

NCC SPORT REGULATIONS, ARTICLE 21**FOOTBALL**

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(New Provisions for 2007-2008 in **bold**)

**21.1 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT**

- (a) Football is an official sport of the North Central Conference, and all member institutions shall field teams and participate for the conference championship.

**21.2 SCHEDULE**

- (a) The varsity playing schedule for conference member institutions shall be limited in any one year to a maximum of eleven (11) contests (games or scrimmages) with outside competition to be played during the traditional fall season. Excluded from this limitation shall be:
1. One (1) scrimmage or contest at the conclusion of spring practices, provided that the game be played with bona fide alumni or students, or both.
  2. Contests with alumni teams are considered to be outside competition.
- (b) Every conference member shall compete with every other conference member once each year in accordance with the schedule adopted by the conference. Any conference member(s) responsible for failure to meet this requirement shall be declared ineligible for the conference championship in football for the year in which the infraction occurs.
- (c) Afternoon conference games shall be scheduled to start at no later than 2:00 p.m. and night conference games shall be scheduled to start at no later than 7:30 p.m.
1. There shall be no exceptions to this except by mutual agreement of the athletic directors of the competing institutions.

**21.3 POST-SEASON COMPETITION**

- (a) Member institutions may participate in post-season competition approved by the NCAA Extra Event Committee, and this competition shall be excluded from the limitation of eleven games.

**21.4 NCAA POST-SEASON REPRESENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) If necessary, the conference champion shall be automatically recommended as the representative of the conference to the NCAA Division II National Football Playoff.
- (b) If necessary, other conference members may be recommended for consideration as additional representative to the NCAA Division II National Football Playoff.
- (c) If necessary, when conference co-champions are declared, the recommended conference representative will be determined by a vote of the membership.

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### 21.5 CONTRACTS

- (a) Agreements for football games between member institutions shall be written contracts and shall cover a minimum of two (2) games.
- (b) The athletic director of the home team for the first of the two-game series shall initiate the contracts.

### 21.6 GUARANTEES

- (a) There shall be an exchange of financial guarantees in the amount of \$2,500.00 with conference schools.

### 21.7 CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS

- (a) Only the highest standards of sportsmanship and conduct are expected of student-athletes, coaches, and others associated with the games.
- (b) Football is and should be an aggressive, rugged, contact sport. However, there is no place in the game for unfair tactics, unsportsmanlike conduct, or maneuvers deliberately designated to inflict injury.
- (c) Student-athletes, coaches, officials, and others responsible for the welfare of the game are expected to subscribe to the principles of "The Football Code" as published by the NCAA Football Rules Committee.

### 21.8 PLAYING RULES

- (a) The rules and regulations of the NCAA Football Rules Committee shall govern the playing of conference games, unless exceptions are specifically stated in the Sports Regulations of this conference.

### 21.9 GAME OFFICIALS

- (a) Assignment of game officials:
  1. Seven officials will be used in conference games.
  2. The conference office (e.g., commissioner, supervisor of officials) shall assign officials for all varsity games played at member institutions.
  3. The conference office may change any officiating assignment at any time.
  4. No official generally should be assigned to more than four (4) games in which a member institution competes in the same season.
  5. The conference office shall assign other than local officials, whenever possible, with the least number of miles to travel.
  6. The conference office shall notify each athletic director of officials assigned to each game and the cost of officiating travel expense prior to August 15th.
  7. Football officials shall be paid **\$155.00** per official game plus **\$.25** cents per official per two-way mile. A per diem of \$50.00 per overnight will be paid on trips of 200 miles or more one-way. A per diem of \$100.00 will be paid on trips of 300 miles or more one-way to each official that stays overnight or uses air travel. A

per diem of \$150.00 will be paid on trips of 400 miles or more one-way to each official that stays overnight or uses air travel.

