

2022–2023

OFFICIAL & POLICY HANDBOOK

37th edition — August 2022

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics • 120 W. 12th Suite 700, Kansas City, Mo. 64105 • 816.595.8000 • NAIA.org

HANDBOOK GUIDE

The following is an illustration of the formatting used throughout the Handbook to indicate changes from the previous edition. (It does not reflect a change to this specific bylaw.)

ARTICLE I GENERAL INSTITUTIONS/CONFERENCES

I SECTION Q EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

1. Domestic

All institutions having exchange programs involving students must have the exchange program approved, in writing, by the National Eligibility Committee, before students begin the program.

Students are identified with the institution where their records are kept and fees are paid. Students who pay their fees and/or have their records kept at another institution during the exchange program period shall be considered as transfer students upon returning to their original institution unless written approval has been given by the National Eligibility Committee in advance of the program.

Casebook examples are included throughout the bylaws for reference to interpretations.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Exchange Programs
Approved Ruling: Students are identified with the institution where their fees are paid and their records are kept and not where they attend class. If exchange students from your institution pay their fees to your institution and their records are kept by your institution, they are considered identified with your institution. Should fees be paid and/or records kept at the exchange institution, the student shall become identified with that institution unless advance written approval has been received from the NAIA National Eligibility Committee for this program.

2. Foreign

A United States citizen attending a foreign university under the student abroad plan, a student exchange plan or a comparable program, is not considered to be a transfer student upon returning and becoming identified with the original United States institution.

Underlined text indicates the section was added or changed for this edition through convention legislation or updates to the policies.

Annotated Handbook

Each year, membership votes on proposed bylaw amendments at the national convention. Those amendments that are approved are reflected in the handbook the following year; notated by the underlining the new wording.

Links throughout Article V will reference past years' bylaw amendments.

Often, changes to Article V bylaws mean that the application of the bylaw might change from one year to the next, even when applied to the same student. For instance, if a student competed as an unattached student-athlete (exception 3 under V.B.18) in 2016 and in 2018, the criteria a student must meet in order to satisfy the exception will differ between the two years. Therefore, it is important that those evaluating eligibility are able to reference the rules in place within different years and be able to apply the bylaws that governed at the time.

Article V, Section C, Item 2 History: *Revised 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018*

Please be aware that different versions of a particular bylaw could both apply to the same student in different years when reviewing a student's eligibility.

PUBLICATION HISTORY

Printed 8/54; Revised 8/57; Reprinted 8/59; Revised 8/65; Reprinted 8/69; Revised 8/71; 8/74; Reprinted 10/77; Revised 8/78; 8/79; 8/80; 8/81; Reprinted 9/82; Revised 8/83; 8/84; Reprinted 8/85; Revised 8/86; 8/87; Reprinted 8/88; Revised 4/90; Reprinted 4/91; Revised 8/92; Reprinted 4/93; Revised 10/93; Reprinted 8/94; Revised 11/94; 9/95; Reprinted 7/96; Revised 10/96; Reprinted 7/97; Revised 10/98; Reprinted 2/99; Revised 10/00; 3/02; Reprinted 10/02; Revised 9/03; Reprinted 10/03; Revised 08/04; Reprinted 10/04; Revised 08/05; Reprinted 08/05; Revised 08/06; Reprinted 08/06; Revised 08/07; Reprinted 08/07; Revised 08/08; Reprinted 08/08; Revised 08/09; Reprinted 08/09; Revised 09/10; Reprinted 09/10; Revised 08/11; Reprinted 08/11; Revised 08/12; Reprinted 08/12; Revised 08/13; Reprinted 08/13; Revised 08/14; Reprinted 08/14; Revised 08/15; Reprinted 08/15; Reprinted 08/16; Revised 08/17; Revised 08/18; Revised 08/19; Revised 09/20; Revised 10/20; Revised 8/21; Revised 8/22.

2022 AMENDMENTS

The following amendments to the NAIA Constitution and Bylaws were made at the NAIA annual business meeting April 2022.

BYLAWS

SUBJECT: BEACH VOLLEYBALL FREQUENCY OF PLAY LIMITATIONS
Amend Bylaws Article I, Section H, Sections 1-5
Intent: To establish 26 as the maximum number of dates on which a beach volleyball team may compete in an academic year, establish two as the maximum number of additional scrimmage dates, and establish start dates of September 1 for practice and the Thursday of the last full weekend in January competition.
Effective date: August 1, 2022
Submitted by: Beach Volleyball Coaches Association; Co-sponsored by: National Administrative Council

SUBJECT: GOF COMPETITION START DATES
Amend Bylaws Article I, Section H, Item 5
Intent: To adjust the start date for men's and women's golf competitions from the fourth Thursday in August to the fourth Monday in August.
Effective date: August 1, 2022
Submitted by: Men's Golf Coaches Association; Co-sponsored by: Mid-South Conference

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF INTENT SUBMISSION
Amend Bylaws Article I, Section N and Article VI, Section B, Item 5
Intent: To create a declaration period for institutional Declaration of Intent submissions beginning April 1, and extend the final submission deadline from April 1 to June 1.
Effective date: August 1, 2022
Submitted by: National Administrative Council

SUBJECT: AFFILIATED CONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS
Amend Bylaws Article I, Section U, Item 9
Intent: To provide a two-year grace period protecting an affiliated conference and its automatic qualification berth should it drop below the required six full members, provided the conference maintains five full members.
Effective date: August 1, 2022
Submitted by: Frontier Conference; Co-sponsored by: North Star Athletic Association, Cascade Collegiate Conference

SUBJECT: CONDUCT IN COMPETITION
Amend Bylaws Article VI, Section B, Item 7

Intent: To clarify the ability of the National Conduct and Ethics Committee to act on appeals of NAIA game suspensions and adjudicate then as it deems appropriate.
Effective date: August 1, 2022
Submitted by: National Conduct and Ethics Committee

SUBJECT: COMPETITIVE EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE COMPOSITION
Amend Bylaws Article IX, Section C, Item 5
Intent: To expand the Competitive Experience Committee to include one member of the Athletics Compliance Administrators Association and one additional member of the Athletic Directors Association.
Effective date: August 1, 2022
Submitted by: Athletics Compliance Administrators Association; Co-sponsored by: Athletic Directors Association

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE COMPOSITION
Amend Bylaws Article IX, Section C, Item 7
Intent: To ensure the National Eligibility Committee consists of five members, and specify four members must be faculty athletic representatives and/or eligibility chairs, and one member must be an athletics compliance administrator.
Effective date: August 1, 2022
Submitted by: Athletics Compliance Administrators Association; Co-sponsored by: Athletic Directors Association

SUBJECT: NAIA RISE COMMITTEE COMPOSITION
Amend Bylaws Article IX, Section C, Item 8
Intent: To add an athletics compliance administrator to the NAIA RISE Committee and remove one at-large position.
Effective date: August 1, 2022
Submitted by: Athletics Compliance Administrators Association; Co-sponsored by: Athletic Directors Association

INTRODUCTION

This section of the NAIA Official Handbook is designed to provide a general overview of the Association.

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SECTION A — STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the NAIA is to promote the education and development of students through intercollegiate athletic participation. Member institutions, although varied and diverse, share a common commitment to high standards and to the principle that participation in athletics serves as an integral part of the total educational process.

The NAIA embraces the concept of the student and recognizes the importance of the individuality of each member institution, the value of the conference and regional structure, and the benefits of membership in a national association.

