



# NORTHERN SUN INTERCOLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND OPERATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE  
CONDUCT OF SPORTS

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# NORTHERN SUN INTERCOLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I

#### Name

The name of this organization shall be the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (hereinafter referred to as NSIC).

### ARTICLE II

#### Definition

The NSIC is the official athletic conference structure for the intercollegiate programs of the four-year institutions constituting its membership. The NSIC is composed of women's and men's divisions and is an affiliated conference of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II. Members of the NSIC must field teams in both women's and men's sports.

### ARTICLE III

#### Mission

The NSIC is a model Division II conference that uses high-level athletics competition to develop champions in the classroom and community while empowering student-athletes to be impactful and positive leaders. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*

#### Vision

We will create a culture that inspires personal and professional growth for all student-athletes, coaches and administrators, and we will operate with integrity to ensure fair, equitable and enriching athletics competitions. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*

### ARTICLE IV

#### Purpose

The purposes for which the NSIC is organized are as follows:

- A. To promote, conduct and regulate competitive sports programs, which are consistent with the educational aims and objectives of member institutions.
- B. To assist member institutions in extending and enriching their programs of intercollegiate athletics based upon the needs, interests and capabilities of the student-athlete.
- C. To provide athletic competitive alignment for programs among member institutions and to set standards which will guarantee fair and equitable competition among all members.
- D. To encourage the spirit of play within competitive sports events so that competition values of such an experience are emphasized.
- E. To provide leadership opportunities for administrators, coaches and athletes within the framework of intercollegiate athletic programs.
- F. To foster programs which will encourage excellence in athletic performance by college student-athletes.

### ARTICLE V

#### Membership

Section 1. Eligibility for Membership. Membership shall be institutions of higher education that grant baccalaureate degrees or higher, accredited by a recognized regional accrediting agency, agreeing to field

athletic teams in required conference sports and observe the principles set forth in the constitution and bylaws of the NSIC. All members shall be members of NCAA Division II.

Section 2. Responsibility of the Program. The ultimate responsibility for the practices and conduct of all member institutions, their Athletic Administrators and coaches, shall rest with the Chief Executive Officer of each institution.

Section 3. Conditions and Obligations of Membership. The members of the NSIC agree to administer their athletic programs in accordance with the constitution, the bylaws and other legislation of the NSIC and the rules and regulations of the NCAA.

Section 4. Election to Membership. The bylaws shall prescribe the procedure by which eligibility for an election to membership shall be affected.

Section 5. Annual Dues of Members. The dues of all members shall be prescribed in the bylaws.

Section 6. Termination of Membership--Discipline of Members. Disciplinary powers of the NSIC shall be exercised in accordance with the bylaws.

Section 7. Reinstatement of Members. Any institution whose membership has been terminated under Constitution V.6 may be reinstated to membership as prescribed in the bylaws.

Section 8. Current Members. The current members of the NSIC consist of the following member institutions: Augustana University; Bemidji State University; Concordia University, St. Paul; University of Jamestown; University of Mary; University of Minnesota Crookston; University of Minnesota Duluth; Minnesota State University, Mankato; Minnesota State University Moorhead; Minot State University; Northern State University; University of Sioux Falls; Southwest Minnesota State University; St. Cloud State University; Wayne State College; and Winona State University.

## ARTICLE VI

### Governing Authority

The Board of Directors and the Conference Council shall govern the NSIC. The Conference Council shall act within the framework of this constitution and all Conference Council actions shall be subject to review by the Board of Directors. The composition of the Conference Council and its power or duties shall be set forth in the bylaws.

## ARTICLE VII

### Officers

The NSIC shall have officers as designated in the bylaws. The qualifications of officers, the method of their selection and their respective powers and duties shall be set forth in the bylaws.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Restrictions

Section 1. No part of the net earnings of the NSIC shall inure to the benefit of any members, sponsor, donor, creator, director, officer, employee, or with limitation, any other private individual or to the benefit of any corporation or organization, any part of the net earnings which inure to the benefit of any private individual; provided, this shall not prevent payment of reasonable compensation for services actually rendered to or for the NSIC in effecting its purposes.

Section 2. The NSIC shall not divert any part of its income or corpus to any member, sponsor, donor, creator, director, officer or employee by lending any part of its income to corpus without receipt of the adequate security and a reasonable rate of interest. The NSIC is also prohibited from paying any compensations in excess of reasonable allowance for salaries, or other compensation for personal services actually rendered; by making any purchase of security or other property for more than adequate consideration for money or money's worth; by selling any substantial money or money's worth; or by engaging in any other transaction which either directly or indirectly results in such diversion of its income or corpus.

Section 3. The NSIC shall not make any accumulation of its income, unreasonable in amount or duration, or use any income for purposes other than the objects hereinafter set forth or invest any income in any manner as to jeopardize the fulfillment or carrying out of its objects.

Section 4. The NSIC shall not devote a substantial portion of its activities to carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and in no event shall the NSIC engage in any legislative activities other than those in direct furtherance of the NSIC's stated objectives.

Section 5. The NSIC shall not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 6. In general, the NSIC shall not act in any way or engage in any activity which might affect its right to full tax exemption or the right of donors to the NSIC to full tax deduction for their contributions to the NSIC. The NSIC shall be so operated as to be entitled to and receive all tax exemptions, federal or local, which may from time to time be granted to charitable, scientific or educational associations or foundations.

## ARTICLE IX

### Limitations

Section 1. This constitution shall conform to all governing documents of member institutions and nothing in this constitution shall be construed as diluting or bypassing the authority of any member institution.

Section 2. Member institutions are committed to providing equal education and employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, religion, marital status, national origin or status with regard to public assistance or handicap or any other group or class against which discrimination is prohibited by state or federal law, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of Act 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Section 402 of the Vietnam Era Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974.

## ARTICLE X

### Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

Section 1. Any member institution shall have the right to recommend amendments to the Conference Council or the Board of Directors. All amendments must be submitted in writing and carry a proposed date of implementation.

Section 2. Any amendment must be placed on the agenda and submitted to the Conference Council prior to the next meeting. A 2/3 vote of the Conference Council shall be required for passage.

Section 3. Once the amendment is passed by the Conference Council, it shall be presented to the Board of Directors. A 2/3 vote by the Board of Directors is required for ratification.

Amendments to the Operational Standards for the Conduct of Sports.

Section 1. Any member institution shall have the right to recommend amendments to the Operational Standards for the Conduct of Sports. All amendments must be submitted in writing and carry a proposed date of implementation.

Section 2. Any amendment must be placed on the agenda and submitted to the Conference Council prior to the next meeting. A 2/3 vote of the Conference Council shall be required for passage.

Section 3. The Athletic Administrators Council and/or the Council of Coaches may not alter the Operational Standards for the Conduct of Sports.

Section 4. At the annual in-person head coaches meeting, if extenuating circumstances occur that prohibit travel to the meeting, the school's Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator may designate a proxy on any action items. Extenuating circumstances will need to be agreed upon by the Athletic Director and Conference Commissioner.

ARTICLE XI

Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the NSIC, Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the NSIC, dispose of all the assets of the NSIC exclusively for the purposes of the NSIC in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the NSIC is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization, as said Court shall determine, which are organized exclusively for such purposes.

## NORTHERN SUN INTERCOLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

### BYLAWS

#### **1 Membership.**

##### **1.1 Expectations of Membership.**

**1.1.1** Membership expectations are detailed in Article V of the NSIC Constitution.

##### **1.2 Rights and Privileges of Membership.**

**1.2.1** One vote per member institution at all meetings of the Conference Council and Board of Directors.

**1.2.2** Participation in NSIC contests and championships.

**1.2.3** Attendance of personnel at all NSIC meetings.

**1.2.4** Eligibility of member institution's personnel for elected or appointed NSIC positions.

**1.2.5** Copies of NSIC meeting minutes, constitution, bylaws and operational standards.

**1.2.6** NSIC newsletters, statistics and informational materials.

**1.2.7** The NSIC directory.

**1.2.8** Other services determined by the NSIC membership.

##### **1.3 Dues.**

###### **1.3.1 Determination of Dues.**

**1.3.1.1** Any change in dues assessment must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors prior to the year of implementation. Member institutions shall be notified of dues changes immediately.

###### **1.3.2 Payment of Dues.**

**1.3.2.1** Dues are payable upon receipt of the membership invoice and must be paid by November 1 of each year.

**1.3.2.2** Failure to pay dues by November 1 shall result in a penalty of 10 percent per month until such dues are paid.

##### **1.4 Process for Full Membership.**

###### **1.4.1 Formal Application.**

**1.4.1.1** An institution wishing to make application for membership shall complete a written application to the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Commissioner through a letter signed by the Chief Executive Officer of the applying institution. The application should include the number of sports currently sponsored by the institution and a list of those sports, any sports the institution is considering adding (or eliminating), identification of the institution's current conference/classification, the reason(s) the institution is interested in becoming a member of the NSIC, and any other applicable information that the applicant wishes to supply to the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Commissioner. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*

**1.4.1.2** The institution must complete the Institutional Expansion Self Study Guide at the time of application. This guide is provided by the Commissioner. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*

**1.4.1.3** A nonrefundable fee of \$5,000 must be supplied with the formal application. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*

###### **1.4.2 Institutional Evaluation.**

**1.4.2.1** If an evaluation visit is recommended and approved by the Board of Directors, the applicant institution will arrange, with the Commissioner, for an evaluation visit by the conference. The conference representatives will be selected by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

and be comprised of at least one of each of the following: Board of Directors member, the commissioner, athletic director, faculty athletics representative, senior woman administrator and compliance coordinator.  
(Adopted: 9/23/19)

**1.4.2.2** The evaluation visit must contain an in-depth review of the state of the institution's academic and athletic programs to include, but not limited to: (Adopted: 9/23/19)

**1.4.2.2.1** A presentation by the institution on its athletic program. This should include information of the program's philosophy; sports sponsorship personnel; records and schedules for the past three years including any upcoming commitments; the athletics budget for the last three years (including the current year) and projections for the next three years; athletic scholarship equivalencies for the last three years and projections for the next three years (if applicable); information on a faculty athletics committee or similar body overseeing athletics and any constitution, bylaws or similar documents for such a committee; information on booster organizations and any constitution, bylaws or similar documents for such organizations. (Adopted: 9/23/19)

**1.4.2.2.2** A full review and presentation on how the institution will comply with NCAA Division II rules and regulations. (Adopted: 9/23/19)

**1.4.2.2.3** A campus tour of academic and athletic facilities shall be provided. (Adopted: 9/23/19)

**1.4.3 Voting Procedures.**

**1.4.3.1** Votes taken for the purpose of adding or reinstating member institutions shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.

**1.4.3.2** The date for implementation for such action shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

**1.4.4 Initiation Fee.**

**1.4.4.1** Once granted admission, new members are required, prior to July 1 of the date of their initial membership into the NSIC, to pay an initiation fee in the amount of the cash reserve divided by the number of current members, or the amount of one year's dues, whichever is greater.

**1.4.5 New Member Commitment Expectations.**

**1.4.5.1** Any new member of the NSIC must meet an eight-year commitment. If the eight-year commitment is not satisfied, a buyout will be assessed. The buyout will be one-year dues for each year less than the eight-year requirement. This buyout is in addition to the exit process assessment as stated in NSIC Bylaw 1.5.2. (Adopted: 9/23/19)

**1.5 Process for Withdrawal of Membership.**

**1.5.1** Any member institution may withdraw from the NSIC by filing with the Commissioner and the Chair of the Board of Directors. The official notice must be signed by the institution's Chief Executive Officer. The effective date for the withdrawal shall always be specified at June 30.

