remain on file at such institution.

6.4 Hardship Waivers. Member Institutions shall submit to the Commissioner or designee for approval all petitions for hardship waivers prior to July 15 following the academic year in which the injury or illness occurred (with the exception of the two-year transfer petitions). Waivers received after July 15 may be acted upon by the Conference staff; however a report of belated hardship waivers will be provided to the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives at its next regular meeting. In its belated waiver request, the Member Institution's Faculty Athletics Representative shall disclose the reason(s) for a belated petition.

6.5 Certification.

6.5.1 Certification of Eligibility. The eligibility of each student-athlete is to be certified by a designated institutional officer outside the athletics department, according to a process approved by the Faculty Athletics Representative. Certification of eligibility must occur prior to allowing a student-athlete to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition.

6.5.2 Eligibility Reports. The record of the certification by the Certification Officer shall be filed with the Conference office prior to the first competition on a prescribed form which shall include the signature of the head coach of the sport, the Athletics Director or his/her designee, the Certification Officer and the Faculty Athletics Representative.

6.5.3 Financial Aid Reports. Each institution shall comply with all financial aid legislation of the NCAA and the Conference. A copy of the Squad List for each sport shall be submitted to the Conference office prior to the first competition for each sport and at the conclusion of the academic year.

6.5.4 Participation Reports. Participation reports shall be filed with the institution's Director of Compliance by July 15 for each sport sponsored by the institution. The reports do not have to be filed with the Conference office.

6.5.5 Accuracy of Certifications. The sole responsibility for the accuracy of the reports and the eligibility of the student-athletes rests with each Member Institution.

6.6 Recruiting Code of Ethics. One of the most visible areas in intercollegiate athletics is in the recruitment of student-athletes by Member Institutions. Staff members of the athletic departments have the primary responsibility for wholesome conditions and honorable conduct of all individuals participating in the recruitment of student-athletes. Such staff members shall use their best efforts to ensure that the conduct of all individuals engaged in any form of recruitment for their Member Institution conforms to these standards:

- (a) All individuals engaged in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes shall be knowledgeable of and conform to all NCAA and Conference Rules governing recruiting;
- (b) Respect for the free choice of the prospective student-athlete and the student's family are to be acknowledged consistently;
- (c) The National Letter of Intent, including the obligation undertaken by the signing of the prospective student-athlete, shall be fully explained to the prospective student-athlete and his or her family, with their attention called to each of the numbered items on each page of the document; and
- (d) All discussions of financial aid with the prospect and/or family will be precise as to the qualifying conditions, terms, and duration of the aid.

SECTION 7 **INTERPRETATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT OF RULES**

7.1 Interpretations of Rules. A request for an interpretation of a Conference Rule may be made orally or in writing by a member of the Board of Directors, Faculty Athletics Representative, Athletics Director, Senior Woman Administrator or Director of Compliance. The Commissioner shall have authority to interpret any Conference Rule and make any related rulings or, the Commissioner may refer the matter to the Interpretations Committee or FAR Council for action. Furthermore, if an institution receives an unfavorable ruling or interpretation from the Commissioner, its Faculty Athletics Representative may appeal to the Interpretations Committee. If not appealed, the Conference staff will provide a written response and circulate the interpretation to the Conference membership.

7.2 Self Reporting NCAA Violations

7.2.1 Level III and IV Violations. Level III and IV violations of NCAA legislation shall be self-reported by each Member Institution in accordance with current NCAA legislation, any applicable Conference rule, directive or interpretation. Each report shall be signed by the institution's Faculty Athletics Representative. Level III violations shall be filed with the NCAA, and Level IV violations shall be filed with the Conference.

7.2.2 Potential Major Violations. On matters involving major violations or alleged major violations of NCAA rules, the involved Member Institution may conduct its own investigation and file a self-report acting in concert with the NCAA enforcement staff. In addition, the involved Member Institution may proceed with the assistance of the Conference staff. In any event, the Faculty Athletics Representative of the involved Member Institution shall keep the Conference apprised of significant developments.