The NAIA supports gender equity. Gender equity is an atmosphere and a reality where fair distribution of overall athletic opportunity and resources, proportionate to enrollment, are available to women and men, and where no student-athlete, coach or athletics administrator is discriminated against in any way in the athletics program. That is to say, an athletics program is gender-equitable when the men's sports program would be pleased to accept as its own the overall participation opportunities and resources currently allocated to the women's sports program and vice versa.

To achieve its purpose, the NAIA pursues the following goals for students, member institutions and the Association.

1. The student, as the central focus of intercollegiate athletics, shall:
    a. Accept the responsibility to become an effective, contributing member of society;
    b. Perform as a positive role model on the campus and in the wider community;
    c. Fulfill academic responsibilities while progressing steadily toward meeting the requirements for a degree; and
    d. Maintain eligibility for participation in every athletic contest.
2. The member institution shall:
    a. Ensure that intercollegiate athletics is an integral part of the total educational offering;
    b. Encourage the broadest possible student involvement in the athletics program;
    c. Maintain high ethical standards through commitment to the principle of self-reporting;

d. Subscribe to the democratic principles of one institution, one vote, and the privilege of any member to initiate legislation through an appropriate conference, committee, association or council;
e. Evaluate the athletics program in terms of the educational purpose of the institution;
f. Engage in competition with other institutions having similar athletics philosophies and policies; and
g. Promote gender equity.

3. The Association shall:
   a. Assist the membership in the development of programs of intercollegiate athletics consistent with the purpose of the Association;
   b. Establish, through the membership, rules and standards for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics;
   c. Respect institutional diversity and individuality as strengths;
   d. Provide opportunities for postseason intercollegiate competition;
   e. Provide national recognition for the membership and the Association;
   f. Provide opportunities for the development of leadership for both men and women, especially people of color, at all levels of the Association;
   g. Ensure fiscal accountability and responsibility; and
   h. Conduct an advancement program, to include marketing, fund raising and membership development.

It is in the best interest of student-athletes to have regular mental, emotional and physical breaks from the obligations and demands of athletics, when possible. To promote sound health and an overall positive student experience, as a best practice each NAIA institution should provide student-athletes with one day each week free from athletic demands or obligations that include sport-related activity or instruction. Such time away from athletics will provide student-athletes a chance to rest, as well as an opportunity to focus on other non-athletic endeavors.

SECTION B – NAIA COACHES CODE

I believe in the power of athletics as a program for the training of youth for a strong and efficient democracy.

I believe in athletics for the building of good character and personality.

I believe in athletics as a significant part of a sound educational program.

I believe in athletics as a constructive force in the lives of millions of sports followers throughout our nation. Therefore, I will hold sportsmanship and fair play high above all other values to be gained through sports participation.

I consider the privilege of guiding youth through participation in sports as a sacred trust and not merely a means of livelihood.

I will always keep the best interests of each student-athlete as my aim. I shall never be guilty of enhancing my professional progress by the use of a student's skill for my benefit.

I will ever keep before the students under my direction the high ideals, honesty, sincerity and integrity which have made our nation great. I will not encourage, or ever tolerate, any form of trickery or evasion of rules in order to gain an advantage over an opponent.

I will do all in my power to instill in those under my direction a tolerance for all races and creeds, and I will stand out against intolerance wherever it may occur.

I will strive to instill in every youth great purposes and aims in living and will use the desire to play not as an end, but as a training ground for the student's highest development.

I will strive to teach each student to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat, to be above bragging or using alibis, and shall help develop inner strength and poise.

I will use only fair and honest means in my desire for personal achievement and shall count the goodwill of my peers far above any achievement unfairly gained.

I will not sacrifice the values to be gained through a wholesome enjoyment of challenging sports activity for institutional pride or commercial ends.

I will use only fair and honest means of securing talent for athletic teams and never stoop to trickery or insincere promises in influencing students in the selection of their educational experience.

I will use every means at my command to protect the moral, mental and physical health of the students under my guidance and will never be party to the use of athletics for the financial or political gain of any office or group.

I will encourage each student to avail himself/herself of the best experience to be gained in a well-rounded education and to progress normally toward graduation. I will never encourage participation in athletics as an end in itself.

I will help each student under my guidance toward the development of honest habits of work and pride in work well done and I shall not practice or allow evasion in any obligation surrounding the athletics program.

I will shoulder my total responsibility as a leader through athletics and will not allow that responsibility to be transferred to any person or group outside the educational institution. I will not violate this sacred trust for financial support or political prestige.

SECTION C – CODE OF ETHICS

1. PURPOSE: A Code of Ethics is the essential tool with which to protect and promote the interests of athletics and the coaching profession. Its primary purpose is to clarify and distinguish ethical practices from those which are detrimental and harmful. Its secondary purposes are to emphasize the values of athletics in American and Canadian educational institutions and to stress the functional contributions of coaches to their schools and players. Ethics must be defined as the basic principles of right action. Proper ethics in athletics implies a standard of character which affords confidence and trust. The standards emphasized in this code certainly rest in the hands of those engaged in the athletics field.

2. ENFORCEMENT: The National Conduct and Ethics Committee shall review any report of violations of the code, collect definite facts, consider all sides in any controversial issue and take appropriate actions. The Council of Presidents is empowered by the membership to expel member institutions or deny specific sports sponsorship for member institutions which have clearly violated the Code of Ethics.

3. BASIC PRINCIPLES: In becoming a member of the athletic community — whether as an institution, a member of a coaching staff, or as an individual — certain obligations and responsibilities are assumed in relation to competitors as institutions, teams, coaches and student bodies. These relationships are paramount in establishing and holding the kind of friendships which count most in our estimation of athletics in society today.

   The essential elements in the NAIA Code of Ethics are honesty and integrity. Coaches whose conduct reflects these two characteristics will bring credit to the field of athletics and to themselves. It is only through such conduct that athletics can earn and maintain a rightful place in our educational program and make a full contribution to our way of life.

4. COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE INSTITUTION: The coach should work with the admissions office of the institution and should be permitted to recommend qualified athletes for admission, but should in no way permit the records or transcripts of prospective student-athletes to pass through his/her office, nor ever attempt to bring pressure upon the admissions officer or committee to admit an applicant merely because he/she possesses exceptional athletic ability.

5. CONDUCT OF ADMINISTRATORS AND COACHES: The administration of athletics shall be carried out in such a manner that the educational aims of the institution will be fulfilled. The administrator of athletics is responsible for both the principles and practices of this program being consistent with the broad educational purposes of the institution and highest ethical and moral standards of sports.

   The coach shall make every effort to conduct the sports program in such a manner as to give full and active support to the educational aims of the institution. The coach shall have a thorough knowledge of the academic rules and standards of the institution and give active evidence of full support. The coach shall cooperate fully in support of the faculty on eligibility requirements and insist that all athletes fulfill the same academic requirements as all other students at the institution.

   The coach shall actively participate in committees and programs in support of the general educational program of the administration. The coach shall actively participate in programs established by the institution for professional growth.

   All coaches shall conduct their sports programs in such a manner as to assure both those who participate and those who are influenced in any way through the program that the major emphasis is placed on building character, sound health and broad educational aims, rather than merely a publicity medium built on winning.

   The coach shall insist upon adherence to both the letter and the spirit of high sportsmanship and playing rules. Under no circumstances should evasion of playing rules to gain an advantage be permitted.