**1.5.2 Exit Fee.**

**1.5.2.1** A withdrawing institution shall be responsible for the payment of an exit fee in the amount of three times the current dues amount. The fee shall be payable regardless of notice given. On July 1, 2020, the exit fee will increase to four times the current dues amount. On July 1, 2021, the exit fee will increase to five times the current dues amount. In addition to the



- 1.5.7.5 The withdrawing institution shall remain eligible for conference end of season athletic awards and any academic awards until its official effective date of resignation from the conference. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
- 1.5.7.6 The withdrawing institution shall remain eligible for conference grant funding or professional development funding/opportunities that can be defined as directly benefiting student-athletes until its official effective date of resignation from the conference. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
- 1.5.7.7 Immediately upon providing notice of its intention to withdraw from the conference, the applicable institution shall no longer be eligible to represent the conference on conference, regional and national committees. Any exceptions to this provision must be approved by two-thirds vote of all members of the Board of Directors. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
- 1.5.8 Withdrawal of Member to NCAA Division I, NCAA Division III or NAIA.**
  - 1.5.8.1 If a conference member has officially accepted a bona fide offer of membership from a NCAA Division I conference, a NCAA Division III conference, or a NAIA conference, then the NSIC shall immediately consider that the applicable institution has provided the conference official notice of its intent to withdraw from the conference. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.5.8.2 If a conference member enters into a NCAA Division III exploratory year, and if after the Division III exploratory year, the applicable institution notifies the NSIC that it has decided to remain a member of the conference, then the applicable institution shall not owe the conference any financial sums listed in the Constitution and Bylaws, and the applicable institution shall be restored its voting rights and its rights to the conference reserves. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.5.8.3 Immediately upon providing of its intention to withdraw from the conference, the applicable institution shall no longer have a vote on any conference administrative or sport issues. Any exceptions to this provision must be approved by two-thirds vote of all members of the Board of Directors. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.5.8.4 Upon providing notice of its intention to withdraw from the conference, the applicable institution shall uphold all scheduling agreements until its official effective date of resignation from the conference. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.5.8.5 The withdrawing institution shall remain eligible for conference post-season championship participation until its official effective date of resignation from the conference. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.5.8.6 The withdrawing institution shall remain eligible for conference end of season athletic awards and any academic awards until its official effective date of resignation from the conference. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.5.8.7 The withdrawing institution shall remain eligible for conference grant funding or professional development funding/opportunities that can be defined as directly benefiting student-athletes until its official effective date of resignation from the conference. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.5.8.8 Immediately upon providing notice of its intention to withdraw from the conference, the applicable institution shall no longer be eligible to represent the conference on conference, regional and national committees. Any exceptions to this provision must be approved by two-thirds vote of all members of the Board of Directors. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*

## **1.6 Associate Membership.**

- 1.6.1** On an individual sport basis, associate membership may be granted to an institution when such membership would increase the NSIC's number of sports sponsored for NCAA automatic qualification and/or sports-sponsorship revenue distribution or for other reasons deemed appropriate by the conference.
- 1.6.2** Any institution of higher learning that satisfies Article V, Section 1 of the NSIC Constitution may be admitted to the conference as an associate member. The final decision of admittance may be at any regular or special called meeting upon application submitted to the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Commissioner through a letter signed by the Chief Executive Officer of the applying institution.
- 1.6.3** A representative of an associate member institution shall have full voting rights in all meetings or matters that directly affect the sport in which the institution is a member.
- 1.6.4** Dues assessed to an associate member will be established on a case-by-case basis dependent on the sport and its associated costs to the Conference and whether or not the sport is considered for NCAA revenue distribution.
- 1.6.5** The institution shall satisfy all conference and NCAA requirements for regular-season and post-season competition in any sport in which the institution holds associate member status.
- 1.6.6** Any associate member may withdraw from the NSIC by filing with the Commissioner and the Chair of the Board of Directors on or before December 31 of any year, an official notice of withdrawal signed by the Chief Executive Officer of the institution. The withdrawal shall become effective June 30 of the second year following the filing. Any associate member withdrawing before the effective date will be assessed a fee of one-year associate membership dues.

## **1.7 Membership Disciplinary Action.**

- 1.7.1** In all matters pertaining to disciplinary action, the affected institution shall not have the right to vote.
- 1.7.2 Sanction.**
  - 1.7.2.1** Failure or refusal to abide by any of the provisions contained in the constitution, bylaws or operational standards, or refusal to enforce the rules and regulations as now stated or hereafter amended, may result in the sanction of the institution.
  - 1.7.2.2** Membership privileges may be withdrawn, wholly or in part, as a result of violations of the policies and procedures stated in the NSIC constitution, bylaws or operational standards for the conduct of sports.
  - 1.7.2.3** Membership privileges may be reinstated when the offending institution abides by the penalty assessed and shows evidence of having corrected the situation which caused the withdrawal of privileges. Procedures described in Bylaw 1.7.4.
  - 1.7.2.4** Sanctions may include one or more of the following: reprimand, suspension, expulsion.
- 1.7.3 Criteria for Sanction.**
  - 1.7.3.1** An institution fails to retain its status at an independent not-for-profit four-year college or university that grants a baccalaureate or higher degree, and which has faculty and administrative responsibility for control of intercollegiate athletics. Or an institution undergoes a merger or some other event that materially changes the profile of the institution. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.7.3.2** An institution fails to maintain its accreditation by the regional accrediting associations. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*

- 1.7.3.3 An institution fails to maintain active membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II and/or fails to affiliate both its men's and women's athletic programs with NCAA Division II and the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. (Unless, some exception to this has received prior approval by an affirmative vote of the NSIC Board of Directors.) *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.7.3.4 To a material degree, an institution fails to administer its athletic programs in accord with any Conference membership requirements, the Conference Constitution, Bylaws, Administrative Policies, Sport Codes, or any other provisions of the Conference, or, to a material degree, an institution fails to maintain compliance with all of the NCAA Division II principles, rules and regulations outlined in the current NCAA Division II Manual, and to all interpretations of this legislation, including in the areas of institutional control, ethical conduct, membership, eligibility, financial aid, recruiting, amateurism, student-athlete awards, benefits and expenses, and playing and practice seasons, except for any instances where Conference rules and regulations are more restrictive. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.7.3.5 Without having received appropriate approval from the Board of Directors, an institution fails to maintain sponsorship and/or full regular-season and post-season participation in the minimum Conference sports. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.7.3.6 An institution fails to meet all its financial obligations to the Conference (e.g., annual dues; officiating assessments). *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.7.3.7 An institution demonstrates that its primary responsibility and loyalty are not to this Conference, including priorities in the scheduling of Conference athletic events, participation in Conference championships and events, and as representatives of this Conference to NCAA sponsored championships and extra events. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
  - 1.7.3.8 Any other factor that is deemed harmful to the Conference to a material degree. *(Adopted: 9/23/19)*
- 1.7.4 Procedure for Sanction.**
- 1.7.4.1 Notice of possible disciplinary action by the NSIC shall be sent to the Chief Executive Officer, Athletic Administrators and the Faculty Athletic Representative of the offending institution by the Commissioner on behalf of the Conference Council.
  - 1.7.4.2 A request for information shall be made regarding corrective measures to be taken to prevent recurrence of the violation.
  - 1.7.4.3 A fair hearing shall be held at which the member institution, after having been given adequate notice of the charges, may review any evidence against it and present any evidence on its behalf. A decision to sanction requires a majority vote by secret ballot of the Conference Council.
  - 1.7.4.4 When the Conference Council votes to sanction an institution, the Commissioner of the NSIC shall set forth in writing the reasons for such action, a statement of which shall be sent to the Chief Executive Officer, Faculty Athletic Representative and Athletic Administrators of each member institution.
  - 1.7.4.5 **Additional Procedures per Sanction Classification.**
    - 1.7.4.5.1 **Reprimand Procedure.**
      - 1.7.4.5.1.1 The Commissioner, the Conference Council, and the Board of Directors can reprimand a member institution.

**1.7.4.5.1.2** A vote of censure may be directed to a member institution by a majority vote.

**1.7.4.5.1.3** This action may be private or public and could include a probationary period established by the Conference Council.

**1.7.4.5.2 Suspension Procedure.**

**1.7.4.5.2.1** A vote for suspension would result in suspension of the member from all NSIC standings and consideration for championships.

**1.7.4.5.2.2** All contractual and NSIC obligations must be fulfilled during the period of suspension.

**1.7.4.5.2.3** Length of suspension shall be recommended by the Conference Council.

**1.7.4.5.2.4** Suspension of a member institution shall require a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.

**1.7.4.5.3 Expulsion Procedure.**

**1.7.4.5.3.1** An institution's membership in the NSIC may be discontinued by 2/3 affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.

**1.7.4.5.3.2** The effective date of discontinuance will be included in the resolution of expulsion.

**2 Violations and Disciplinary Action.**

**2.1 Procedures for Reporting Violations.**

**2.1.1** Allegations of NSIC rules violations or of conduct detrimental to the welfare of the NSIC may be filed by any member institution against another member institution by the Faculty Athletic Representative.

**2.1.2** A violation report must be filed in writing with the Chair of the Conference Council and the Commissioner within 60 days of the date of the alleged offense and include a description of the incident or violation and all other relevant facts.

**2.1.3** The Commissioner, either individually or in conjunction with the NCAA, will conduct an investigation of the violation report. The Commissioner's findings will be forwarded to the Ethics and Eligibility Committee to attempt a resolution.

**2.1.4** If resolution is not achieved by the Ethics and Eligibility Committee process, the violation report and results of the Ethics and Eligibility Committee's interpretation will be forwarded to the Chair of the Conference Council for placement on the agenda for a hearing at an official meeting of the Conference Council.

**2.1.5** Disciplinary action as described in Bylaw 1.7 will be initiated upon a majority vote of the Conference Council by secret ballot.

**3 Ethical Conduct/Sportsmanlike Behavior.**

**3.1** Individuals associated with the NSIC are expected to conduct themselves with honesty, integrity and fair play. Their behavior shall at all times reflect the high standards of honor and dignity that characterize participation in competitive sports in the collegiate setting. Displays of sportsmanlike behavior and mutual respect of competitors and officials shall be considered an integral part of all athletics competition. Administrators, coaches, student-athletes and officials shall abide by the rules governing both the NSIC and the NCAA and fully cooperate in any and all inquiries related to possible violations of those rules.

**3.2** Each member institution is responsible for instilling an atmosphere consistent with the provisions of NCAA Constitution 1.C and NSIC Bylaw 3.1. In doing so, institutions shall ensure that all individuals representing the institution are aware of the institution's expectations for such conduct and that appropriate action is taken against those individuals who choose to act in an unacceptable manner. It must be made clear that concerns about conference programs and decisions, such as officiating, operating policy, and about other member institutions must be addressed within the conference's governance structure and not in a public forum, including but not limited to, social media.

**3.3** Coaches and administrators are expected to be role models and have the greatest influence over the student-athletes in their programs and must continually emphasize the need for sportsmanship. Coaches and administrators 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 with the purpose of inciting the crowd toward negative conduct. Student-athletes are expected to act with the highest level of sportsmanlike conduct when representing both the NSIC and their institution. Student-athletes are leaders on their campuses and must act accordingly. Student-athletes, if found to be in violation of this policy, are subject to the same penalties listed in this policy.