7.3 Reporting Alleged Violations by Another Member Institution.

7.3.1 Reporting. Information regarding alleged violations of NCAA and Conference Rules committed by another Member Institution shall be reported to the Commissioner (or his designee) through each Member Institution's Faculty Athletics Representative or Director of Compliance. The report shall be specific and include any available documentation.

7.3.2 Commissioner Review. The Commissioner (or his designated representative) will review the information and may, in cooperation with the involved Member Institution, determine the merit of the alleged violation. In the event the Commissioner deems it in the best interests of the Conference, the Commissioner may refer the matter involving possible violations of NCAA rules to the NCAA enforcement staff or direct the Member Institution to investigate and self-report pursuant to Section 7.2.2.

7.4 Ineligible Participation. The Commissioner is granted the authority to impose sanctions when a student-athlete participates in a Conference contest or championship while ineligible as a result of: (a) an egregious violation of a Conference Rule or (b) a violation of an NCAA rule involving institutional culpability that is not subject to the jurisdiction of the NCAA Committee on Infractions. Results achieved by the ineligible student-athlete or the institution due to the ineligible participation may be vacated and any individual or team awards or trophies may be ordered returned to the Conference office. Additional penalties appropriate to the circumstances may also be assessed. If a Conference rule has been violated and an institution seeks a waiver pursuant to C.R. 7.6 to resolve eligibility issues of an involved student-athlete, action taken by the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives on such a waiver request shall not affect the authority of the Commissioner to impose sanctions.

7.5 NCAA Sanctions. If penalties imposed by the NCAA (or the Conference or the Member Institution, itself) prohibit postseason competition in a particular sport, the Member Institution thus penalized shall not be eligible to participate in postseason conference championship events in that sport or serve as the automatic qualifier.

7.5.1 In the event a Member Institution is fined by the NCAA or is required to return funds to the NCAA as a result of sanctions against it or due to the ineligible participation of a student-athlete, that Member Institution shall be solely responsible for the payment of those funds.

7.6 Waivers/Exceptions. The Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall have full power to grant waivers of and exceptions to Conference rules for compelling extenuating circumstances. As to Conference eligibility matters, the FAR Council may delegate the authority to grant waivers on a temporary basis to the Interpretations Committee.

7.7 Special Cases. The Faculty Athletics Representatives shall have full power to act on all special cases not covered in these Rules.

SECTION 8 DRUG TESTING

8.1 Purpose. The Conference is concerned about the use of Big 12 and NCAA banned substances among Big 12 athletes. While the use of substances on the Big 12 and NCAA Banned Drug Classes List may result in severe sanctions to both the student-athlete and the Member Institution at which the student-athlete is in attendance, of greater concern to the Big 12 is the physical and psychological damage that such use can cause to a student-athlete. In an on-going effort to deter the use of banned substances and to protect the health and safety of all Big 12 student-athletes, the Conference has instituted the Conference Testing Procedures.

8.2 Testing. During each year, drug testing of student-athletes shall be conducted in a manner consistent with approved procedures and may include on-campus year-round testing as well as testing at championships.

8.3 Positive Test – Sanctions. A student-athlete who tests positive for the use of a banned substance, other than a “street drug” as defined by the NCAA/Big 12 Banned-Drug Classes List, shall be sanctioned by the Big 12 Conference as outlined below:

- (a) The student-athlete will be immediately declared ineligible for further participation in regular-season and post-season competition;
- (b) The period of ineligibility will be for a minimum of 365 days from the date of the specimen collection that lead to the positive test result (e.g., if the positive test occurs during a season of competition, the period of ineligibility must include at least the number of contests the student-athlete participated in during the season prior to the notification of ineligibility); and
- (c) The student-athlete shall also forfeit one season of competition in all sports because of the positive test result.

8.3.1 Second Positive Test. If the student-athlete tests positive a second time for the use of any banned drug, other than a “street drug”, he or she shall lose all remaining Big 12 Conference regular-season and post-season eligibility in all sports.

8.3.2 Positive Test for Street Drugs. With regard to a positive finding for the use of a “street drug” as defined by the NCAA Banned-Drug Classes List, an institution will be notified and shall impose a sanction consistent with institutional policy.

[Refer to the Big 12 Conference Drug-Testing Protocol and Procedures for the testing procedures and appeals process.]