6. OFFICIALS: Game officials should be selected with care to assure that they are competent and experienced. Once selected, they should have the full support of administration, coaches and athletes in fulfilling their job. Under no conditions should coaches, players or spectators be permitted to make critical remarks to or about an official during a contest. Booing and other discourteous conduct at athletic contests should be strongly discouraged.

7. PUBLIC RELATIONS: Maintaining a positive relationship with the media and the general public is essential. Every individual representing an NAIA institution has a definite responsibility to furnish accurate and reliable news of public concern to members of the media at all times. Through a positive relationship with the media and general public, the institution is able to inform the public of its aims and further its relationship with the surrounding community.

8. SCOUTING: Scouting of competitors should be confined to regularly scheduled games. Intruding upon practice sessions is to be strictly prohibited. The trading of game films in lieu of personal scouting is encouraged whenever practicable, provided complete, high-quality films are furnished at a mutually agreeable time in advance of the given contest.

9. STUDENT RECRUITING: All student recruiting for athletic purposes shall be in harmony with recommended and acceptable practices of the institution and shall be controlled by the regularly constituted institutional committee on student loans and scholarships. Where conferences exist, all conference rules regarding recruiting must be observed without favor.

SECTION D — NAIA HISTORY

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) was born from a basketball association, which grew out of a tournament associated with a famous name — Dr. James Naismith, the inventor of basketball.

The 1937 men's basketball tournament, held in Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium, was the brainchild of Emil S. Liston, Naismith, Frank Cramer, and a group of Kansas City business leaders who wanted to provide Kansas City-area fans with exciting amateur competition and a framework for small colleges and universities to determine a national basketball champion. In 1938, the original eight-team tournament expanded to 32 teams. And in 1940, the first convention of the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball (NAIB) was held in downtown Kansas City.

In 1948, the NAIB took the historic step of opening that tournament to black student-athletes, becoming the first national intercollegiate athletics association to provide postseason opportunities where blacks and whites could compete side by side.

Then in 1952, the NAIB was transformed into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), and the first all-encompassing set of rules and standards was adopted by the membership. A year later, the NAIA became the first national intercollegiate athletics association to accept historically black institutions as members.

In 1957, the Association's headquarters moved from the campus of George Pepperdine College in Los Angeles to Kansas City to serve the membership from a centralized location.

With the Association's new name came the addition of national championships in golf, tennis and outdoor track and field. Football, cross country, baseball and swimming and diving were added to the championships calendar in 1956. Wrestling (1958), soccer (1959), bowling (1962-78), gymnastics (1964-84), indoor track and field (1966) and men's volleyball (1969-80) were later additions.

In 1976, the men's basketball tournament was moved from Municipal Auditorium to Kemper Arena, also in Kansas City. It marked the first time since 1937 that the tournament had been held in a different arena.

In 1980, the NAIA membership voted to become the first national intercollegiate athletics association to offer athletics opportunities for both women and men. The championship calendar for women began that year with basketball, cross country, gymnastics, indoor and outdoor track and field, softball, tennis and volleyball. Soccer was added in 1984, and golf was included in 1995. Gymnastics was discontinued after the 1988 championship.

In 1985, the membership changed the NAIA voting structure to one institution, one vote. Effective August 1 of that year, each member institution in good standing received one vote at the annual meeting, rather than the representative voting structure of one vote per six members within each district.

Reflecting national sentiment for a greater accountability within intercollegiate athletics, the Council of Presidents moved from an advisory capacity to active leadership on August 1, 1986. As the Association's board of directors, the Council of Presidents assumed responsibility for all budget and fiscal matters, employment and supervision of the President/Chief Executive Officer

and National Office staff, and for continuing to review, evaluate and strengthen academic standards.

In 1992, the Association voted to move its headquarters from Kansas City to Tulsa, Okla. On August 1, 1993, the NAIA opened its doors in Tulsa and the Division I Men's Basketball National Championship, which had been held in Kansas City for 56 years, moved with it.

During the 1993 NAIA National Convention in Atlanta, the membership voted to institute affiliated conference and regional groupings and discontinue the use of district play as a means of qualification for national championships, marking the first time since the NAIA's creation that district competition would not be used. The 1994 men's and women's basketball tournaments were the first events in NAIA history to use conference and regional play to determine postseason participants. Beginning in August of 1994, every NAIA team or individual relied on conference and regional tournaments to earn postseason berths.

In 2000, the NAIA launched its Champions of Character® initiative, which promotes the five core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership.

The NAIA National Office moved to Olathe, Kan., a suburb of Kansas City, in 2001. With that move, the men's Division I basketball tournament, now formally the Buffalo Funds-NAIA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship, returned to its original home—Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City.

In 2006, the Council of Presidents named Jim Carr President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association. Carr is the seventh executive officer for the NAIA and first served as Interim President and CEO during the eight-month search by the Council of Presidents. Carr joined the NAIA in July 1998 as managing director and general counsel and later was named chief operating officer while retaining the title of general counsel.

The NAIA relocated to its current offices at 1200 Grand in Kansas City, Mo., in 2007.

That same year, the NAIA completed a three-year study of regional realignment and ultimately the Council of Presidents approved a recommendation to transition to a direct qualification model for selected championships with the fall of 2008.

In 2009, the NAIA membership approved the concept of a national eligibility center. Later that year, the Council of Presidents approved a recommendation to establish a separate legal entity known as the NAIA Eligibility Center, which began reviewing records and issuing eligibility decisions for all first-time NAIA student-athletes in 2011.

As of 2022, the NAIA offers 28 national championships for the more than 60,000 student-athletes who participate at its member institutions.

SECTION E — INTERORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The NAIA has developed a number of relationships with other educational and sport related organizations to facilitate its services and better fulfill obligations to its membership. The NAIA seeks to cooperate with these organizations to further intercollegiate athletics as part of educational and amateur sport programs.

1. United States-International University Sports Federation (US-IUSF)
   The US-IUSF (formerly the United States Collegiate Sports Council) promotes and develops international collegiate sport on an amateur basis. A main function is to make arrangements for and manage the U.S. team for the World University Games and other competitions sponsored or approved by the Federation Internationale de Sports Universitaire (FISU). The NAIA holds membership on the board of directors of US-IUSF.

Both winter and summer World University Games are held in the interim between Olympic Games. NAIA coaches and administrative personnel, in addition to competing NAIA athletes, have been members of the U.S. contingent.

2. Sports Governing Bodies
   The NAIA maintains affiliation with the national sports governing bodies of the sports in which the NAIA sponsors national championships. These include the American Baseball Coaches Association; National Association of Basketball Coaches; Women's Basketball Coaches Association; USA Basketball; American Football Coaches Association; U.S. Golf Association; National Golf Coaches Association; Golf Coaches Association of America; American Swim Coaches Association; College Swimming Coaches Association of America; National Fastpitch Coaches Association; National Soccer Coaches Association of America; ITA Intercollegiate Tennis Association; USA Track and Field; American Volleyball Coaches Association; National Wrestling Coaches Association; and USA Wrestling.

   NAIA officers and coaches occupy leadership positions in several of the sports governing bodies by virtue of election to councils or executive committees.

3. Joint Committees
   A cooperative liaison relationship is maintained between the NAIA and other national athletics administrative associations, such as the National Collegiate Athletic Association, National Christian College Athletic Association, the National Junior College Athletic Association, and the National Federation of State High School Associations.