### **3.4 Types of Misconduct.**

- 3.4.1 Verbal or Physical Abuse.** Prior to, during and after a contest, coaches, student-athletes, members of the athletics department staff, spirit squads and other institutional personnel in attendance are prohibited from committing verbally or physically abusive acts toward game officials or an opponent's team members, coaching staff, institutional personnel or fans.
- 3.4.2 Comments About Officiating.** Coaches, student-athletes and institutional personnel are prohibited from making any public comment regarding the game officials or the officiating in 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.
- 3.4.3 Comments About Other Members and the NSIC Office.** Coaches, student-athletes and institutional personnel are prohibited from making public comments that are negative about other member institutions and the NSIC office, including, but not limited to, negative comments about the personnel, student-athletes, support groups and general matters related to the institution/office, its location, etc.
- 3.4.4 Comments About Conference Policy or Decision Making.** Coaches, student-athletes, and institutional personnel are prohibited from making public comments that are negative about NSIC policy or decision making, including but not limited to, sport operation, awards and recognition, and site selections.
- 3.4.5 NCAA Playing Rule Ejections.** Coaches, student-athletes and institutional personnel who are ejected from contests will serve any penalty prescribed in the NCAA Playing Rules for that sport, in addition to falling into the category of offenses listed above.
- 3.4.6 Other Misconduct.** In addition to the specific authority set forth in Bylaw 3.5, the Commissioner has the discretion to impose sanctions for other unsportsmanlike conduct that is contrary to or inconsistent with the principles and expectations set forth in the conference constitution.

**3.5** The Commissioner shall be authorized to investigate cases involving unsportsmanlike conduct of any of the participants on teams representing member institutions. In all instances, the affected institution's Director of Athletics and President/Chancellor shall be notified by the

Commissioner or the individual issuing the complaint by phone, email or letter of the purported behavior. If sufficient evidence is found of unsportsmanlike conduct, the Commissioner shall provide a report and recommended penalties, if any, to the Ethics and Eligibility Committee. Included in the report shall be a written statement from the institution documenting what, if any, action the institution will be taking.

- 3.6** If accepted by majority vote of the Ethics and Eligibility Committee, the Commissioner shall be authorized to notify the affected institution of all penalties or remedial action and may, in appropriate cases, make a public announcement. Consequences contained in any specific sport playing rules take precedent over those contained in Bylaw 3.7. However, depending on the severity of the action, the Commissioner and Ethics and Eligibility Committee may impose additional penalties if so warranted. Whenever a penalty of suspension is imposed at or near the end of a season of competition, the penalty shall be carried over into the next season of competition. Failure of an institution to enforce the suspension may result in additional penalties.
- 3.7 Penalties.** The penalties that may be imposed by the Commissioner for violation of these standards may include, but are not limited to, private or public reprimand, institutional fines, and suspension from practice and/or competition.
- 3.7.1 First Offense.** A private letter of reprimand from the Commissioner to the violator and their President/Chancellor, Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator, and Faculty Athletic Representative, in addition to, the Ethics and Eligibility Committee.
- 3.7.2 Second Offense.** A private letter of reprimand and contest(s) suspension, during the regular season, conference postseason or NCAA postseason depending on timing of the offense.
- 3.7.3 Third Offense.** A public reprimand and additional penalties to be determined by the Commissioner and the Ethics and Eligibility Committee.

#### **4 Appeals.**

- 4.1** The decision of the Commissioner and/or the NSIC Ethics and Eligibility Committee in any proceedings, except those that fall under Bylaw 3.4.5, may be appealed. Penalties associated with misconduct that fall under Bylaw 3.4.5 may only be appealed via the process per the playing rules for that sport only if there is evidence of misapplication of a rule. Appeals may not be made if the matter at hand is the judgement of a game official. A member institution may appeal in writing to the Commissioner and the Chair of the Board of Directors within five (5) business days of receipt of the notification. The letter of appeal must come from the institutional CEO. The Board of Directors shall convene within thirty (30) calendar days (from the date the appeal is received) to act on the appeal. Appeals to the Board of Directors shall be limited in scope and will not constitute a new complete hearing of the case. Notice of appeal shall state specifically the findings of violations and penalties, or both, on which the appeal is being made and the reasons why these items are being appealed. In the appeal to the Board of Directors, the chair of the Conference Council will present the case of the Conference (unless excused because of institutional involvement in the case, then it will be the Commissioner). The CEO of the appealing institution will present the rationale for the appeal.
- 4.2** The representative of the Conference Council shall be permitted a reasonable time to make an oral presentation of the facts and penalties. The CEO of the appealing institution shall be permitted a reasonable time to make oral presentation of the appeal. The time for both sides may be limited by agreement before the start of the proceedings. The Board of Directors will take a vote to accept the Conference's position on the infraction, including the findings and penalty, or alter the decision based on the presentation of the appeal which can include

increasing or decreasing the penalties. This vote will be a simple majority of those Board members present for the appeal, with the CEO of the appealing institution excused from voting privileges. The appealing institution shall be notified immediately following the meeting of the result of the appeal.

**4.3** Any decision by the Board of Directors shall be considered final.

## **5 Rotation for NSIC Leadership.**

**5.1** The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall forward to the Conference Council their recommended NSIC leadership based on the following selected random rotational plan:

Year	Chair	Chair-Elect	Past Chair
2014-15	Augustana	St. Cloud State	Bemidji State
2015-16	St. Cloud State	Minnesota Duluth	Augustana
2016-17	Minnesota Duluth	Minnesota State	St. Cloud State
2017-18	Minnesota State	Minot State	Minnesota Duluth
2018-19	Minot State	Sioux Falls	Minnesota State
2019-20	Sioux Falls	SMSU	Minot State
2020-21	SMSU	Northern State	Sioux Falls
2021-22	Northern State	Concordia-St. Paul	SMSU
2022-23	Concordia-St. Paul	MSU Moorhead	Northern State
2023-24	MSU Moorhead	Wayne State	Concordia-St. Paul
2024-25	Wayne State	Minnesota Crookston	MSU Moorhead
2025-26	Minnesota Crookston	University of Mary	Wayne State
2026-27	University of Mary	Winona State	Minnesota Crookston
2027-28	Winona State	Bemidji State	University of Mary
2028-29	Bemidji State	Augustana	Winona State
2029-30	Augustana	Jamestown	Bemidji State
2030-31	Jamestown	St. Cloud State	Augustana

**5.2** The Chairs of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Athletic Administrators Council, Faculty Athletic Representatives Council, Conference Council and the Administrative Committee shall be from the same institution.

## **6 Board of Directors.**

**6.1 Membership.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the Chief Executive Officer or designee of each member institution.

### **6.2 Responsibilities.**

- 6.2.1** The Board of Directors governs the NSIC.
- 6.2.2** The Conference Council shall bring major changes and issues to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will review and enact these recommendations.
- 6.2.3** The Board of Directors shall enact NSIC Constitution and Bylaws matters, establish membership, hire and supervise the Commissioner, set and approve the budget, control institutional obligations and formulate NCAA legislation.

### **6.3 Meetings.**

- 6.3.1** The Board of Directors shall meet at least once a year.
- 6.3.2** Representatives from 2/3 of the member institutions shall constitute a quorum.
- 6.3.3** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order, which the NSIC may adopt.

6.3.4 The Chair of the Board of Directors has the authority to call additional meetings.

#### **6.4 Voting Privileges.**

6.4.1 Each institution is entitled to one vote at all meetings of the Board of Directors.

6.4.2 The President/Chancellor at each institution is the recommended attendee and voting delegate at these meetings.

6.4.3 In the event a board member cannot be in attendance, only senior level institutional representatives can serve as that institution's designee. Athletic administrators and faculty athletic representatives are not encouraged to be the replacement representative and shall not be provided voting privileges.

6.4.4 These representatives must be officially seated to vote on behalf of their institutions.

#### **6.5 Rotation Plan for NSIC Leadership.**

6.5.1 The Chair shall be from the same institution as the other Chairs of the respective Councils as described in Bylaw 5.

### **7 Executive Committee.**

7.1 The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chair, the Chair-Elect, and the Past Chair from the Board of Directors.

7.2 In the event an active member of the Executive Committee cannot attend a meeting, another active member of the Board of Directors may serve as a substitute. The Chair may authorize the Board member who is next in the recommended rotation to become the Chair-Elect to serve as a representative.

7.3 No vote may be cast by proxy. The presence of each member of the Executive Committee or their designee shall constitute a quorum. When a quorum is present, the majority may take action.

7.4 The powers and responsibility of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

7.4.1 To resolve administrative issues that are consistent with the duties of the Board of Directors and/or relative to the immediate operation of the NSIC athletic program whenever such issue cannot be resolved by the Commissioner and/or the Administrative Committee, and/or the Ethics and Eligibility Committee.

7.4.2 To recommend to the Board of Directors after due deliberation, any legislation, rules and regulations, or policies that may be deemed advisable.

7.4.3 To adjudicate appeals filed following any ruling(s) imposed by the Commissioner, and/or the Ethics and Eligibility Committee and to approve, hear, deny or revoke such ruling.

7.4.4 To review the fiscal year's NSIC budget and make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding revisions or approval.

7.4.5 To serve as a facilitator to assist in expediting the meetings of the Board of Directors.

7.4.6 To serve on the NSIC Investment Committee.

### **8 Conference Council.**

8.1 **Responsibility.** The Conference Council shall act as the governing body for all phases of the NSIC operation.

## **8.2 Membership.**

- 8.2.1** The Conference Council shall consist of three representatives from each member institution: the Faculty Athletic Representative, the Director of Athletics (ex-officio, non-voting) and the Senior Woman Administrator (ex-officio, non-voting).
- 8.2.2** The Commissioner and staff shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Conference Council.
- 8.2.3** The chair of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Conference Council.

## **8.3 Responsibility of the Officers of the Conference Council.**

### **8.3.1 Duties of the Chair.**

- 8.3.1.1** Preside at and provide an agenda for all Conference Council and Administrative Committee meetings.
- 8.3.1.2** Appoint all committees except as otherwise provided for in the constitution and bylaws.
- 8.3.1.3** See that all Conference Council and Administrative Committee business is conducted according to the constitution and bylaws.
- 8.3.1.4** Appoint a parliamentarian for the Conference Council meetings, if necessary.
- 8.3.1.5** Represent the NSIC whenever called upon to do so.
- 8.3.1.6** Serve as President for the purposes of NCAA operation and other national organizations that require a designation of President.

### **8.3.2 Duties of the Chair-Elect.**

- 8.3.2.1** Assume the responsibilities of the Chair in the absence of the Chair.
- 8.3.2.2** Assist the Chair whenever called upon to do so.
- 8.3.2.3** Serve on the Gender Equity Committee.

### **8.3.3 Duties of Past Chair.**

- 8.3.3.1** Serve on the Gender Equity Committee.
- 8.3.3.2** Provide continuing leadership and advisory support for the NSIC.

## **8.4 Meetings.**

- 8.4.1** The Conference Council shall meet at least once a year preferably during the month of July.
- 8.4.2** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order, which the NSIC may adopt.
- 8.4.3** A meeting parliamentarian may be appointed at the discretion of the Chair of the Conference Council.
- 8.4.4** Representation from 2/3 of the member institutions shall constitute a quorum.
- 8.4.5** Additional meetings may be called by the Chair of the Conference Council at the request of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee or the Administrative Committee.

## **8.5 Voting Privileges.**

- 8.5.1** Each member institution shall be entitled to one vote at all meetings of the Conference Council.
- 8.5.2** Representatives from each institution may caucus before casting their institutional vote. The Faculty Athletic Representative or designee will cast the vote.

## **8.6 Rotation Plan for NSIC Leadership.**

- 8.6.1** The Chair, Chair-Elect and Past Chair shall be selected as described in Bylaw 5 as recommended and approved by the Board of Directors.