- (b) In case of an emergency preventing fulfillment of an assignment by an official, the following procedure is to be followed:
  - 1. If prior to the day of the game, the official is to notify the NCC football supervisor of officials as soon as possible.
  - 2. If it is the day of the game, and the NCC supervisor of officials is not available, then the official(s) shall notify the athletic director and/or head football coach of the host institution and the athletic director and/or head football coach shall hire a substitute(s) official(s). In this case, approval of the substitute official(s) is not required by the visiting team(s).
  - 3. If an official is late for an accepted assignment(s), or does not fulfill an accepted assignment(s), then the NCC office may withhold game fee(s) of other existing assignment(s), or limit future assignment(s).
- (c) The home institution management is to furnish an electric clock operator who is to report to the officials' dressing room for instructions 60 minutes prior to the game.
- (d) Home management shall provide three (3) approved headsets, one with which the head coach can communicate with both the offense and defense while on the field. There shall be two (2) approved headsets, one for offense and one for defense in the visitor's press box booth. If a headset goes down mechanically, the coach should inform the referee who will instruct the other team's coach to lay down enough headsets so that they are equal until repairs are made.
- (e) The home management is to provide one (1) down-indicator operator, two (2) chainmen, and one (1) clip-man. All four are to be dressed alike and in contrasting color to either players or game officials. All four men are to report to the linesman for instructions 20 minutes prior to game time on the field.
- (f) The home management is to provide two (2) individuals to act as ball-retrievers with one to be located on each side of the field. These ball-retrievers are to report to the game officials for instructions 20 minutes prior to game time on the field.
- (g) All conference schools must furnish a 25-second clock and an operator for all games.
- (h) Approved list of football game officials:
  - 1. The conference office shall maintain a list of officials. The conference office shall have the authority to delete from this roster at its discretion with the understanding that the athletic authorities of any member institution may feel free to advance comments on the quality of the work of those officials assigned to their contests.
  - 2. No employee of a member institution may be on the approved list of football game officials.
  - 3. All officials shall submit to the conference office a physical examination form before their first contest.
- (i) Supervision of football game officials:
  - 1. The NCC supervisor of football game officials shall:

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- a. Conduct an annual clinic for instruction of game officials.
- b. Observe the work of officials as often as possible.
- c. Send a report to the athletic director of each institution at the end of the season summarizing the reports of officials including the actions of student-athletes, coaches, spectators, and anything deemed relevant and important.
- d. Submit to the athletic directors at each conference spring meeting a complete list of approved football officials with additions and deletions.

### 21.10 EQUIPMENT

- (a) In all games, the home team shall wear colored jerseys, and the visiting team shall wear white jerseys. The numbering system provided by NCAA rules shall be used.
- (b) The game ball for all conference games shall be the Wilson F1003 GST.
- (c) The home management shall provide in the game officials' dressing room:
  1. Three (3) properly inflated footballs of the type agreed upon.
  2. One (1) chalkboard and one (1) chalk eraser.
  3. One (1) track timer's watch.
- (d) The home institution shall provide a kicking net for the visiting institution.

### 21.11 FACILITIES

- (a) Spectators should not be closer to the playing area than the stands.
- (b) Temporary stands shall be placed a reasonable and safe distance from the playing field.
- (c) Home team bands are not to be seated behind the bench of the visiting team. Two (2) sideline phones in the press box and three (3) on the sidelines, must be provided for the visiting team. An extension cord of a minimum of 50 feet shall be provided for sideline telephone sets.
- (d) Ice shall be provided to the visiting team for use in care of injuries.
- (e) Drinking water shall be placed in suitable containers at the bench of the visiting team.
- (f) Unslaked lime shall not be used to mark the football field.
- (g) The field shall be marked as prescribed by the NCAA Football Rules and as diagramed in the official NCAA Football Rule Book.
- (h) Football goal posts are to be extended ten (10) feet higher than the standard 20-foot goal post, as is allowable under the NCAA rules. All institutions must have 30-foot uprights above the ground. All goal posts must be set at the width proscribed in the NCAA Football Rules (18 ft., 6 in., inside to inside).
- (i) The home management shall provide a dressing room for the visiting team that is private, and it shall have hot water, soap, chalkboard, chalk, and guaranteed security.

- (j) The home management shall provide a private dressing room for the game officials with adequate towels, soap, and soda beverages at halftime and after the game. Game programs are recommended for each official.