4. Halls of Fame
   The NAIA holds membership and actively participates in the affairs of each of the recognized halls of fame in sports in which the NAIA conducts national championships. These include: the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame; the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame; the National Track and Field Hall of Fame; the International Swimming Hall of Fame, Inc.; the Wrestling Hall of Fame; the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame, Inc.; the Baseball Hall of Fame; the National Soccer Hall of Fame; and the Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame. Essentially, the halls of fame seek the advancement and betterment of the particular sport and to assist and extend participation.

5. Other Relationships
   The NAIA maintains close contact with various other educational bodies and works with them to properly maintain intercollegiate athletics as an integral part of the total educational program. The NAIA relies heavily upon the educational standards of these agencies in developing its standards for athletics participation. These agencies and organizations include the Council on Postsecondary Education Accreditation (which includes national accrediting bodies); the Association of American Colleges (AAC); the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU); Council of Independent Colleges (CIC); National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU); the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO); and others.

CONSTITUTION

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ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS (NAIA).

ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION

This organization is created by representatives of colleges and universities acting in an effort to develop and perpetuate intercollegiate athletics through a national association.

ARTICLE III AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

SECTION A

The aim of the NAIA is to promote the development of athletics as an integral part of the educational offerings of member institutions by means of democratic participation at conference, independent and national levels. This aim shall be accomplished by means of the functioning of committees composed of representatives of those institutions which subscribe to and support athletics programs that shall culminate in truly democratic national championship competitions. The NAIA seeks membership only from nationally accredited institutions which support this aim. In addition, the NAIA is dedicated to aid in the solution of problems in intercollegiate athletics common to NAIA institutions. The primary criterion for selection and encouragement of membership shall be educational emphasis.

SECTION B STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the NAIA is to promote the education and development of students through intercollegiate athletic participation. Member institutions, although varied and diverse, share a common commitment to high standards and the principle that athletics serve as an integral part of education.

The NAIA embraces the concept of the student and recognizes the importance of the individuality of each member institution, the value of the conference and independent structures, and the benefits of membership in a national association.

To achieve its purpose, the NAIA pursues the following goals for students, member institutions and the Association.

1. The student, as the central focus of intercollegiate athletics, shall:
   a. Accept the responsibility to become an effective, contributing member of society;
   b. Perform as a positive role model on the campus and in the wider community;
   c. Fulfill academic responsibilities while progressing steadily toward meeting the requirements for a degree; and
   d. Maintain eligibility for participation in every athletic contest.
2. The member institution shall:
   a. Ensure that intercollegiate athletics is an integral part of the total educational offering, under the control of those responsible for the administration of the institution;
   b. Encourage the broadest possible student involvement in the athletics program;
   c. Maintain high ethical standards through commitment to the principle of self-reporting;
   d. Subscribe to the democratic principle of one institution, one vote, and the privilege of any member to initiate legislation through an authorized body as listed in the Constitution and Bylaws;
   e. Evaluate the athletics program in terms of the educational purpose of the institution; and

f. Engage in competition with other institutions having similar athletics philosophies and policies.

3. The Association shall:
   a. Assist the membership in the development of programs of intercollegiate athletics consistent with the purpose of the Association;
   b. Establish, through the membership, rules and standards for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics;
   c. Respect institutional diversity and individuality as strengths;
   d. Provide opportunities for postseason intercollegiate competition;
   e. Provide national recognition for the membership and the Association;
   f. Provide opportunities for the development of leadership for both men and women, especially people of color, at all levels of the Association;
   g. Ensure fiscal accountability and responsibility; and
   h. Conduct an advancement program to include marketing, fundraising, and membership development.

ARTICLE IV INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP, ELIGIBILITY, VOTING, DUES, TERMINATION

SECTION A

Active member institutions must be accredited by one of the following national accrediting bodies: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MAS); New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE); New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE); North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The Higher Learning Commission (NCA-HLC); Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS); Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools (WASC-ACS); in Canada, be a member of Universities Canada.

Associate membership status shall be accorded to four-year colleges and universities, and upper-level, two-year institutions that award bachelor's (baccalaureate) degree(s) but do not hold accreditation or membership in one of the bodies listed above but are classified as developing athletic programs, as defined by the Council of Presidents.

SECTION B

For purposes of voting by members, each active member institution in good standing is entitled to one vote.

SECTION C

Annual membership dues will be determined by the Council of Presidents. Dues are payable immediately after July 1, the beginning of the fiscal year. Membership dues become delinquent after September 1.

SECTION D

All institutions delinquent in the payment of dues shall not be eligible to participate in NAIA postseason competition for the school year pending review by the Council of Presidents.

SECTION E

The National Eligibility Committee and/or the National Conduct and Ethics Committee may recommend institutional termination. Formal action of institutional termination rests solely with the Council of Presidents.

ARTICLE V The NAIA Council of Presidents: Qualifications, Composition, Nomination, Election, Continuing Eligibility

SECTION A

The Council of Presidents shall be elected from institutional chief executive officers.

SECTION B

The Council of Presidents is composed of conference representatives, representatives elected by independent institutions and members elected at-large. Two at-large positions will be designated for female and/or minority presidents.

SECTION C

Membership on the Council of Presidents requires concurrent service as a chief executive officer of a member institution. Council of Presidents members shall serve terms of three years, and no one may serve more than two terms in succession.

SECTION D

Each conference representative to the Council of Presidents is elected by the chief executive officers in that conference. The election will be conducted by the NAIA National Office under the supervision of the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer. Each independent representative to the Council of Presidents shall be elected by the chief executive officers of independent institutions. The Council shall consist of proportionate representation from affiliated conference and independent membership.

SECTION E

The officers of the Council of Presidents shall be composed of the chair and the chair-elect. These officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association by the Council of Presidents and shall serve a term of two years.

SECTION F

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

SECTION G

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

SECTION H

The Council of Presidents shall meet at least twice a year: once prior to the annual meeting of the Association and once as established by the Executive Committee of the Council of Presidents. Other meetings may be called by the chair of the Council of Presidents.

ARTICLE VI Execution of Responsibility by the Council of Presidents

The responsibilities of the Council of Presidents are outlined in the NAIA Bylaws. Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall be followed in carrying out these responsibilities unless otherwise specified in Articles III or IV of the NAIA Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII The NAIA National Coordinating Committee: Qualifications, Composition, Nomination, Election, Continuing Eligibility, Responsibilities

SECTION A

The National Coordinating Committee (NCC) shall consist of the chair and the chair-elect of the National Administrative Council (NAC), the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives (CFAR), and the Council for Student-Athletes (CSA), plus five at-large members elected by the membership of the NAIA at the annual meeting of the Association. Two at-large positions will be designated for females and/or minorities. An at-large member cannot be from the same institution or conference as the NAC, CFAR, or CSA representatives. Should any one individual serve as a chair or chair-elect of multiple councils, the respective council may choose another member to serve as its representative on the NCC.

Note: Additional selection criteria should be applied at the next regularly occurring election cycle.

SECTION B

The chair and chair-elect of the NAC, CFAR and CSA shall serve on the National Coordinating Committee for the duration of their term on the respective council. The three at-large positions shall be elected for three-year terms. National Coordinating Committee members may not be re-elected for more than two consecutive terms.