## **9 Administrative Committee.**

### **9.1 Membership.**

- 9.1.1** The Administrative Committee shall consist of the Chair and Past Chair of the Conference Council and the Chair (non-voting) and the Chair-Elect of the Athletic Administrators Council. The Commissioner shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member. The Chair of the Conference Council shall preside over all meetings.
- 9.1.2 Responsibilities of the Administrative Committee.**
  - 9.1.2.1** The Committee shall be empowered by the Conference Council to make administrative decisions that are consistent with the duties of the Conference Council requiring action which cannot be deferred until the next Conference Council meeting.
  - 9.1.2.2** Assist the Commissioner in setting the agenda and be a facilitator for the meetings of the Conference Council.
  - 9.1.2.3** Serve in an advisory role to the Commissioner.
- 9.1.3 Responsibility of the Officers of the Administrative Committee.**
  - 9.1.3.1 Duties of the Chair.**
    - 9.1.3.1.1** Preside at and provide an agenda for all Administrative Committee meetings.
    - 9.1.3.1.2** See that Administrative Committee business is conducted according to the constitution and bylaws.
  - 9.1.3.2 Duties of the Past Chair.**
    - 9.1.3.2.1** Assume the responsibilities of the Chair in the absence of the Chair on matters dealing with the Administrative Committee.
- 9.1.4 Meeting of the Administrative Committee.**
  - 9.1.4.1** The Administrative Committee shall meet whenever necessary to conduct the business of the Conference Council and the NSIC when a decision on NSIC business is needed before the next scheduled Conference Council meeting.
  - 9.1.4.2** A quorum shall consist of at least three members of the Administrative Committee and the Commissioner (ex-officio, non-voting).
  - 9.1.4.3** An affirmative vote of two of the possible three votes shall be defined as a majority vote for all action items.
  - 9.1.4.4** In the event an active member of the Administrative Committee cannot serve at a meeting or their institution is involved in a dispute, another active voting member will be appointed by the Commissioner and approved by the Chair of the Conference Council.

## **10 Faculty Athletic Representatives Council.**

### **10.1 Membership.**

- 10.1.1** The Faculty Athletic Representatives Council shall consist of the Faculty Athletic Representative from each member institution.

### **10.2 Responsibilities.**

- 10.2.1** Members shall serve on the Conference Council.
- 10.2.2** Members shall serve on the Administrative Committee as well as standing and special committees.
- 10.2.3** Each member shall monitor and/or certify the eligibility of each student-athlete at their institution. A signed squad list shall be submitted to verify.

**10.2.4** Members shall be responsible for reviewing and acting on exceptional eligibility cases as requested from member institutions.

**10.2.5** Members shall select the Willis R. Kelly/NSIC Scholar-Athlete and the Dr. William Britton/NSIC Scholar-Athlete from nominations submitted by each member institution.

**10.3 Meetings.**

**10.3.1** The Faculty Athletic Representatives Council shall meet at least once a year preferably during the month of July.

**10.3.2** Representatives from 2/3 of the member institutions shall constitute a quorum.

**10.3.3** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order, which the NSIC may adopt.

**10.3.4** The Chair of the Faculty Athletic Representatives Council may call additional meetings.

**10.4 Voting Privileges.**

**10.4.1** The Faculty Athletic Representative of each member institution shall be entitled to one vote at all meetings of the Faculty Athletic Representatives Council.

**11 Athletic Administrators Council.**

**11.1 Membership.**

**11.1.1** The Athletic Administrators Council shall consist of the Athletic Director and the Senior Woman Administrator at each member institution.

**11.2 Responsibilities.**

**11.2.1** Members shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Conference Council.

**11.2.2** Members are eligible to serve on standing and special committees.

**11.2.3** The Council evaluates minutes and issues presented by the Conference Sport Chairs. The Council formalizes necessary adjustments and changes to the sport handbooks and forwards recommendations pertaining to the constitution and bylaws to the Conference Council.

**11.2.4** The members are responsible to see that the personnel at their institution abide by all NSIC rules.

**11.2.5** The members are to act as supervisors of NSIC Championships.

**11.2.6** Council members shall serve as liaisons for Sports Committees.

**11.3 Meetings.**

**11.3.1** The Athletic Administrators Council shall meet at least twice a year. One of these meetings shall be held at the NCAA Convention in January, and the second meeting should be preferably during the month of July.

**11.3.2** Representatives from 2/3 of the member institutions shall constitute a quorum.

**11.3.3** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order, which the NSIC may adopt.

**11.3.4** The Chair of the Athletic Administrators Council may call additional meetings.

**11.4 Voting Privileges.**

**11.4.1** The Athletic Director and the Senior Woman Administrator of each member institution shall be entitled to one vote each at all meetings of the Athletic Administrators Council.

**11.4.2** Both Athletic Administrators must be present to have two votes per institution cast at each meeting of the Athletic Administrators Council.

**11.5 Responsibilities of the Conference Sport Liaisons.**

**11.5.1** Attend in-person coaches meetings and be present on all sport related virtual meetings/teleconferences. Bring forward to the Athletic Administrators Council any recommendations from the coaching group. When applicable, be present at the NSIC championship.

**11.5.2** Conduct business regarding the regulation of season championships and awards.

**12 Commissioner.**

**12.1** The Commissioner shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the NSIC and assist the Executive Committee, Administrative Committee and the various Councils in conducting NSIC business. The original employment of the Commissioner shall be by contract approved by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership of the Board of Directors.

**12.2 Duties.**

**12.2.1** Make arrangements for NSIC meetings and distribute an agenda two weeks prior to meetings to the membership.

**12.2.2** Record minutes of the meetings for the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Faculty Athletic Representatives Council and Athletic Administrators Council.

**12.2.3** Provide minutes to each institution for the Chief Executive Officer, Faculty Athletic Representative, Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator.

**12.2.4** Maintain NSIC Regulatory Documents.

**12.2.4.1** Maintain and update the Constitution and Bylaws, Operational Standards for the Conduct of Sports and Sport Handbooks.

**12.2.4.2** Provide updated page(s) to the appropriate personnel of the member institutions.

**12.2.5** Maintain, update and distribute an annual calendar of important dates.

**12.2.6 Trophies and Awards.**

**12.2.6.1** Order and forward NSIC championship trophies to respective institutions.

**12.2.6.2** Order Willis R. Kelly and Dr. William Britton NSIC Scholar-Athlete Awards.

**12.2.6.3** Distribute nomination forms to each NSIC institution.

**12.2.6.4** Collect nominations and forward them to the NSIC Faculty Athletic Representatives Council, who will select the award recipients.

**12.2.6.5** Order and send awards to respective institutions.

**12.2.7** Serve as interpreter of the NSIC Constitution, Bylaws and Operational Standards for the Conduct of Sports.

**12.2.8** Serve as liaison between the NSIC and representatives of press, radio and television.

**12.2.9** Select and supervise other staff personnel employed by the NSIC and authorized by budget appropriation.

**12.2.9.1** Assistant Commissioner – Marketing and External Relations.

**12.2.9.2** Assistant Commissioner – Media Relations.

**12.2.9.3** Assistant Commissioner – Membership Services/Compliance.

**12.2.9.4** Assistant Commissioner – Operations.

**12.2.9.5** Coordinator of Officials.

**12.2.9.6** Interns and other appropriate personnel.

**12.2.10** Serve as conference treasurer.

- 12.2.10.1 Prepare and submit an annual budget for NSIC operation.
- 12.2.10.2 Maintain treasurer's books for the NSIC, which includes collecting dues and paying bills.
- 12.2.10.3 Provide an expenditure report at Conference Council meetings.
- 12.2.10.4 Arrange for annual audit of books.
- 12.2.11 Committee Assignments.**
  - 12.2.11.1 Serve as ex-officio, non-voting member of seven standing committees, Constitution and Bylaws, Ethics and Eligibility, Conference Championships and Awards, Hall of Fame, Gender Equity, NSIC Investment and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
- 12.2.12 Provide leadership to the NSIC.
- 12.2.13 Make inspections and/or investigations at member institutions as they deem necessary.
- 12.2.14 Attend any meetings on behalf of the NSIC of reputable and recognized groups concerned with intercollegiate, amateur and affiliated athletics.
- 12.2.15 Serve as spokesperson for the NSIC, unless this function is performed by the Chair of the Board of Directors.
- 12.2.16 Exercise such powers and authority as may be reasonably necessary to the discharge of the duties and responsibilities of their office, including the right to disqualify players in emergency situations of serious concern to the NSIC.
- 12.2.17 Serve as the official delegate of the NSIC at the annual NCAA Convention.
- 12.2.18 Serve as the principal enforcement and interpreting officer.
- 12.2.19 Facilitate scheduling of NSIC athletic contests and championships.

### **13 Duties of the Assistant Commissioner – Compliance.**

- 13.1 Monitor compliance issues at member institutions.
- 13.2 Administer secondary rules violations.
- 13.3 Manage select NSIC Championships.
- 13.4 Monitor the NCAA Coaches' Certification testing program.
- 13.5 Other duties as assigned by the Commissioner.

### **14 Duties of the Assistant Commissioner – Marketing and External Relations.**

- 14.1 Support external services to the NSIC membership and key stakeholders.
- 14.2 Manage marketing, sponsorship and community engagement programs for the NSIC.
- 14.3 Serve as liaison to institutional development directors and game management staff.
- 14.4 Manage select NSIC Championships.
- 14.5 Other duties as assigned by the Commissioner.

### **15 Duties of the Assistant Commissioner – Media Relations.**

- 15.1 Maintain statistical records for all NSIC sports.
- 15.2 Update NSIC record book.
- 15.3 Maintain cumulative team and individual statistics where possible.
- 15.4 Produce weekly releases to media, coaches, athletic administrators and college sports communicators with standings and highlights from the week.
- 15.5 Produce pre- and post-releases concerning NSIC meets and tournaments.
- 15.6 Prepare and distribute NSIC directory.
- 15.7 Select Player of the Week Awards.
- 15.8 Process selection of scholar-athlete(s).
- 15.9 Manage NSIC web page, TV show, radio show and webcasting of games.
- 15.10 Manage select NSIC Championships.

15.11 Other duties as assigned by the Commissioner.

## **16 Duties of the Assistant Commissioner – Operations.**

- 16.1 Support internal services to the NSIC membership and key stakeholders.
- 16.2 Serve as liaison to Faculty Athletic Representatives and conference administrative groups.
- 16.3 Coordinate the activities and meetings of the conference’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
- 16.4 Oversee strategic plan implementation.
- 16.5 Manage select NSIC Championships.
- 16.6 Other duties as assigned by the Commissioner.

## **17 Committees.**

### **17.1 Standing Committees.**

#### **17.1.1 Constitution and Bylaws Committee.**

##### **17.1.1.1 Composition.**

17.1.1.1.1 The committee shall consist of the Chair of the Conference Council as the chair, the Chair-Elect of the Conference Council and one Athletic Administrator appointed by the Commissioner.

17.1.1.1.2 The Commissioner or a designee shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

17.1.1.1.3 The term of office for the appointed Athletic Administrator is two years.

##### **17.1.1.2 Duties.**

17.1.1.2.1 Responsible for annual review of the Constitution and Bylaws.

17.1.1.2.2 Present proposed changes to the Conference Council.

17.1.1.2.3 Prepare approved revisions and send to the Commissioner for distribution to member institutions.

#### **17.1.2 Championships and Awards Committee.**

##### **17.1.2.1 Composition.**

17.1.2.1.1 The committee shall consist of the Chair-Elect of the Athletic Administrators as the chair, the Past-Chair of the Athletic Administrators and one Athletic Administrator appointed by the Commissioner.

17.1.2.1.2 The Commissioner or a designee shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

17.1.2.1.3 The term of office for the appointed Athletic Administrator is two years.

##### **17.1.2.2 Duties.**

17.1.2.2.1 Review and make recommendations to the Conference Council regarding operating standards governing the conduct of NSIC sports and championships.

17.1.2.2.2 Recommend the addition of new sports to the Conference Council.

17.1.2.2.3 Develop policies and procedures for the selection of All-Conference teams.

17.1.2.2.4 Develop guidelines and policies concerning the implementation of promotional agreements to the NSIC championships.



**17.1.5.2 Duties.**

**17.1.5.2.1** Select the NSIC Hall of Fame candidates and Noel Olson Award from the NSIC member institution's nominations.