SECTION 9 **AWARDS**

9.1 Conference Medal Awards. Each Member Institution may award Conference Medal Awards annually to the male and female student-athletes who have completed their athletic eligibility and who have made the most outstanding record in athletics and scholarship. No student shall be eligible for this award who has not had two years of intercollegiate competition at the Member Institution.

9.2 Dr. Prentice Gautt Postgraduate Scholarship. A Dr. Prentice Gautt Postgraduate Scholarship in the amount of \$9,000 each shall be awarded annually to a female and male scholar-athlete recommended by each Member Institution and confirmed by the Dr. Prentice Gautt Student-Athlete Welfare Committee. The policy and procedures governing the Conference Postgraduate Scholarship Program are set forth in Appendix I.

9.3 Conference Honor Roll Program. In addition to the foregoing, the Conference shall sponsor a Commissioner’s Honor Roll, which shall recognize all varsity student-athletes of a given semester who have achieved a 3.000 grade-point average or better for the current academic semester. This honor roll shall be published at the conclusion of Fall and Spring terms during the regular academic year.

9.4 Dr. Gerald Lage Academic Achievement Award. Awarded by the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, the Dr. Gerald Lage Academic Achievement Award shall annually recognize student-athletes that meet the following criteria: letter award winner, minimum of one academic year in residence at the institution and 100 hours of earned credit with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.80 or higher.

SECTION 10
CHAMPIONSHIPS AND SCHEDULES

- 10.1 Championship Dates and Sites.** The dates and sites for all Conference championships shall be recommended to the Athletics Directors by the Committee on Championships and Awards, then presented to the Faculty Athletics Representatives for approval during their annual meeting.
- 10.2 Schedules and Competition.** Scheduling of Conference athletic events and championships during the final examination period of all Member Institutions is prohibited, unless an exception is granted by the Faculty Athletics Representatives as a matter of scheduling necessity. Scheduling of all forms of practice and competition during these periods is strongly discouraged. The rules and policies governing the making of schedules between Member Institutions are set forth in the Administrative Manual (as defined below) for each sport.
- 10.3 Canceled Contests.** A contest or meet that is required by the Conference and counts toward Conference standings may be canceled with the consent of the Athletics Directors and/or designees of the involved Member Institutions and the approval of the Conference. In the event a scheduled contest cannot be played as originally scheduled, every effort shall be made to reschedule such a contest at the earliest possible date, provided such rescheduling does not increase overall missed class time or interfere with examination periods, or other sports' prohibitions. If the two institutions cannot agree on a makeup date, the Commissioner will assign a makeup date for any game that is postponed, or shall have the authority to cancel/forfeit a game if there is no opportunity to reschedule a contest. A cancellation will be considered a "no-contest". A Member Institution desiring to cancel a scheduled contest or meet shall be required to pay the other Member Institution all amounts pursuant to an agreement between the two Member Institutions, if any, and any expenses incurred by the other Member Institution; further, it shall be required to formally forfeit the contest involved.
- 10.4 Grounds.** Member Institutions shall schedule and conduct all intercollegiate contests, where possible, on grounds either owned by or under the immediate control of one of the participating Member Institutions. Football games may be played on a field which precedent has established as an alternate home field for that Conference opponent.
- 10.5 Scheduling Obligations.** Schedules for competition in all Conference sports shall be approved by the Conference. Once approved, Member Institutions shall be obligated to adhere to such schedules and any violation of this policy will subject the involved Member Institution to Conference enforcement procedures. Member Institutions may, but are not required to exchange game contracts.

SECTION 11
SPORTS REGULATIONS

- 11.1 Sponsorship of Intercollegiate Sports.** As an obligation of membership in the Conference, each Member Institution shall meet NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision membership requirements, which includes sponsoring a minimum of 16 varsity sports, with the minimum of six varsity sports for men and a minimum of eight varsity sports for women. Further, a Member Institution must sponsor a minimum of six (6) men's sports and six (6) women's sports from the list below. The required men's sports shall be football and basketball; of the required women's sports, one (1) shall be basketball and one (1) shall be volleyball or soccer. Institutions that currently sponsor either volleyball or soccer may not drop these sports. Conference rules shall apply to those sports in which the Conference sponsors a championship (regular season or postseason).