SECTION C

Duly elected members of the National Coordinating Committee shall be eligible for continuing membership until such time as they:

1. Have completed their normal period of service; or
2. Choose to resign.

The outgoing chair of the National Coordinating Committee who is no longer eligible for continuing membership shall remain on the committee for one calendar year from the date of ineligibility as an advisory, non-voting member.

SECTION D

The responsibilities of the National Coordinating Committee are outlined in the NAIA Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII National Administrative Council, Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, Council for Student-athletes: Composition, Nomination, Election, Continuing Eligibility, Responsibilities

SECTION A

The members of the National Administrative Council must be qualified by experience or title in holding a position in which they have or have had athletics administrative responsibilities and have or have had direct knowledge of athletics budget and personnel matters.

Members of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives must be designated by a member institution's chief executive officer as the institution's faculty athletics representative. As exceptions, one member shall be an elected officer of the NAIA Registrars Association, not necessarily serving as the institution's faculty athletics representative, and one student-athlete representative from the Council for Student-Athletes will serve in a nonvoting capacity.

The members of the Council for Student-Athletes must be qualified by experience or title and be committed to engaging in ongoing research, education and collaboration that will benefit the health, safety and development of the student-athlete.

SECTION B

Each council must develop a nomination/election process that ensures adequate representation from conferences and independent institutions. Each council will include at-large positions designated for females and/or minorities. Each council shall consist of proportionate representation from affiliated conference and independent membership.

SECTION C

Each council shall be elected by its constituency. The term of office shall be for three years unless otherwise noted. Individuals may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Each council shall have a chair and chair-elect.

The National Administrative Council shall consist of one representative from each affiliated conference, the President and Vice-President of the Athletics Directors Association, the chair and vice-chair of the Conference Commissioners Association, the President of the NAIA Sports Information Directors of America, the President of the Athletic Trainers Association, and one representative from the Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) per 10 members of the CAC. At least two at-large positions will be designated for females and/or minorities. There will be a minimum of 10 athletics directors and 10 conference commissioners on the National Administrative Council. The initial selection shall be staggered in order to ensure a two-thirds council retention each year.

The Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall consist of 14 faculty athletics representatives selected with appropriate geographic balance, the chair and chair-elect of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, the chair of the National Eligibility Committee, an elected officer of the NAIA Registrars Association, and one student-athlete member of the Council for Student-Athletes who will serve as a non-voting member of the council. Two positions will be designated for female and/or minority faculty athletics representatives.

Note: Additional selection criteria should be applied at the next regularly occurring election cycle.

The Council for Student-Athletes shall consist of one representative from the Council of Presidents, one representative from the Conference Commissioners Association, one representative from the Athletic Directors Association, two representatives from the Athletic Trainers Association, one representative from the Council of Faculty Athletics Representative, one representative from the Sports Information Directors Association, four members of NAIA coaches associations, the four elected officers of the Association of Student-Athletes, seven at-large representatives from the Association of Student-Athletes, and one member of the Champions of Character® Advisory Committee, and two at-large positions will be designated for females and/or minorities. Representatives from NAIA coaches associations shall serve a single two-year term, and four different sports (two men's sports and two women's sports) shall be represented at all times. Terms for officers from the Association of Student-Athletes shall coincide with the individual's term as an officer of the ASA. At-large representatives from the

Association of Student-Athletes shall serve one-year terms, and individuals may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The initial council selection shall be staggered in order to ensure adequate council retention each year.

SECTION D

1. Duly elected members of the above councils shall be eligible for continuing membership until such time as they:
   a. Have completed their normal period of service;
   b. Choose to resign; or
   c. No longer meet the qualification conditions.
2. In the event a council member is elected or appointed to serve as an officer on an NAIA council, that member shall be exempt from existing term limitations, until completion of the term of office or officer rotation (if applicable).

   The outgoing chair of either of the above councils, who is no longer eligible for continuing membership, shall remain on the council for one calendar year from the date of ineligibility as an advisory, non-voting member.

SECTION E

The duties of each council are outlined in the NAIA Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX VACANCIES: COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS, NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE, NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, COUNCIL OF FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVES

SECTION A

Vacancies on the Council of Presidents, its officers and its Executive Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the initial selection. Should a vacancy occur with less than a year to serve, the replacement may be appointed by the chair.

SECTION B

Vacancies on the National Coordinating Committee may be filled by appointment by the appropriate council that the departing National Coordinating Committee member represented, or, at the appropriate council's discretion, the vacancy may remain open until the next annual meeting of that council.

Vacancies occurring in the at-large segment of the National Coordinating Committee shall remain open until the next annual meeting of the Association.

SECTION C

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

ARTICLE X Annual Meeting and Voting Procedures

SECTION A

The Association shall meet in convention at a time and place designated by the Council of Presidents.

SECTION B

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

Each NAIA affiliated conference and the Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) shall be granted one vote as designated by the commissioner, or, if the conference/association has no commissioner, the president/chair of the conference/association.

All voting delegates shall be authorized to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer 72 hours prior to the annual meeting.

SECTION C

The NAIA shall recognize a quorum to be one third of NAIA active members. Such number must be authorized as voting delegates at the annual meeting in order to conduct the official business of the Association.

ARTICLE XI Amendments

Proposed amendments, which must be sponsored by an authorized NAIA council, an NAIA standing committee, an NAIA association, or an affiliated conference, shall be submitted in writing to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer. All proposed amendments must be submitted electronically no later than 90 days prior to the annual meeting of the Association. The proposed amendments shall be posted by the NAIA National Office online and made available to each active member institution in good standing, and each affiliated conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) commissioner/president no later than 30 days before the start of the national convention.

A proposed amendment sponsored by an NAIA affiliated conference or an NAIA association must have a minimum of one additional co-sponsor. Co-sponsorship by an NAIA coaches association will not satisfy this requirement when the primary sponsor is another NAIA coaches association.

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

ARTICLE XII Dissolution Clause

NATIONAL

Should the membership take legal action to dissolve this organization, all funds and other assets of the organization will be divided on a prorated basis within the membership. The

formula to be used in such proration shall be on the basis of the total years each institution shall have been a member of the organization.

ARTICLE XIII Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall serve as the final authority in parliamentary procedure.

[The term "independent," used throughout the Constitution and Bylaws, refers to a member institution which does not belong to an NAIA-affiliated conference.]

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ARTICLE I General Institutions/Conferences

I SECTION A Membership: Types and Requirements

1. Active Membership shall be accorded to colleges and universities which meet the following requirements:

    a. Be a four-year college or university or an upper-level, two-year institution that awards a bachelor's (baccalaureate) degree, or its equivalent.

    b. Be accredited by one of the following national accrediting bodies: (Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MAS); New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE); New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE); North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The Higher Learning Commission (NCA-HLC); Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS); Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools (WASC-ACS)), or be a member of Universities Canada.

    c. Sponsor and declare an intent to participate in NAIA approved postseason in a minimum of six NAIA championship sports no later than the beginning of the fourth full academic year of active NAIA membership.

        NOTE 1: Single-gender institutions must sponsor and declare an intent to participate in NAIA approved postseason in a minimum of three NAIA championship sports no later than the beginning of the fourth full academic year of active NAIA membership.

        NOTE 2: An institution falling below the minimum sport sponsorship requirement, due to a failure to sponsor the minimum number of sports or the withdrawal of a declaration of intent to participate in one or more sports, shall be submitted to the NAIA Membership Committee for review. The committee may issue any penalty listed in NAIA Bylaws Article VI, Section C. The committee may recommend to the Council of Presidents the institution be expelled from membership in the NAIA.