## **21.12 GAME PROCEDURES**

- (a) The scoreboard clock is the official time.
- (b) The official game clock shall be set and started 90 minutes before game time.
- (c) The football field shall be cleared and available to teams 60 minutes prior to the game starting.
- (d) Football teams shall be on the field and standing at attention during the playing of the National Anthem (at the 5 minute mark).
- (e) There is to be only one (1) coin toss and it is to take place three (3) minutes prior to game time at the center of the field. NOTE: Squads should be on the field at that time.
- (f) Starting line-ups may be introduced but student-athletes are not required to run on the field. This is done to prevent starting the game late.
- (g) Games shall start on time.
- (h) The bands must stop playing as soon as a team breaks its huddle and approaches the line of scrimmage.
- (i) At the end of each period, the referee will blow the ball dead and, as a signal, will face the press-box and raise the ball above his head. A gun will not be used.
- (j) Game management officials are responsible for sideline control and allowing only authorized personnel on the sideline area.
- (k) All home games shall have a 20-minute halftime intermission. Any exceptions must be specifically approved by the conference.
- (l) Television or video tape equipment capable of reproducing games or portions of games prior to the completion of a game, shall not be utilized by either of the competing teams for coaching purposes.

## **21.13 TRAVELING SQUAD**

- (a) The traveling squad for football shall include no more than fifty-five (55) rostered players. The traveling squad for games involving Central Washington and Western Washington shall be no more than 67 with no more than 52 being rostered players.

## **21.14 NCC CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP**

- (a) The NCC Championship shall be determined at the end of the season on a won-lost percentage basis.

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### **21.15 STATISTICAL RECORDS**

- (a) Game statistics shall be kept by the sports information director of each institution on the form recommended by the NCC director of media relations and utilizing the system adopted by the conference office.
- (b) Game statistical reports shall be filed with the NCC director of media relations immediately following each contest via facsimile and electronic game file.

### **21.16 COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS**

- (a) Member institutions may exchange complimentary tickets for football as mutually agreed by the involved athletic directors (or they designees).

### **21.17 SCOUTING/VIDEO TAPE**

- (a) The coaches of competing teams shall exchange a maximum of three (3) films of games played. The films exchanged should go by corresponding dates and not by most recent dates prior to competition. All game films will be uploaded and exchanged through Game Tape Exchange electronic sharing service.
  - 1. Only home NCC teams will be required to upload each week of conference play.
  - 2. An NCC team will be required to upload all non-conference games home and away.
  - 3. The home team for a Saturday afternoon game will upload the game immediately following a weekly contest and should be available for download by opponents by 11:59 pm Saturday night.
  - 4. If a team plays on Thursday or Friday the game should be upload by 11:59 p.m. Saturday night but can uploaded earlier if desired.
  - 5. If an NCC team plays an away non-conference or home night game or a Saturday NCC night game the deadline to have the game uploaded will be 1:00 PM Sunday.
  - 6. Any problems that would not allow a school to comply with these rules should be reported immediately to Game Tape Exchange and the NCC office.
- (b) Scouting of a conference opponent is not allowed.
- (c) No one shall be allowed to send film to a non-conference opponent that is not on their schedule. Any violation of this agreement will result in a reduction from the three (3) films to one (1) for the violating institution during the conference film exchange the following year.

### **21.18 PRE-SEASON PRACTICE**

- (a) Limitations on pre-season practice shall be those prescribed by the NCAA Bylaws, Article 17, and by all official interpretations of that section.

### **21.19 OUT-OF-SEASON PRACTICE**

- (a) Conference member institutions are subject to all of the provisions of NCAA Bylaws, Article 17, and to all official interpretations of that section.

**21.20 NCC ANNUAL COACHES MEETING**

- (a) The NCC Football Coaches shall meet in-person on the first Friday of August if a majority of the coaches feel that an in-person meeting is necessary. If an in-person meeting is not voted for by a majority of the coaches, then all coaches shall participate on a telephone conference call at 10 am on the first Monday in August. If a telephone conference call is conducted, then the call should include a review of written NCAA rule information and the appropriate NCAA video tapes should be circulated to all coaches. Also, the football coaches shall continue to conduct their annual NCC football player awards conference call at 10 am on the Thursday after the conclusion of the regular-season. (Note: For 2006, the NCC Football coaches voted to conduct their annual meeting in August via telephone conference call. The call will be on Monday, August 7, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. Central.)