The following sports are sponsored by the Conference (indicates number of member institutions sponsoring the sport:

Men

Cross Country (9)
 Football (10)
 Indoor Track & Field (9)
 Basketball (10)
 Golf (9)
 Baseball (9)
 Outdoor Track & Field (9)
 Swimming & Diving (3)
 Wrestling (4)
 Tennis (6)

Women

Cross Country (10)
 Volleyball (9)
 Soccer (9)
 Indoor Track & Field (10)
 Basketball (10)
 Tennis (10)
 Golf (9)
 Softball (7)
 Outdoor Track & Field (10)
 Swimming & Diving (5)
 Gymnastics (3)
 Equestrian (4)
 Rowing (5)

11.1.1 Conference Championship Sports Requirements. In order for the Big 12 Conference to host a championship, that sport must include four institutions that satisfy “continuity-of-membership.” In order to meet the “continuity-of-membership” requirement, a minimum of four institutions that sponsor the sport on a varsity intercollegiate basis must conduct conference competition together in Division I. (Note: The sports of wrestling, women’s gymnastics and men’s swimming & diving are “grandfathered” and retain championship status pending further review. In addition, the sports of equestrian and rowing maintain championship status).

11.1.2 Notification Provision. In order for the Big 12 Conference to successfully manage its sponsored sports, Member Institutions must maintain a minimum number of sports according to the Conference’s sponsorship requirements. If a Member Institution chooses to discontinue a Conference-sponsored sport, confidential notification at the onset of the process must be provided to the Commissioner.

11.2 Principles and Standards of Sportsmanship. The regulation of the conduct of student-athletes, coaches, athletics department personnel and others shall be as provided in Section 12 hereto.

11.3 Administrative Sports Manuals. The rules and policies governing each sport recognized by the Conference shall be as set forth in the administrative manual for each such sport (each, an “Administrative Manual” and collectively, the “Administrative Manuals”).

11.3.1 Delivery and Effect. The Administrative Manuals shall be forwarded via electronic transmission and shall have the status of Rules of the Conference.

11.3.2 Violations. Violations of Administrative Manual rules are subject to the following procedural guidelines with the understanding that the Commissioner may impose more severe sanctions if warranted:

- First offense: Private reprimand sent to Director of Athletics;
- Second offense: Private reprimand sent to President or Chancellor with a warning of an institutional fine if the violation occurs again;
- Third offense: Financial penalty.

11.4 Travel Squad Restrictions. The following restrictions on size of travel squads shall apply to Conference competition that is required or scheduled by the Conference office, including postseason championships. These limits apply to all student-athletes, whether or not they are in uniform and intending to compete or accompanying the team to an away from home competition (e.g., redshirt or injured student-athlete). If additional team members travel to the championship, it must be at their own expense and, in fairness to teams from greater distances, should not be permitted to practice or be available for the games in case of injury or other circumstances.

Baseball	27	Outdoor Track	32
Basketball	15	Rowing	52
Cross Country	10	Soccer	28
Equestrian	32	Softball	25
Football	70	Swimming	28
Golf	7	Tennis	8
Gymnastics	15	Volleyball	15
Indoor Track	26	Wrestling	13

11.4.1 Football Exception. Each institution may designate one game per year in which it may dress and/or travel all players in their final year of eligibility as part of an expanded travel squad. It is the responsibility of each institution to communicate such designation in writing to the Conference office and host institution no later than the Monday preceding the contest.

11.4.2 Baseball Exception. The following travel exceptions shall apply to the sport of baseball:

- (a) **Exception for Non-conference Series.** An institution playing a nonconference series adjacent to a Conference series is not prohibited by Conference rules from taking additional players to the Conference series. However, these players may not be in uniform, may not sit in the dugout, and may not take part in pregame activities.
- (b) **Exception for Split Series.** For those series played either at neutral sites, split between each team's campus and/or a combination thereof, there are no restrictions on the number of players in uniform for the originally designated host institution for the games on its campus or at neutral sites. The originally designated visiting institution may have an unlimited number of players in uniform only for games on its campus. The visiting team may also have an unlimited number of players in uniform for a single-game that is part of a split series between each team's campus and/or at a neutral site if there is no overnight travel.