        NOTE 3: An institution may request from the Council of Presidents, through the NAIA Membership Committee, an exception from this requirement.

    d. The institution must publish a statement recognizing the institution's commitment to character-driven athletics and the five NAIA core values for character-driven athletics.

    e. Administer athletics programs in compliance with the constitution, bylaws, and other legislation and policies of the Association.

    f. Conduct its intercollegiate athletics programs in a manner consistent with established NAIA standards.

    g. Be reviewed for membership by the appropriate committee of an affiliated conference, with a recommendation submitted to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer for final action by the Council of Presidents.

    h. Pay active institutional membership dues and conference dues when applicable.

2. Associate Membership shall be accorded to four-year colleges and universities and upper-level, two-year institutions that award bachelor's (baccalaureate) degree(s) but do not hold accreditation or membership in one of the bodies listed above, or to institutions that hold accreditation or membership in one of the bodies listed above but are classified as developing athletic programs, as defined by the Council of Presidents. Such institutions:

a. Must be committed to the development of accredited baccalaureate program;

b. Must achieve recognized accreditation status within a maximum period of six years after the date of acceptance of the institution by the NAIA as an associate member;

c. Shall administer their athletics programs in compliance with the constitution, bylaws, and other legislation and policies of the Association;

d. Shall publish a statement recognizing the institution's commitment to character-driven athletics and the five NAIA core values for character-driven athletics;

e. Conduct its intercollegiate athletics programs in a manner consistent with established NAIA standards;

f. Are allowed to participate in the national statistical program and shall be eligible for other general services from the National Office;

g. Shall have their coaches accepted into membership of the NAIA Coaches Association;

h. Shall not be eligible to compete in postseason competition, to serve on national committees or to vote on national issues. However, representatives of associate member institutions are encouraged to attend national meetings;

i. Shall not be eligible to participate in the national awards program, with the exception of the Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete Program and NAIA Scholar Team Award;

j. Shall, when holding membership in an affiliated conference, count toward conference membership totals for determining whether the conference earns a single automatic qualification to the NAIA national competition in any sport for which the NAIA associate member has declared its intent to sponsor as a varsity intercollegiate sport. The institution shall also count toward any sport-specific minimum participant requirements for the applicable NAIA qualifying tournament. An associate member institution shall not count toward the conference membership total that enables the conference to earn multiple automatic qualifications to NAIA national competition;

k. Must have been reviewed for associate membership by the appropriate committee of an affiliated conference, with a recommendation submitted to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer for final action by the Council of Presidents; and

l. Must pay associate membership dues when applicable.

I SECTION B CONTROL OF ATHLETICS PROGRAM

The control of athletics shall be the responsibility of the institution's chief executive officer. No member institution shall participate in any athletics contest which is not under the direct control and supervision of the institution's administration. The institution's chief executive officer is encouraged to appoint a faculty athletics committee to act in an advisory capacity.

I SECTION C FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE

A faculty athletics representative shall:

a. Be appointed by the chief executive officer of the institution to represent the institution in the development of sound educational policies for athletics;

b. Be a regular member of the faculty, but not assigned as a coach or athletics administrator;

c. Be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all participants in intercollegiate competition are eligible in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Association prior to their representing the institution in any manner;

d. Meet with the institution's chief executive officer to review NAIA and conference issues regarding academics and athletics;

e. Participate (either in person or via conference call) in any conference-wide meeting which is set for the purpose of rules education;

f. Participate (either in person or via conference call) in conference meetings when items on the agenda are pertinent to the faculty member's role as the faculty athletics representative of his/her institution;

g. Be encouraged to attend the first NAIA National Convention occurring after being appointed faculty athletics representative; and

h. Work with the athletics director to provide a rules education program in a manner consistent with the best practices approved and published by the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives. Such a program shall include educating the institution's:
   1) Administrators who participate in eligibility certification (e.g. registrar, newly appointed faculty athletics representative or athletics director);
   2) Sports coaches;
   3) Student-athletes; and
   4) Appropriate faculty (including advising centers).

I SECTION D ATHLETICS COMPLIANCE ADMINISTRATOR

When appointed, an athletics compliance administrator shall work in cooperation with the faculty athletics representative and athletics director to foster an environment of education and adherence to all institution, conference and NAIA regulations.

An athletics compliance administrator may:

a. Assist the director of athletics, faculty athletics representative, athletic staff, students, and fans in understanding and abiding by institution, conference and NAIA regulations.

b. Perform duties that may include researching students' athletic experience and/or, amateurism, and tracking participation dates, practice seasons, and/or team financial aid limits.

c. Perform duties as requested by the faculty athletics representative that may include preparation of eligibility in accordance with institution, conference and NAIA rules.

d. Assist the faculty athletics representative in providing a rules education program for students, coaches and administrators regarding institutions, conference and NAIA rules.

e. Be a member of the athletics office (e.g., coach or athletics department staff) or an institutional staff member (e.g., academic advisor, etc.) but not assigned as a faculty athletics representative or director of athletics.

f. Work with the athletics director, faculty athletics representative and registrar to develop policies and procedures to monitor and ensure compliance with all NAIA and conference rules and regulations.

I SECTION E SENIOR WOMAN LEADER

All NAIA institutions will name a senior woman leader to promote meaningful representation of women in the leadership and management of intercollegiate sports on NAIA campuses. This role provides an identifiable female presence at each member institution with whom staff and student-athletes can communicate. The role of senior woman leader may be held by a female administrator or coach who will serve as a key participant in senior-level management decisions regarding intercollegiate athletics on campus. The athletics director may designate the role to any female within the athletic department as they deem appropriate.

A senior woman leader's functions shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Communicate regularly with the athletics director, not only for leadership development, but also to consult on major departmental and university initiatives;
b. Participate in providing leadership and guidance in the area of Title IX and gender equity planning for the overall department, to include both men's and women's sports;
c. Assist the athletics director and senior management with strategic planning processes and decision making for the athletics department;
d. Participate in budget development and major financial decisions for the athletics department operations and initiatives; and
e. Advocate for student-athlete well-being while also serving as a mentor and resource for direct reports and other athletics staff members.

As assigned by the athletics director, a senior woman leader's functions could also include the following: fully engage in the hiring, onboarding, and evaluation processes for coaches and staff; meet regularly with institutional senior leaders (e.g. president/chancellor, vice presidents, etc.); and assist in providing leadership oversight for both men's and women's sports.

NOTE: NAIA member institutions will develop and fully integrate the senior woman leader role into their athletics department structure by August 1, 2023.

I SECTION F INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT OF ATHLETICS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

It is recommended that each member institution prepare a clear statement of the aims and objectives of its intercollegiate program and publish it in the institutional catalog along with other official literature that interprets institutional policy. It is suggested that the basic committee for preparing this statement should include the athletics director, the director of physical education, members of the faculty athletics committee, dean of the college and the chief executive officer. The chief executive officer of the institution should take the responsibility for naming this committee. It is requested that a copy of the statement be sent to the National Office.