**17.1.5.2.2** To apply current NSIC hall of fame criteria to all nominees.

**17.1.6 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).** The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is made up of student-athletes assembled to provide insight on the student-athlete experience and to offer input on the rules, regulations and policies that affect student-athletes' lives on NCAA member institution campuses and with the NSIC.

**17.1.6.1 Composition.**

**17.1.6.1.1** The committee shall consist of three representatives from each institution. One member should be each institution's SAAC president. Of the three representatives, one must be a female and one a male. Furthermore, one of the three members should have been in attendance at a previous NSIC SAAC meeting, and one must be a freshman or sophomore in participation standing.

**17.1.6.1.2** The representative of the NSIC to the NCAA SAAC will serve as the Chair of the NSIC SAAC.

**17.1.6.1.3** The group shall meet at least once a year for the SAAC Summit.

**17.1.6.1.4** A member of the Conference Council will serve a three-year term as the liaison to the NSIC leadership. *(Revised: 7/13/17)*

**17.1.6.1.5** Any regulatory or discussion items that are proposed by the SAAC will be heard by the Conference Council as brought forward by the liaison as outlined in Bylaw 17.1.6.1.4 *(Revised: 7/13/17)*

**17.1.6.2 Duties.**

**17.1.6.2.1** Promote communication between athletics administration and student-athletes on the conference level.

**17.1.6.2.2** Gather information that can be useful to member institutions.

**17.1.6.2.3** Provide feedback and insight into athletics department issues that affect student-athletes in the NSIC and the NCAA.

**17.1.6.2.4** Generate a student-athlete voice within the NSIC policies.

**17.1.6.2.5** Build a sense of community involving all athletics teams.

**17.1.6.2.6** Promote a positive student-athlete image on the institution's campus.

**17.1.7 NSIC Investment Committee.**

**17.1.7.1 Composition.**

**17.1.7.1.1** The committee shall be comprised of the Executive Committee and two at-large representatives. At-large representatives shall have financial expertise. At-large representatives can be self or peer nominated and will be approved by the Board of Directors.

**17.1.7.1.2** The Commissioner or a designee shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

**17.1.7.1.3** Each at-large representative will serve a three-year term.

**17.1.7.2 Duties.**

**17.1.7.2.1** Create and maintain an investment strategy to achieve the long-term goals of the NSIC.

**17.1.8 Special Committees.**

- 17.1.8.1** Any member of the Conference Council may request that the Chair of the Conference Council create a new committee.
- 17.1.8.2** The committee will be formed subject to a majority vote of the Conference Council.
- 17.1.8.3** The Chair of the Conference Council shall appoint members of special committees, determine the chair, specify term of appointment and establish reporting procedures for committees.
- 17.1.8.4** When a special committee is formed, the term of service of each member shall be defined based on the anticipated duration of the committee's work. Service terms should be staggered for a special committee that will work for an extended period of time with multiple iterations of committee composition.

## **18 Sport Handbooks.**

- 18.1** Sport Handbooks shall be altered, administered and approved by the Athletic Administrators Council and are dispersed separately, and are the policies and procedures for the conduct of the respective sports.

**NORTHERN SUN INTERCOLLEGIATE CONFERENCE**  
**OPERATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE CONDUCT OF SPORTS.**

**1 Conference Contest Regulations.**

**1.1 Conference Championship Sports.**

- 1.1.1** The following are designated as Conference Championship sports:
  - 1.1.1.1 Men's.** Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Indoor Track & Field, Outdoor Track & Field, Wrestling. *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*
  - 1.1.1.2 Women's.** Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Indoor Track & Field, Outdoor Track & Field, Volleyball. *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*
- 1.1.2** Sports which are sponsored by at least six “full member” institutions (defined as meeting all other conference membership requirements) will be designated as “conference championship sports”. Sports designated within this category may conduct regular season and postseason conference competition and will be included in point calculations for the conference’s All-Sports and Sportsmanship Awards.
- 1.1.3** Sports which are sponsored by at least four full member (but less than six) institutions will be designated as “emerging conference championship sports”. Sports designated within this category would be allowed to organize regular and postseason competition amongst conference members and other affiliate members or to compete outside the conference as affiliated members of another league. Sports in this category, however, would not be included in point calculations for the conference’s All-Sports and Sportsmanship Awards.

**1.2 Sport Sponsorship.**

- 1.2.1** Annually, member institutions must confirm the sports they will sponsor for the next academic year through the process identified by the NSIC Commissioner.
- 1.2.2** A member of the NSIC shall: *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*
  - 1.2.2.1** Sponsor a minimum of 10 conference championship sports at the Division II level, including football; or *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*
  - 1.2.2.2** Sponsor a minimum of 11 conference championship sports at the Division II level, not including football. *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*
  - 1.2.2.3** NCAA Division I, NCAA Division II sports the conference does not sponsor at the championship level, NCAA Division III, NCAA Association-Wide sports and any club sports may not count towards NSIC sport sponsorship requirements. *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*
  - 1.2.2.4 Waiver Process.** The NSIC Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote, may grant waivers of the Conference’s minimum sport sponsorship requirement in accordance with the procedure listed below: *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*
    - 1.2.2.4.1** The institution shall submit its waiver of the conference’s minimum conference championship sport requirement, signed by the institution’s president or chancellor, to the NSIC Commissioner and Board Chair. The request shall include, but not be limited to the following pertinent information prior to consideration: *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*
      - 1.2.2.4.1.1** A statement of the relief being requested, citing specific dates and other applicable case facts; *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.2.4.1.2** An in-depth explanation relating to why the waiver is being filed. The institution should be as specific as possible through this explanation; and *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.2.4.1.3** A detailed plan outlining the institution’s long-term commitment to the NSIC and NCAA Division II. *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.2.4.2** The waiver request, and its accompanying materials, will be presented to the Board of Directors. The Board member from the requesting institution is permitted to address the Board during the presentation of the case and answer questions asked, but they must recuse themselves from the discussion and subsequent voting of the waiver decision. *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.2.4.3** The Board of Directors will reach a decision based on a two-thirds majority vote. If the Board of Directors votes to reject the institution’s request, the institution shall be ineligible for conference championships and any conference championship tournament where an NCAA automatic qualifier is awarded, until such time as they meet sport sponsorship as identified in Operational Standard 1.2.2.1 or 1.2.2.2. The Board of Directors decision is final. *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.3** In each NSIC sport that an institution sponsors, the institution’s team shall engage in at least a minimum number of intercollegiate contests (against four-year, degree-granting collegiate institutions) each year. In the individual sports, the institution’s team shall include a minimum number of participants in each contest that is counted toward meeting the minimum-contest requirement. (NCAA Bylaw 7.3.1.7.1.1) *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*.

**1.2.3.1** The following minimums are applicable:

<b>Team Sports</b>	<b>Minimum Contests</b>	<b>Individual Sports</b>	<b>Minimum Contests</b>	<b>Minimum Participants</b>
Baseball	24	Cross Country	4	5
Basketball	22	Golf	7	4
Football	9	Swimming and Diving	8	11
Soccer	10	Tennis	10	5
Softball	24	Track and Field, Indoor	4	10
Volleyball	15	Track and Field, Outdoor	4	14
		Wrestling	9	6

**1.2.3.2** An institution that fails to meet the minimum contests and participants requirements for any sport that it declared as sponsoring shall be subject to a monetary fine of \$500 for each sponsored sport that failed to meet the minimum contest and/or participant requirements. *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.3.3** For institutions that continuously fail to meet the minimum contests and participants requirements for any sport that has been declared as sponsored, the monetary fine will increase by an additional \$500 for each sponsored sport that failed to meet the minimum contest and/or participant requirements for each year they fail to properly sponsor the sport(s). Once five years has elapsed since the most recent penalty, the escalating penalty structure will be reset. The five-year period shall begin

the September 1 after completion of the academic year in which the membership criterion is not met. *(Adopted: 9/21/20)*

**1.2.3.4 Waiver Process.** *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.3.4.1 Minimum Contests and Participants.** The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote, may approve waivers of the minimum number of intercollegiate contests of the minimum number of participants in contests for situations beyond the control of the institution (e.g., weather conditions or disaster preventing completion of a scheduled competition, or verified injury or illness as the site of competition preventing the participation of the required number of individuals). The Board of Directors shall hear and act on an institution's appeal in regard to an institution's waiver of the minimum number of intercollegiate contests or a minimum number of participants in a contest. *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.3.4.2 Minimum Contests.** The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote, may approve a waiver of the minimum number of intercollegiate contests in a situation in which: *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.3.4.2.1** The member institution can document that it had scheduled (for that academic year) the appropriate minimum number of contests under enforceable game contracts executed in writing; *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.3.4.2.2** An opponent canceled a game that it had contracted to play that academic year; and *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.3.4.2.3** Despite a good-faith effort, the institution was unable to rearrange its schedule to play the appropriate minimum number of contests. *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.4** Member institutions who fail to meet annual institutional sport sponsorship in a specific sport and who adversely affect the distribution of NCAA Enhancement Grant dollars to the conference will be assessed a fine in the amount equal to two times the NCAA scheduled distribution of dollars for that sport. The dollars will remain with the conference office to assist in overall operation.

**1.2.5** A member institution that intends to add a sport that is considered a Conference Championship sport shall notify its intention in writing to the Commissioner as soon as available with a timeline that outlines the process to full sponsorship. The conference will add the institution's team into the conference-generated schedules (if applicable) as soon as possible following full sponsorship. The addition to the conference schedule may or may not be the subsequent season following the notice of addition. *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*

**1.2.6** Member institutions wishing to discontinue sponsorship of a sport in which the conference currently produces a competitive schedule must notify the NSIC Commissioner by the last regular season date of competition two years preceding the proposed elimination date. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in a financial penalty based on the following timeline:

**1.2.6.1** 18 months-2 years preceding proposed elimination date = one half (1/2) of yearly membership dues.

**1.2.6.2** Less than 18 months preceding proposed elimination date = 1 full year of membership dues.

- 1.2.6.3 Any financial penalty received will be distributed equitably to the institutions who are continuing to sponsor the sport. The Executive Committee will have the ultimate authority over the distribution.
- 1.2.6.4 Exceptions may be authorized by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. *(Adopted: 12/5/19)*
- 1.2.7 **Contracts.**
  - 1.2.7.1 Contracts covering contests between conference members shall be exchanged except in sports where a master schedule exists (football, baseball, volleyball, soccer, softball, tennis, basketball and wrestling).
  - 1.2.7.2 Provisions of the contracts may not violate any provisions of the constitution. In the absence of specific contracts controlling contests between conference members, the pertinent articles of these Bylaws and Operational Standards shall constitute the basic agreement.
- 1.2.8 **Unplayed Contests.** In case of scheduled but unplayed contests in sports that have conference approved schedules between conference members, the coaches will immediately notify their athletic directors who in turn shall inform the Commissioner of the decision reached (postponed, rescheduled, forfeit, etc.) in writing within a 24-hour period. If no decision is reached, the athletic director of the home team will request a ruling from the Executive Committee.
- 1.2.9 Violations of operational standards for conduct of sport shall be referred to the Commissioner.
- 1.2.10 **Protests.** If in any conference contest a protest involving a rule interpretation is made by a coach, the protest must be settled before the contest resumes. Only situations involving rule interpretations may be protested. Under no circumstances may an official's judgement decision be protested.
- 1.2.11 **Championship Protests.** All protests of the conference championship in a sport must be made to the Commissioner no later than 24 hours after the final contests which decide the championship. If no protest has been made, the championship shall be incontestable. If a protest has been made, the championship will be determined by the Commissioner with final approval required by the Administrative Committee. The Chair of the Administrative Committee shall immediately notify all members of the Conference Council of the protest upon receiving it.
- 1.2.12 **Championship Records.** The individual and team champions are to be recorded by the Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations and listed annually in the NSIC sport specific record book.
- 1.2.13 **NSIC Tournament Philosophy.**
  - 1.2.13.1 For sports that currently offer a conference tournament, the NSIC postseason conference tournaments will serve as a showcase for the league.
  - 1.2.13.2 Attention will be given to creating a positive experience for as many student-athletes as possible to participate, emphasizing the championship experience and allowing teams to achieve the goal of reaching the NSIC tournament.