11.4.3 Swimming and Diving Exception. Travel squads shall be limited to 28 equivalencies per championship meet. An entrant who swims shall be counted as one competitor. Divers who are only competing in one or two diving events shall be counted as 1/3. Divers competing in all three diving events shall be counted as 1/2.

11.4.4 Final Season of Eligibility and Medically Unable to Compete Due to Incapacitating Injury or Illness Exception. An institution may travel any student-athlete who is in his or her final season of competition or will exhaust eligibility at the conclusion of the semester or academic year and who has been deemed medically unable to compete the remainder of the season due to an incapacitating injury or illness without counting the student-athlete against the travel squad limits. The student-athlete may not miss class to travel with the team unless the missed class time is approved by the Faculty Athletics Representative in advance of the travel, and the institution must be able to provide medical documentation of the incapacitating injury or illness upon request of the Conference office.

SECTION 12
SPORTSMANSHIP AND ETHICAL CONDUCT

- 12.1 Principles of Sportsmanship and Standards for Conduct.** The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. The member institutions of the Big 12 Conference place great importance on the principles of sportsmanship and the ideal of pursuing victory with honor in intercollegiate athletics. Participation in athletics, including as a spectator, is a privilege and not a right.
- 12.2 General Statements of Responsibility.** All those associated with the Conference athletic programs, including University personnel as well as fans, have responsibility to conduct themselves consistent with the principles of sportsmanship. The Conference adopts the following minimum standards of responsibility.
- 12.2.1 Institutional Responsibility.** The Big 12 member institutions have the responsibility to take all reasonable steps to ensure that all university employees, students, and others in attendance at athletics events conduct themselves in a dignified manner and exhibit respect and courtesy towards game officials, other institutions and their employees, students (including student-athletes) and fans.
- 12.2.2 Athletics Department Responsibility.** The Institution's Athletic Director shall have the responsibility to effectively communicate to all athletics department staff, coaches and student-athletes the basic principles of sportsmanship and standards for conduct. It must be made clear that concerns about Conference programs, such as officiating, and about other member institutions must be addressed within the Conference's governance structure and not in a public forum.
- 12.2.3 Game Management Responsibility.** The Institution's Athletic Director shall have responsibility to take reasonable steps to create an environment that is fair and safe for visiting teams. The athletics director, or his/her designee, must contact the visiting coach of a spectator sport to address any issues and identify the game manager who can respond to concerns during the contest and the location of this individual during the contest. Each institution must arrange its seating at spectator events so as to emphasize sportsmanship and minimize harassment of the visiting teams.
- 12.2.4 Coach Responsibility.** Coaches are expected to be role models and have the greatest influence over the young people in their programs and must continually emphasize the need for sportsmanship. Coaches have responsibility to control the behavior of their student-athletes and staff members to ensure they are demonstrating respect for their opponents, the game officials and the game itself. Coaches shall remain in their designated areas during a contest and refrain from behavior to incite the crowd toward negative conduct.
- 12.2.5 Conference Responsibility.** The Commissioner of the Conference shall have responsibility to promote and enforce these principles and standards of conduct in connection with all athletics events involving a member institution, including competition against non-conference institutions. The Commissioner shall have broad authority to interpret the standards, review disciplinary action taken by member institutions and further penalize those deemed to have violated the standards.

12.3 Violations. Violations of this rule requiring actions by the Commissioner are:

12.3.1 Verbal or Physical Abuse. Prior to, during and after a contest, coaches, student-athletes, and members of the athletics department staff and spirit squads are prohibited from committing verbal or physical abusive acts toward game officials or an opponent's team members, coaching staff, institutional personnel or fans.

12.3.2 Comments about Officiating. Coaches, student-athletes, and members of the athletics department staff are prohibited from making any public comment regarding the game officials or the officiating at any contest. The public airing of officiating matters, whether directly or indirectly, during or after a game, verbally or by use of video, on or off the record, is prohibited.

12.3.3 Comments about Other Members. Coaches, student-athletes, and members of the athletics department staff are prohibited from making public comments that are negative about other member institutions, including, but not limited to, negative comments about the personnel, student-athletes, support groups and general matters related to the university, its location, etc.