I SECTION G INSTITUTIONAL CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER® RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Each member institution shall appoint a staff member as campus liaison to lead and promote Champions of Character on behalf of the institution.
2. Each member institution will develop and implement a Champions of Character campus program, which will address the following:
    a. Ongoing character education and professional development for coaches, athletics administrative staff and student-athletes;
    b. Hospitality and game management of athletics events;
    c. Conduct in competition;
    d. At least one annual servant-leadership activity which will be characterized by student leadership and engage the athletic community; and
    e. Ongoing oversight and assessment of progress in the plan's implementation.
3. The coaching staff at each member institution, including, but not limited to, all paid and voluntary head, associate, assistant and graduate assistant coaches, shall complete the Character-Driven Coaching online training. Coaches must complete the Character-Driven Coaching online training course within the first 60 days from the effective date of employment.
4. Each institution shall verify each year that its coaches completed the training.
5. Any coach failing to complete the training within the first 60 days of hire shall be reported to the National Conduct and Ethics Committee.

I SECTION H FREQUENCY OF PLAY AND SCHEDULING

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

Approved Ruling: FOP for Split Squads

Sport	Number of Games/ Contests/ Playing Dates
Baseball	50 contests
Basketball (men's & women's)	28 games EXCEPTION: A student who participates in a varsity contest and a junior varsity contest on the same day and at the same location is considered to have participated only in one game. A student may invoke this exception a maximum of 10 times during an academic year.
Beach Volleyball	26 dates
Bowling (men's & women's)	14 contests
Competitive cheer	10 cheerleading contests. A student may not participate in more than 10 total dates between competitive cheer and competitive dance.
Competitive dance	10 dance contests. A student may not participate in more than 10 total dates between competitive cheer and competitive dance.
Cross country (men's & women's)	7 meets
Football	11 games, with a student limited to participating in no more than 15 contests. (This includes varsity, junior varsity, freshman games and scrimmages.)
Golf (men's & women's)	12 matches/tournaments
Lacrosse (men's & women's)	18 games
Soccer (men's & women's)	18 games played at any time during the sport season. Three additional dates to be played only after the fall term has concluded. The three additional dates may be played only during weekends and other nonscheduled class dates, according to the academic calendar.
Softball	50 contests
Swimming & diving (men's & women's)	12 meets
Tennis (men's & women's)	24 dates/tournaments and/or scrimmages (except for the ITA exception listed below).
Indoor track & field (men's & women's)	10 meets counted on the basis of an individual student's participation in the meet
Outdoor track & field (men's & women's)	10 meets or (12 meets if indoor track and field is not sponsored) counted on the basis of an individual student's participation in the meet
Volleyball (men's)	26 dates
Volleyball (women's)	26 dates
Wrestling (men's & women's)	18 dates

Interpretation: Soccer Games & Additional Soccer Dates

Interpretation: Calculating Forfeits & Rescheduling FOP Limits

For a contest of any kind (i.e. scrimmage, exhibition, game/meet, etc.), once the contest has commenced the designation of the type of contest will be officially recorded as such, and the designation cannot be changed retroactively.

In the sports of baseball, beach volleyball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, volleyball and wrestling, an institution is allowed one exhibition competition per season. In the sports of competitive cheer and competitive dance, an institution is allowed one cheer exhibition competition and one dance exhibition competition per season. The competition must meet the definition of an exhibition under Article V, Section B, item 6 of the NAIA bylaws. The exhibition competition will count as one varsity game, contest or playing date within the limits stated above.

Exhibition competition is not allowed in the sport of football.

For the sport of basketball, an institution is allowed one or more exhibition competitions per season so long as the total number of games, exhibitions and scrimmages does not exceed 30. For the sport of basketball, an exhibition competition will not count as a varsity game.

EXCEPTION 1: In the sport of tennis, the Fall ITA regional and national singles and doubles tournaments shall not count towards the student's playing limits.

EXCEPTION 2: In the sport of wrestling, participation in any of the following shall not count towards the student's playing limits: US Senior Nationals (or the international equivalent), any competition in which a student represents USA wrestling (or the international equivalent), or participation in national or Olympic team trials or competition as a member of a national or Olympic team. To qualify for this exception, the student must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Current conference champion title holder;
2. Place at the most recent NAIA national invitational/championship; or
3. Previously qualified for a national team.

A student who has qualified for any of these events may practice with his or her NAIA coach(es) and one teammate per session prior to and during the event without counting towards the NAIA program's 24-week season per Article I, Section H, Item 5.

2. The following number of scrimmage dates per sport will be allowed in addition to the maximum number of varsity games, contests, or playing dates which an institution may schedule or in/on which a student may compete.

Sport	Number of Scrimmage Dates
Baseball	2
Basketball (men's & women's)	2
Beach volleyball	2
Bowling (men's & women's)	0
Competitive cheer	1
Competitive dance	1
Cross country (men's & women's)	0
Football	1
Golf (men's & women's)	0
Lacrosse (men's & women's)	2 (plus 3 additional scrimmage dates to be conducted before the end of the fall term, and to be played only during the weekends and other non-scheduled class dates.)
Soccer (men's & women's)	2

Softball	2 (plus 3 additional scrimmage dates to be conducted before the end of the fall term, and to be played only during weekends and other non-scheduled class dates.)
Swimming and diving (men's & women's)	0
Tennis (men's & women's)	1
Indoor and outdoor track and field (men's & women's)	0
Volleyball (men's)	2
Volleyball (women's)	2 (plus 3 additional scrimmage dates to be conducted after the end of the fall term, and to be played only during weekends and other non-scheduled class dates.)
Wrestling (men's & women's)	0

3. In those sports where scrimmages are allowed, an institution that does not schedule or participate in the maximum number of allowable varsity games, meets or playing dates may conduct additional scrimmages of up to the NAIA limits. In no case can the combined number of scheduled contests and scrimmages exceed the maximum number listed in Article I, Section H of the NAIA Bylaws.

Approved Ruling: Contest Limits: Scheduling More Scrimmages

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Approved Ruling: In the sports were scrimmages are not allowed, all athletics competition against competitors not identified with the institution shall be included in the maximum number of varsity games, contests, or playing dates the institution may schedule (frequency of play) or games in which a student may compete in a sport during an academic year. This applies to contests meeting the definition of a scrimmage, and participation in such contests is considered regular season competition.

4. A maximum of two contests against teams from foreign countries (excluding Canada and Mexico) played in the United States and/or Canada/Mexico will be permitted without counting against the frequency of play limits. Contests held in a foreign country (except Canada and Mexico) will not apply to the limitation. Conditions set forth in Article II, Section E of the NAIA Bylaws must be met.

5. Each sport shall have a maximum 24-week practice and competition season established by each member institution. Frequency of play, practice and scheduling policies shall be applied only during the period of August 1 to May 15, pursuant to the following specifications. The start date specified is the earliest possible date on which any activity meeting the definition of a practice or competition may occur, though teams are free to choose a later date. Scrimmages and exhibitions are excluded and not subject to the start date for competitions.

   EXCEPTION: If a sport holds its national championship in the spring and an affiliated conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) completes its qualifying competition for postseason in the fall academic term, then the start date for practices, scrimmages and exhibitions for participating conference/CAC teams is 17 days prior to the first allowable competition, not to precede August 1.