## 2 Postponed, Canceled, Suspended Athletic Contest (for conference contests).

- 2.1 If a situation occurs due to darkness, light failure, inclement weather or any other uncontrollable circumstance, the contest will be deemed complete if it has at least reached a "reasonable point of conclusion" and CANNOT be resumed as determined by game administration. The definition of "reasonable point of conclusion" will be based on the following minimums:
  - 2.1.1 **Football.** 3 Quarters.

- 2.1.2 **Basketball.** 30 Minutes.
- 2.1.3 **Softball.** 4.5 or 5 Innings as per NCAA softball rules.
- 2.1.4 **Soccer.** 70 Minutes.
- 2.1.5 **Volleyball.** 3 completed sets in a match.
- 2.1.6 **Baseball.** As outlined in sport handbook.

2.2 If a contest has been suspended prior to the “reasonable point of conclusion”, it must be resumed no later than 10 p.m. that day or by mutual consent of the participating teams. The host institution’s administrator in charge, along with the referee and the head coaches of both institutions will be responsible for determining when the contest can resume. The referee or head official will have final determination as to whether a contest can resume based on playing conditions of a field or surface due to safety. However, the NSIC Lightning and Extreme Weather Policy will apply in situations of lightning. If a contest cannot resume and it has not passed the “reasonable point of conclusion” it will be declared a “no contest”. A no contest will not be considered a win or a loss in conference or overall standings and will not be given credit in regional rankings.

2.2.1 **Softball Exception.** A suspended (halted) game due to inclement weather, light failure, etc. shall be resumed and played to completion except during the final game of a conference series that is considered an official game as per NCAA Softball Playing Rules.

2.3 A game that is declared a no contest shall be re-scheduled if possible at the determination of the Director of Athletics at each institution and the Commissioner. Games that have been declared no contest will have priority over contracted non-conference games scheduled by either participating institution. The Commissioner will have final approval of any re-scheduling.

2.4 **Postponed Contest.** If a contest has not started due to extenuating circumstances, the contest may be rescheduled by mutual agreement of the Directors of Athletics of the two teams involved. If a mutual agreement cannot be reached, the Commissioner will adjudicate the scheduling of the contest.

2.4.1 **Baseball/Softball Exception.** The postponed contest rule shall not apply to baseball and softball conference series. Baseball and softball rescheduling policies must follow existing make-up policies as stated in each sport’s NSIC Sport Handbook.

2.5 **Contest in Progress.** If a forfeit is declared by the officials while a contest is in progress or a situation that forces a premature end to the contest, all statistics are void unless the contest has progressed to a “reasonable point of conclusion”. Any conference records set during such contest shall not be recognized if the contest has not reached a “reasonable point of conclusion”.

2.6 **Conference Tournaments.** If a contest during a conference tournament is suspended and cannot continue prior to a “reasonable point of conclusion”, the higher seeded team in that particular contest will advance to the next round of the conference tournament or be declared tournament champion if the situation occurs in the championship game. This policy applied to tournaments that do not have pre-existing policies in their respective sport handbooks.

2.7 There is no forfeit of a contest until all participating teams are present. The referee or other appropriate contest official has jurisdiction in accordance with the applicable playing rules. When a team does not appear due to circumstances beyond their control, a forfeit is not recorded. An institution shall not, for statistical purposes, declare a forfeit for non-fulfillment of a contest. Such instances shall be considered a “no contest” (Operational Standard 2.3)

- 2.8 If a coach removes/pulls their team off the court/field prior to the conclusion of the game, NCAA playing rules shall apply.

### 3 Awards and Championships.

**3.1 Championships and Trophies.** Team championships and team championship trophies shall be awarded in the required conference sports. The same shall be awarded in the designated conference sports. Members not intending to participate in the conference meets shall notify the meet manager of the sport at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meet. Schools not intending to participate in a sport shall notify the Athletic Administrator Council in writing six months in advance.

**3.2 Trophies and Certificates.** Trophies and certificates shall be awarded to conference champions and other award winners. Awards shall be uniform (i.e., approximately the same amount of money shall be spent for the championship trophy for each sport).

#### 3.3 Individual and Team Awards

**3.3.1 Team Championships.** A championship trophy shall be awarded to each team in the required or designated championship sport as defined in the Operational Standards for the Conduct of Sports.

#### 3.3.2 Individual Awards.

**3.3.2.1** In sports where places are awarded in a conference meet, one certificate/plaque per place shall be given up to the amount as designated in the NSIC Operational Standards.

**3.3.2.2** All-Conference certificates/plaques shall be issued as described in Operational Standard 3.3.3.

**3.3.2.3** All players, coaches, managers and other appropriate staff on a championship team will be given a certificate.

**3.3.2.4** A plaque shall be awarded to the most valuable player (MVP) and outstanding individual awards will be given as described in Operational Standard 3.3.3.

**3.3.2.5** Conference sports awards may only include a first and second team - no honorable mention list. Coaches in each sport will provide recommendations on how that list is compiled. (*Adopted: 7/15/2021*)

**3.3.3 Individual Awards by Sport.** Each specific sport is outlined in detail in each respective sports handbook.

#### 3.3.4 Coach of the Year.

**3.3.4.1** The NSIC Coach of the Year shall be awarded in each sport and presented with a plaque.

**3.3.4.2** Each Coaches' Council is responsible for its sports selection process, but coaches may not vote for themselves.

**3.3.4.3** Co-Coaches of the Year are not allowed.

#### 3.3.5 Dr. Britton Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence and the Willis R. Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence.

**3.3.5.1** Each full member institution selects its single male nominee from a conference sponsored sport based on the criteria listed below. The nominees shall comprise the men's NSIC Honor Student-Athlete Award winners. The award is named for Dr. William Britton who was the Institutional Representative for Bemidji State University.

**3.3.5.2** Each full member institution selects its single female nominee from a conference sponsored sport based on the criteria listed below. The nominees shall comprise the women's NSIC Honor Student-Athlete

- Award winners. The award is named for Willis R. Kelly who was the Athletic Director at the University of Minnesota-Morris.
- 3.3.5.3** The NSIC Subcommittee, empowered by the Conference Council to make the NSIC award selections, shall be made up of the Faculty Athletic Representatives Council.
- 3.3.5.4** The committee shall select one recipient for each award. There shall not be co-recipients.
- 3.3.5.5 Timeline.**
- 3.3.5.5.1** By March 10, the conference office initiates the process by emailing FARs the forms for nominating individuals.
- 3.3.5.5.2** By April 1, FARs will submit to the conference office the nominations.
- 3.3.5.5.3** Within five business days of April 1, the conference office will send out the nominations to the FARs.
- 3.3.5.5.4** On April 13, the conference office will send a reminder to those FARs who have not sent in their votes.
- 3.3.5.5.5** By April 15, FARs will submit their vote electronically to the conference office.
- 3.3.5.5.6** Within two business days, the conference office will send the results to the FARs and others.
- 3.3.5.6 Processes.**
- 3.3.5.6.1** The FAR may not vote for a student-athlete from their own institution.
- 3.3.5.6.2** FARs will vote electronically for three candidates for each award. These will be numbered 1 for top choice, 2 for second choice and 3 for third choice. No ties are allowed.
- 3.3.5.6.3** Conference office will convert the votes from a 1, 2, 3 ranking to a 3, 2, 1 ranking. The votes will then be tallied.
- 3.3.5.6.4** The student-athlete with the highest total will be the award winner.
- 3.3.5.6.5** If there is a tie for top spot, the student-athletes (in the tie) with the most number of 3's after conversion will be the award winner. If a tie still exists, the FARs will vote again only for those student-athletes in the tied position. Voting will be concluded within one week.
- 3.3.5.7** The Britton Award for Academic Excellence and the Kelly Award for Academic Excellence includes an appropriate plaques (one for school and one for award winner).
- 3.3.5.8** The minimum qualifications for these awards are:
- 3.3.5.8.1** Minimum GPA of 3.5 in undergraduate at the NSIC institution through the most recent academic period, and 3.75 graduate GPA. If graduate, must include both graduate and undergraduate GPA. The student must have at least completed their academic junior year, at the end of the spring term as required by the member institution. (*Revised: 7/12/2023*)
- 3.3.5.8.2** Transfer students must have completed at least one year at the NSIC institution.
- 3.3.5.8.3** Evidence of academic excellence beyond the GPA (scholarships, prizes and recognition).
- 3.3.5.8.4** Evidence of participation in the life of the institution (all post-secondary schools attended) other than athletics.
- 3.3.5.8.5** Evidence of athletic performance.

- 3.3.5.8.6 Participation in at least 2/3 of the varsity events of the student's primary sport in the previous season, whether or not that season is completed.
- 3.3.5.8.7 Other evidence that might support the nomination (active in the life of the non-university community, etc.).
- 3.3.5.9 In the selection process, more weight will be given to academic performance (60%) than to the other combined criteria (40%); athletic accomplishments to be given no more than 20% of the weight.
- 3.3.5.10 The award can only be won one time in a student-athlete's career.
- 3.3.6 **NSIC/Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award.** The NSIC/Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award will be awarded to academic senior student-athletes. They must have a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher at the point of nomination. Award recipients will receive a certificate and a watch from the NSIC. The award will be presented annually each spring (including associate members). A student-athlete can only receive the Myles Brand Award once in their career. *(Revised: 7/12/2023)*
  - 3.3.6.1 Academically the student-athlete must have completed at least one full academic year at their current institution (student must be in at least their 3rd academic-year-semester at their institution). *(Adopted: 7/12/2023)*
  - 3.3.6.2 Athletically the student-athlete is in at least their second year of competition at their current institution. *(Adopted: 7/12/2023)*
- 3.3.7 **NSIC Elite 18 Award.** The NSIC Elite 18 Award recognizes outstanding student-athletes in the conference. These student-athletes have achieved at the championship level in the classroom and in their sport. The NSIC Elite 18 Award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average in each sponsored sport according to the following criteria. *Note: The award description will be automatically updated in the NSIC Operational Standards for the Conduct of Sports to reflect any changes to the number of sports sponsored by the conference.*
  - 3.3.7.1 **Selection Criteria.**
    - 3.3.7.1.1 Academically the student-athlete has achieved at least sophomore status as defined by their own institution.
    - 3.3.7.1.2 Athletically the student-athlete is in their second year of competition at their current institution.
    - 3.3.7.1.3 Athletically the student-athlete is an active member on the roster and a member of the designated squad size for the sport at the championship site.
    - 3.3.7.1.4 A student-athlete may win the award only once per academic year even if they participate in more than one sport.
    - 3.3.7.1.5 Grade point average is based on the cumulative undergraduate grade point average at the time of nomination as calculated by each institution. Grade point average calculations will be based on a 4.00 scale and will be reported to two decimal places. Graduate-students are eligible, based on their undergraduate GPA.
    - 3.3.7.1.6 In the event of a tie based on grade point average, the award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest total number of undergraduate credit hours earned as calculated by each institution. *(Revised: 7/15/21)*
    - 3.3.7.1.7 If a tie still exists after looking at the total number of credit hours earned, all student-athletes who are tied shall be presented with the NSIC Elite 18 Award.