12.4 Processing of Possible Violations. When a member institution has reason to believe that a violation of Section 12.3 has occurred, it shall be reported immediately to the Commissioner. Written communication between the Conference and the involved institution shall include copies to the president or chancellor and faculty athletics representative.

12.4.1 Report of Commissioner. After the Commissioner becomes aware of a possible violation of these rules, he/she or a designated Conference staff member will gather all information available for review of the matter. If the Commissioner concludes that a violation occurred, a report will be provided to the athletics director(s) of the institution(s) involved which will set forth the Commissioner's findings and penalty, if any, to be imposed.

12.4.2 Response by Institution. After the receipt of the Commissioner's report, the athletics director(s) of the involved institution(s) shall within 24 hours of receipt of the report submit a response to the Commissioner indicating the institution's position on the matter.

12.4.3 Final Decision by the Commissioner. Within 24 hours of the receipt of the institution's response, the Commissioner will send his final report to the athletics director(s) of the involved institution(s). The university will have 24 hours after receipt of the Commissioner's final decision to indicate in writing to the Commissioner whether or not it will appeal his/her decision under the provisions of Section 12.5 below.

12.4.4 Delegation of Authority and Timing Waiver. The Commissioner or Director of Athletics may designate another member of their staff to act on their behalf and the Commissioner shall have the authority to waive the timing requirements set forth above.

12.4.5 Penalties. The penalties that may be imposed by the Commissioner for violation of these standards may include, but are not limited to, private and public reprimand, institutional fines, and suspension from practice and/or competition.

12.4.6 Violation by a Director of the Board, Other Institutional Personnel, Institutional Board Member. The members of the Conference Board of Directors, high ranking institutional staff outside of athletics and institutional board members are obligated to adhere to these sportsmanship rules. The Commissioner shall submit a report to the full Board if it is alleged that

such personnel have violated the rules. The Board has sole authority to consider the allegation and will determine whether a violation occurred and the penalty, if any, to be assessed.

12.5 Appeals. Only the president or chancellor of a member institution may submit an appeal on behalf of the institution or individual affected by the final disciplinary action of the Commissioner involving a suspension from competition or fine or forfeiture of a game. In all other cases, the Commissioner's decisions shall be final. An appeal must be submitted in writing to the Commissioner within 24 hours after receiving the final decision. The Board of Directors, or its designated committee, shall be the body to consider the appeal and shall do so as expeditiously as possible. The Board may increase or decrease any penalty imposed by the Commissioner.

12.5.1 Appeal Hearing. Once an appeal has been timely filed, a hearing in person or by teleconference will be conducted by the Board as expeditiously as possible. A minimum of three Directors of institutions not involved in the incidents that resulted in the Commissioner's penalty will be required to hear the appeal. The president or chancellor making the appeal must participate in the hearing.

12.5.1.1 Information Considered by Board. The president or chancellor filing the appeal must submit a written statement outlining the reasons for the appeal to the other Directors at least 24 hours prior to the hearing. In addition, the Conference office will submit its report, along with other relevant material (e.g., video, media reports, statements by witnesses, etc.) for the Board's consideration.

12.5.1.2 Hearing Process. If the chair of the Board cannot participate, he/she will appoint a chair for the appeal hearing from the Directors who will hear the appeal. The president or chancellor making the appeal will make an opening statement after the hearing is called to order by the chair for the hearing. The Conference staff will participate and will issue an opening statement as well. The hearing then will be open for discussion between all parties participating. The chair then will excuse everyone from the hearing except the Directors, who will deliberate and make a determination to uphold, modify or reject the Commissioner's final decision. In modifying the decision, the Directors are authorized to decrease or increase the Commissioner's penalties. The chair will then contact the Commissioner to relay the Board's decision and the Commissioner will notify the president or chancellor who submitted the appeal.

12.5.2 Final Decision. The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final.

12.6 Processing Sportsmanship Violations During Conference Championships. In recognition that an expedient process is required during championship events to address possible violations related to Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct, all decisions of the Commissioner, or designee, are considered final, and not subject to appeal.