**3.3.7.2** The following table indicates who is eligible for the NSIC Elite 18 Award. For team-oriented sports, student-athletes who are an active member on the roster and a member of the designated squad size for the sport at the conference championship site will be eligible for the award. For individual sports, student-athletes who participate at the conference meet will be eligible for the award. For football, student-athletes who are members of the North Division Champion team(s), the South Division Champion team(s) and Overall Conference Championship team(s) are eligible. For wrestling, student-athletes who are members of the Overall Conference Championship team(s) and those named to first or second team all-conference are eligible. Each institution is limited to one nomination per sport. Affiliate members are eligible for the NSIC Elite 18 Award. *Note: The selection criteria will be automatically updated in the NSIC Operational Standards for the Conduct of Sports to reflect any changes to the championship formats.*

<b>Fall Sports</b>	<b>NSIC Finals Site Format</b>	<b>NSIC Elite 18 Award Eligibility</b>
(M) Cross Country	Conference Meet (14 teams)	All participants at conference meet eligible
(W) Cross Country	Conference Meet (16 teams)	All participants at conference meet eligible
Football	North Champion(s), South Champion(s), Overall champion(s)	Only participants on north/south division and overall conference championship team(s) eligible
(W) Soccer	Conference Tournament (4 teams)	Only participants on four teams at conference tournament finals site eligible
Volleyball	Conference Tournament (4 teams)	Only participants on four teams at conference tournament finals site eligible
<b>Winter Sports</b>		
	<b>NSIC Finals Site Format</b>	<b>NSIC Elite 18 Award Eligibility</b>
(M) Basketball	Conference Tournament (8 teams)	Only participants on eight teams at conference tournament finals site eligible
(W) Basketball	Conference Tournament (8 teams)	Only participants on eight teams at conference tournament finals site eligible
(W) Swimming & Diving	Conference Meet (10 teams)	All participants at conference meet eligible
(M) Indoor T&F	Conference Meet (12 teams)	All participants at conference meet eligible
(W) Indoor T&F	Conference Meet (15 teams)	All participants at conference meet eligible
Wrestling	Overall champion(s)	Only participants on the overall conference championship team(s) and individuals named as first or second team all-conference eligible
<b>Spring Sports</b>		
	<b>NSIC Finals Site Format</b>	<b>NSIC Elite 18 Award Eligibility</b>
Baseball	Conference Tournament (8 teams)	All participants at conference tournament eligible
Softball	Conference Tournament (10 teams)	All participants at conference tournament eligible
(W) Tennis	Conference Tournament (6 teams)	All participants at conference tournament eligible
(M) Outdoor T&F	Conference Meet (12 teams)	All participants at conference meet eligible
(W) Outdoor T&F	Conference Meet (15 teams)	All participants at conference meet eligible
(M) Golf	Conference Meet (10 teams)	All participants at conference meet eligible
(W) Golf	Conference Meet (13 teams)	All participants at conference meet eligible

**3.3.8 All-Academic Team of Excellence and All-Academic Team.**

**3.3.8.1** An All-Academic Team of Excellence, along with an All-Academic Team will be recognized in each conference sponsored sport with the size of the team to be unlimited.

**3.3.8.2 Criteria.** The following criteria shall be used:

- 3.3.8.2.1 The student-athlete must be a member of the varsity traveling team.
- 3.3.8.2.2 To be named to the All-Academic Team of Excellence, student-athletes must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.60 or higher (4.0 scale).
- 3.3.8.2.3 To be named to the All-Academic Team, the student-athlete must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.20-3.59 (4.0 scale).
- 3.3.8.2.4 Academically the student-athlete must have completed at least one full academic year at their current institution (student must be in at least their 3<sup>rd</sup> academic-year-semester at their institution). *(Revised: 7/15/21)*
- 3.3.8.2.5 Athletically the student-athlete is in at least their second year of competition at their current institution (true freshman, red-shirt freshmen and ineligible athletic transfers are not eligible). *(Revised: 7/15/21)*
- 3.3.8.2.6 Graduate students are eligible. Their cumulative undergraduate GPA must meet criteria. Their nomination is based upon cumulative graduate GPA at that institution if they have earned at least 8 graduate credits, otherwise their cumulative undergraduate GPA will be used. Must be in at least their second season of NSIC competition. *(Adopted: 7/15/21)*
- 3.3.8.3 The Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations shall send a form to each CSC requesting the names of qualifying student-athletes for each of the all-academic teams from the current sports season on October 1, January 15 and April 1 of each year.
- 3.3.8.4 The CSCs shall send a list of qualifiers to the Assistant Commissioner.
- 3.3.8.5 The teams shall be announced 2-4 weeks after the conclusion of the NSIC season for each sport.
- 3.3.8.6 All members of the men's and women's NSIC All-Academic Teams shall receive a merit certificate. The conference office shall send out the certificates.
- 3.3.9 **Player of the Week.** The NSIC shall recognize a Player of the Week in conference sports. Statistics from non-conference events may be included. No sport shall name a Player of the Week after the conclusion of the conference championship event or the conclusion of the scheduled season in those sports that do not have a championship event. Each institution shall forward the nomination to the NSIC Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations. The NSIC staff shall then make the decision and announce the recipients in a press release. If less than 2/3 of the member institutions report during the sport season, the Player of the Week will be dropped in that respective sport for one year.
- 3.3.10 **All-Sports Award.**
  - 3.3.10.1 At the conclusion of the spring sports season, the All-Sports Award shall be presented to the institution that accumulates the most points (on a scale of 16-15-14-13-12-11-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 for first through 16<sup>th</sup> place) in the final standings of all required and designated conference sports. Men's teams and women's team points at each institution are added together and the All-Sports Award is presented to the institution with the highest point total along with the top overall NSIC men's program and top overall women's program. If teams are tied, the eligible points are added together and divided by the number of tied teams. Please see All-Sports Competition formula.

**3.3.10.2** The NSIC Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations shall make the announcement.

**3.3.11 NSIC SAAC Cup.**

**3.3.11.1 Purpose.** To encourage participation and engagement in Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference SAAC initiatives.

**3.3.11.2 Guidelines.**

**3.3.11.2.1** The SAAC Cup will be awarded annually at the SAAC Summit.

**3.3.11.2.2** Institutions will receive points throughout the year based on the criteria within the categories below.

**3.3.11.2.3** The winner will be the institutional SAAC with the most points accumulated by the end of the academic year (September 1 – May 1).

**3.3.11.2.4** Points must be achieved in each category to be eligible to win the NSIC SAAC Cup.

**3.3.11.2.5** Events are required to be submitted to the NSIC at [www.northernsun.org/saaccupsubmission](http://www.northernsun.org/saaccupsubmission) or via email to receive points.

**3.3.11.2.6** SAAC Cups items in all categories except Make-A-Wish donations & Financial Contributions to Worthy Causes must be submitted to the conference office by the quarterly deadline in which the meeting/event/initiative/project takes place.

**3.3.11.2.6.1** All items that take place in September & October must be submitted by November 15.

**3.3.11.2.6.2** All items that take place in November & December must be submitted by January 15.

**3.3.11.2.6.3** All items that take place in January & February must be submitted by March 15.

**3.3.11.2.6.4** All items that take place in March & April must be submitted by May 7.

Receipts or check orders for Make-A-Wish/Financial Contributions to Worthy Causes must be submitted to the conference office by May 7. Any items for the NSIC SAAC Cup submitted after the appropriate deadline will not count as points for the NSIC SAAC Cup. *(Adopted: 7/9/25)*

**3.3.11.2.7** Institutions are encouraged to share events on institutional SAAC social media accounts using the hashtag #NSICSAACInitiative or #NSICSAACcup.

**3.3.11.2.8** SAAC Summit points will be added to the upcoming academic year.

**3.3.11.3 Categories and Criteria.**

**3.3.11.3.1 Make-A-Wish Participation.** Receive ½ point for every dollar raised up to \$1,750 and 1 point for every dollar raised thereafter (\$1,751 and up) for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Funds shall be donated to Make-A-Wish via the method(s) outlined by NCAA Division II.

**3.3.11.3.2 Financial Contributions to Worthy Causes.** Receive ½ point for every dollar raised up to \$1,750 and 1 point for every dollar raised thereafter (\$1,751 and up) for worthy causes. The cause must be approved by the conference office. *(Adopted: 9/26/18)*

- 3.3.11.3.3 **NSIC SAAC Meetings.** Receive 250 points for each attendee (a maximum of three) at NSIC SAAC Summit. Receive 50 points for each participant (maximum of three) on NSIC SAAC Zoom meetings.
- 3.3.11.3.4 **Campus SAAC Meetings.** Receive 100 points for campus SAAC meetings (a maximum of two per month). A formal agenda and/or minutes from each meeting should be kept on file with the SAAC advisor. Receive 50 additional points per meeting for engaging campus and/or community leaders.
- 3.3.11.3.5 **SAAC Legislative Grid.** Receive 250 points for completing the NCAA SAAC Legislative Grid and returning it to the NSIC Division II National SAAC representative by the required due date. Receive 250 additional points for meeting with institution President/Chancellor AND Faculty Athletic Representative to review proposed legislation.
- 3.3.11.3.6 **NSIC SAAC Initiatives.** Receive 500 points for NSIC SAAC organized initiatives. Initiatives include Mental Health Awareness, utilizing the Green Bandana Project; Wellness & Belonging; It's a Slam Dunk, Don't Drive Drunk; and Life after College. A description of all events and a list of participants should be kept on file with the campus SAAC advisor. *(Revised: 7/10/24, 7/9/25)*
- 3.3.11.3.7 **Other Community Service/Engagement Projects.** Receive 250 points for SAAC-organized community service/engagement projects that occur during the academic year. A description of all events and a list of participants should be kept on file with the campus SAAC advisor.

#### 4 General Policies.

- 4.1 **Conference Statistics.** Conference statistics shall be handled by the home team and distributed to the visiting team, news media and the Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations.
- 4.2 **Officials.**
  - 4.2.1 The conference office shall secure officials for the sports of football, women's soccer, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball. The conference office personnel shall bill the member institutions prior to the respective season of competition.
  - 4.2.2 The home team shall secure and pay officials for contests in all other sports.
- 4.3 **Certified Athletic Trainers and Physicians.** Refer to the athletic trainer's handbook for sport-by-sport requirements for home teams.
- 4.4 **NSIC Tobacco Free Environment Policy.** The NSIC prohibits the use of tobacco products by NSIC athletic administrators, coaches, athletic trainers and athletic support personnel (i.e., equipment managers, student trainers and game officials) on the site of all athletic facilities where conference teams compete. This policy includes all transportation, restaurants and lodging accommodations used by athletic teams.
- 4.5 **Scholarship Limitations.** The NSIC member institutions are required to follow NCAA rules and regulations with regard to financial aid as outlined in the NCAA Manual under Bylaw 15 Financial Aid.

**4.6 Student-Athlete Intraconference Transfer Policy. (Eliminated:5/22/23)**

**4.7 Student-Athlete Eligibility.**

- 4.7.1 Each institution shall complete the Eligibility Checklist available through NCAA Compliance Assistant, for student-athletes in each sport who the institution desires to certify for outside competition. This form shall be emailed to the conference office prior to the first competition. Only student-athletes certified for competition prior to participation are eligible for outside competition.
- 4.7.2 If an institution competes with an ineligible student-athlete, the violation will be reported immediately to the Commissioner. The NSIC Principles of Nullification will be applied to all contests in which the ineligible student-athlete competed.

**4.8 NSIC Principles of Nullification.**

**4.8.1 During the Regular Season and Championship Segment.**

- 4.8.1.1 The NSIC Principles of Nullification will be applied independently from the NCAA Division II Principles of Nullification.
- 4.8.1.2 The ineligible student-athlete and the institution they represent will be penalized. As it relates to access to NSIC championships, a penalty will be assessed to the individual's team won/loss percentage which may impact the individual's and/or team's opportunity for selection to postseason competition.
- 4.8.1.3 All contests in which an ineligible student-athlete competes will be nullified (win/, lose, or tie). The nullification of a contest will penalize only the individual and/or institution using an ineligible student-athlete.
- 4.8.1.4 The number of nullified contests is identified, and the penalty is assessed for each nullified contest. If a student-athlete was deemed ineligible and then reinstated through the NCAA reinstatement process, only those contests in which the student-athlete competed while ineligible will be nullified. The competition prior to or after that time will not be nullified.
- 4.8.1.5 The penalty assessed will vary from sport to sport. It will be a mathematical calculation that is relevant to each sport and reduces the percentage of the win-loss record. The value of the nullification will be consistent with the NCAA Division II Championships Committee's formula illustrated below.

2025-26 Division II Nullification Chart  
(data from 2024-25 season)

Sport	DII W/L	DII Avg Opp W/L	DII Avg Opp/Opp W/L	In Region W/L	In Region Avg Opp W/L	In-Region Avg Opp/Opp W/L
<b>FALL SPORTS</b>						
Field Hockey	0.045	0.010	0.003	0.046	0.012	0.003
Football	0.022	0.007	0.002	0.022	N/A	N/A
Men's Soccer	0.016	0.003	0.001	0.016	0.003	0.001
Women's Soccer	0.027	0.008	0.002	0.027	0.008	0.002
Volleyball	0.024	0.006	0.002	0.024	0.006	0.002
<b>WINTER SPORTS</b>						
Men's Basketball	0.022	0.004	0.001	0.022	0.005	0.001
Women's Basketball	0.024	0.004	0.001	0.024	0.004	0.001
<b>SPRING SPORTS</b>						
Baseball	0.023	0.004	0.001	0.024	0.004	0.001
Men's Lacrosse	0.024	0.013	0.004	0.025	0.009	0.004
Women's Lacrosse	0.033	0.011	0.006	0.033	0.012	0.006
Softball	0.022	0.005	0.002	0.022	0.004	0.002
Men's Tennis	0.047	0.013	0.005	0.059	0.012	0.005
Women's Tennis	0.038	0.011	0.004	0.040	0.010	0.004

- 4.8.1.6** For the sport of soccer, the nullification calculation will be a 2.1333-point reduction from the institution's total points for each ineligible student-athlete that competed, per each match in which an ineligible student-athlete competed. This number is calculated by taking the highest point total from the previous season, subtracting the lowest point total from the previous season, and dividing that number by the number of institutions sponsoring women's soccer from the previous season (15 teams in 2024). This number will change annually based on final standings. (*Adopted: 5/20/19*)
- 4.8.1.7** For individual/team sports (i.e., golf), if the student-athlete competed while ineligible, the score achieved by the student-athlete would be deleted from the team score. In the case of golf (play 5 count 4), the fifth score would be calculated into the team score.
- 4.8.1.8** The conference executive committee shall have the authority to take stronger action on top of the nullification if the offense warrants it (i.e., intent to deceive, repeat offenders). *Example: During the regular season, an institution reports that an ineligible student-athlete competed in five contests. As the report was made during the regular season, the NSIC Principles of Nullification are applied.*
- 4.8.1.9** For exhibition contests and scrimmages that occur during the championship segment, the financial penalties issued by the NCAA will be identically enforced by the NSIC excluding those against the student-athlete. There will be no mathematical calculation and nullification will not be applied. Penalties against the student-athlete may be identically enforced if there is evidence that the student-athlete withheld information that resulted in the violation. (*Adopted: 5/20/19*)
- 4.8.2 Exception – After Completion of Championship Segment.**
- 4.8.2.1** If an ineligible student-athlete is reported after the conclusion of the regular and post season play, the penalties issued by the NCAA will be identically enforced by the NSIC, excluding those against the student-athlete, and therefore the principles of nullification will not be applied. Penalties against the student-athlete may be identically enforced if there is evidence that the student-athlete withheld information that resulted in the violation. *Example: After completion of the season, an institution reports that an ineligible student-athlete competed in five contests. As the report was made after the completion of the championship segment, nullification is not applied. The NCAA issues a \$2,500 fine to the institution and the student-athlete is required to sit out five contests. According to the NSIC Principles of Nullification Exception, the conference would also issue a \$2,500 fine to the institution and would only consider additional contest penalty for the student-athlete if there is evidence that the student-athlete contributed to the violation.*
- 4.8.3 Appeal.** The institution has the right to appeal by submitting a letter of appeal to the NSIC Commissioner within 14 calendar days after receiving official notification of the decision. An appeal of the Commissioner's decision is the authority of the Ethics and Eligibility Committee.

#### **4.9 NSIC Media Relations Requirement for Hosting Championships on Campus.**

- 4.9.1** Aid in updating NSIC Championship Website.
- 4.9.2** High quality photographer at each match/game (share one or two photos with visiting team).
- 4.9.3** High quality video of championship match/game and postgame interviews.
- 4.9.4** In-game statistics.

- 4.9.5 Statistics for media and coaches.
- 4.9.6 Live stats for each match/game.
- 4.9.7 Live video streaming of each match/game with sound (PBP is preferred) if currently available at facility.
- 4.9.8 Wireless internet available for media/visiting CSCs if currently available at facility.
- 4.9.9 Press notes area (e.g., table for game notes).
- 4.9.10 Championship programs (provided by the NSIC office).

**4.10 Webcasting.** Webcasting standards can be referenced in the NSIC Webcasting Handbook located at [www.NorthernSun.org/WebcastingHandbook](http://www.NorthernSun.org/WebcastingHandbook).

## 5 Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Hall of Fame.

**5.1** The NSIC Hall of Fame biographical information is due to the NSIC Office by December 15. The online form is available at [www.NorthernSun.org/HOF](http://www.NorthernSun.org/HOF). (Revised: 1/13/2023)

**5.2** A list of inductees by year can be found at [http://northernsun.org/hof.aspx?type=class\\_induction&kiosk](http://northernsun.org/hof.aspx?type=class_induction&kiosk)

**5.3 Purpose.** The purpose of the NSIC Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor those who have made significant contributions to the conference; to create favorable publicity and public relations for the conference, thereby enhancing the identify and distinction of the conference and to help preserve the history of the conference.

### 5.4 Restrictions.

- 5.4.1 A maximum of eight possible inductees will be selected in a given year.
- 5.4.2 An inductee must be able to attend the induction ceremony to be inducted that year (unless extenuating circumstances occur).
- 5.4.3 A student-athlete must graduate to be eligible for the NSIC Hall of Fame, unless unanimously agreed upon by the Hall of Fame Committee.

**5.5 Categories of Membership.** Candidates for membership will be given consideration if they have made their contributions in the following areas:

- 5.5.1 Former student-athletes (male/female).
- 5.5.2 Administrator/Coach.
- 5.5.3 Official/Supervisor.
- 5.5.4 Contributor/Supporter.
- 5.5.5 Team.
- 5.5.6 The committee may consider other worthy candidates that do not fall into the above categories.

### 5.6 Eligibility of Nominees.

- 5.6.1 **Nominations by Institutions.** Institutions can nominate one individual for entry. Nominees will be accepted for individuals who have been affiliated with the NSIC, NSC, or NIC. An institution must be in the league for at least ten years before they will be allowed to nominate candidates. The NSIC Hall of Fame Committee will review the nominees and has been given the authority to expand the group selected and forward those individuals to the Conference Council for approval. Schools will be responsible for completing the online biographical information form as well as a statement of support for their selections. Without such information, these candidates will not be confirmed.
- 5.6.2 **Nominations Through the Conference Office.** Individuals affiliated with the NSIC, which include school officials or person affiliated with previous member

institutions, can submit to the Hall of Fame Committee (selected by the Chair of the Conference Council following consultation with the Commissioner) a list of people that they believe deserve consideration for induction. The nominated parties will be encouraged to use any means possible to identify those who warrant consideration. Nominations will be accepted for individuals who have been affiliated with the NSIC, NSC, or NIC. The Hall of Fame Committee will meet in January to receive and review the nominations. The Committee will review and approve up to three per year and present these individuals to the Conference Council for approval. The nominating party will be responsible for completing the biographical information form with a statement of support for their nominations. Without such information, these candidates will not be considered.

#### **5.7 Criteria for Nominations.**

- 5.7.1** The individual will be given priority consideration if they fit into the above listed categories of membership and must have been involved with the school while it was a member of the conference.
- 5.7.2** Nominations should be based upon significant contributions to the conference, which can and will be defined by the Committee.
- 5.7.3** Student-athletes will not be considered until ten (10) years after completion of participation within the academic year (i.e., a student-athlete that exhausts their eligibility in 2004-05 is not eligible for induction until the 2015 Hall of Fame Class).
- 5.7.4** A student-athlete must have participated for two years in a conference sport that is/was sanctioned by the NCAA/NAIA and participated in at least one year of NSIC, NSC or NIC competition. School citizenship and academic achievement will be taken into consideration, as well as their contribution to their profession and society.
- 5.7.5** A candidate as an administrator/coach must have completed at least six (6) years of service within the conference and can be nominated four (4) years after their affiliation with the conference.
- 5.7.6** An official/supervisor nominee must have officiated for a minimum of ten (10) years within the conference and can be nominated four (4) years after their affiliation with the conference. The professional status of supervisor will be left to the discretion of the Hall of Fame Committee.
- 5.7.7** Special consideration can be given if health or other factors warrant an earlier induction for the candidate.
- 5.7.8** For each institution, every third inductee, a female must be selected.

**5.8 Recognition.** Two plaques will be provided and financed by the conference office, one of which will go to the inductee and one to the institution represented. These plaques will be presented at an annual Hall of Fame banquet. A history of each inductee shall be kept in the conference office. Each institution will prominently display the plaques of their respective Hall of Fame inductees. For teams being inducted into the NSIC Hall of Fame, a plaque will be given to the institution and certificates will be awarded to each member of the team being inducted.

#### **6 Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Participation Policy for Transgender Student-Athletes. (Revised: 2/26/25)**

- 6.1** The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference member institutions are subject to NCAA rules and regulations regarding the participation of transgender student-athletes as stated in the [NCAA participation policy for transgender student-athletes](#).

- 6.2 **The Institution's Responsibilities.**
- 6.2.1 Each institution is to share the NCAA Transgender Participation Policy with their student-athletes on an annual basis.
  - 6.2.2 If a student-athlete comes forward regarding the participation policy for transgender student-athletes, the institution should arrange a meeting between the student-athlete and the appropriate campus individual(s) to review eligibility requirements and procedure for transgender student-athlete participation.
  - 6.2.3 All coaches and athletic department staff members should be knowledgeable about and able to articulate their institution's (if applicable), and the NCAA policy regarding transgender student-athlete participation.
  - 6.2.4 All information and discussion about an individual student-athlete's gender identity and medical information, including physician's information provided pursuant to this policy, shall be maintained confidentially. Inquiries regarding the eligibility status of a student-athlete in relation to the individual's gender identity should be made through appropriate Title IX department(s) and the NSIC Commissioner.
  - 6.2.5 In accordance with current Title IX federal guidelines, faith-based member institutions in the NSIC are not compelled to apply this policy in a manner which "would not be consistent with the religious tenants" of the institution.
- 6.3 **The Student-Athlete's Responsibilities.**
- 6.3.1 To avoid challenges to a transgender student-athlete's participation, a student-athlete who has completed, plans to initiate, or is in the process of taking hormones as part of a gender transition should submit the request to participate on a sports team in writing to the appropriate institutional staff upon matriculation or when the decision to undergo hormonal treatment is made.
  - 6.3.2 The request should include a letter from the student-athlete's physician documenting the student-athlete's intention to transition or the student-athlete's transition status if the process has already been initiated. This letter should identify the prescribed hormonal treatment for the student-athlete's gender transition and documentation of the student-athlete's testosterone levels, if relevant.