Sport	Start Date for Practices, Scrimmages & Exhibitions	Start Date for Competitions
Baseball	September 1	Thursday of last full weekend in January for games occurring after winter break; Fall games are permissible anytime beginning September 1
Basketball (men's & women's)	35 days prior to first allowable game	Last Thursday in October
Beach volleyball	September 1	Thursday of last full weekend in January for dates occurring after winter break; Fall dates are permissible anytime beginning September 1
Bowling (men's & women's)	September 1	September 1
Competitive cheer	September 1	September 1
Competitive dance	September 1	September 1
Cross country (men's & women's)	17 days prior to first allowable meet	4th Thursday in August
Football	24 days prior to first allowable game, not to precede August 1	4th Thursday in August
Golf (men's & women's)	7 days prior to first allowable competition	4th Monday in August
Lacrosse (men's & women's)	September 1	September 1
Soccer (men's & women's)	17 days prior to first allowable game, not to precede August 1	3rd Thursday in August
Softball	September 1	Thursday of last full weekend in January for games occurring after winter break; Fall games are permissible anytime beginning September 1
Swimming and diving (men's & women's)	September 1	September 1
Tennis (men's & women's)	September 1	September 1
Indoor track and field (men's &women's)	September 1	September 1
Outdoor track and field (men's & women's)	September 1	September 1
Volleyball (men's)	September 1	Thursday of last full weekend in January for dates occurring after winter break; Fall dates are permissible anytime beginning September 1
Volleyball (women's)	17 days prior to first allowable competition	3rd Thursday in August

	date, not to precede August 1	
Wrestling (men's & women's)	35 days prior to first allowable competition date	Last Thursday in October

Frequency of play, practice, and scheduling outside of this period is governed by each member institution and will not be regulated by the NAIA.

There shall be no more than three break periods during the 24 weeks. NAIA-approved postseason participation shall not be counted as part of the 24-week period. A week is defined as Monday (12:00 a.m.) through Sunday (11:59 p.m.). Any practice or competition during this period shall constitute one of the 24 weeks permitted.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Break Periods
Approved Ruling: A break is any week Monday (12:00 a.m.) through Sunday (11:59 p.m.) or series of consecutive weeks in which no practice or competition occurs. Scheduled breaks for the institution that meet the definition (such as Christmas vacation) must be counted as one of the three allowable breaks if no practice or competition occurs.

As an exception, a team participating in NAIA-approved postseason shall not count practice activities towards the team's 24-week season, as described below:

EXCEPTION 1: When a conference, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions), or unaffiliated grouping qualifying competition occurs, any practice activities occurring during the week(s) of the competition will be exempt. Once teams are selected for NAIA national championship competition, institutions not selected must cease practice activities or comply thereafter with the restrictions of the 24-week rule.

Any regular season or non-qualifying events occurring during this time must be counted towards the team's frequency of play limits, even if the week is exempt from the 24-week season due to this exception.

EXCEPTION 2: Practice activities for teams selected to participate in NAIA national championship competition will continue to be exempt. The team may continue to utilize the exception through its final contest in national championship competition.

EXCEPTION 3: For all other forms of NAIA-approved postseason, practice activities occurring between the deadline for the sport's completion of conference, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions), or unaffiliated grouping qualifying competition and the team's participation in its final contest in NAIA-approved postseason shall not count towards the team's 24-week season. Once teams are selected for NAIA-approved postseason, institutions not selected for the NAIA-approved postseason must cease practice activities or comply thereafter with the restrictions of the 24-week rule. Teams selected to participate in NAIA-approved postseason must count all activities at the conclusion of its postseason participation.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Postseason Tournaments
Approved Ruling: Conference, Continental Athletics Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) and unaffiliated grouping qualifying tournaments held at the end of the season are considered postseason and will be approved by the NAIA. Such tournaments do not count in the maximum number of scheduled contests/ dates allowed. Conference or other tournaments held prior to the end of the season which do not result in an automatic qualifier for postseason championships, shall count against the frequency of play limits.

6. Practice will be defined as follows: An activity organized and/or directed by an identified member of the coaching staff of that sport in which appropriate equipment is used or instruction and/or evaluation of the athlete takes place.

Important Practice Interpretations: Definition of a Practice, Joint Practice, Open Gym

In the sport of football, the following regulations apply:

a. Beginning on the first day of practice for each student, a five-day acclimatization period is required for all student-athletes, and should be conducted as follows:
   1) Days 1-2: Helmets are the only piece of protective equipment student-athletes may wear.
   2) Days 3-4: Helmets and shoulder pads are the only pieces of protective equipment student-athletes may wear.
   3) Day 5 and thereafter: student-athletes may practice in full pads and utilize any protective equipment.

b. Prior to a team's first competition, each student is limited to a maximum of four total hours per day of on-field and/or physical activity, which includes all on-field practices, skills work, conditioning, and walkthrough sessions that are organized or directed by an identified member of the coaching staff. Within those four total hours, the following restrictions apply:
   1) A student is limited to a maximum of three total hours per day of physical activities, including skills work, on-field practice, and conditioning sessions.
   2) Following each physical activity, a three-hour recovery period must be provided, during which students may not engage in on-field or physical activity, or weight training. However, when a physical activity is interrupted due to unforeseen catastrophes or weather conditions, the three-hour recovery period is not required.
   3) On-field walkthrough sessions are permitted provided no protective equipment is worn and footballs are the only football implements used, and no conditioning takes place.

7. All-Star Competitions:
   a. A student-athlete may represent his/her NAIA institution in an all-star competition under the following conditions:
      1) The student is eligible for NAIA participation during the term in which the all-star contest occurs, or
      2) The all-star contest occurs during the academic year, or subsequent summer, in which the student completes his/her fourth season of competition and/or 10th semester/15th quarter term of attendance.
   b. A student is limited to participating in all-star competition for a particular sport on no more than two dates between August 1st and May 15th. There is no limit on the number of all-star contests in which a student may participate between May 16th and July 31st.

c. Any or all expenses related to travel, meals and lodging for the competition may be paid by the student-athlete, his/her NAIA institution, affiliated conference or certified football conference, or the host of the all-star competition.
d. All-star contests in the sports of baseball, basketball, competitive cheer, competitive dance, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball will not count toward team or individual contest limits in Article I, Section H, Item 1 of the NAIA bylaws. Practice activities in these sports directly related to the all-star competition, and consisting only of all-star competition participants, shall not count toward any team's 24-week season provided such activities occur no more than five days prior to the start of the competition.
e. All-star contests in all other sports shall count against frequency of play and scheduling limits listed in this section of the NAIA Bylaws.
f. NAIA coaches may administer, direct and/or conduct all-star related practice and game activities that involve student-athletes identified with other institutions. Such actions by a coach will not be considered violations of NAIA recruiting or tryout regulations, and will not trigger the notification requirement in Article II, Section D, Item 1.
g. All-Star competitions may not use the NAIA or Champions of Character trademarks without prior approval of the National Administrative Council. The terms and conditions of such approval are established by National Administrative Council Policy.

I SECTION I MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYMENT DEADLINE

Institutions whose dues are not postmarked by September 1 shall not be eligible to participate in NAIA postseason competition for the school year pending review by the Council of Presidents. Institutions which have submitted a purchase order postmarked on or before September 1 shall be considered as meeting the dues payment deadline.

I SECTION J POSTSEASON RESTRICTIONS

1. NAIA institutions that make formal application for NCAA membership shall not be allowed to participate in NAIA postseason contests beginning with the second full academic year after application for NCAA membership has been made, unless a waiver is granted by the National Administrative Council. If the institution withdraws from the NCAA membership application process, the institution will be allowed to participate in NAIA postseason competition, provided the institution maintains NAIA membership.

   If an NAIA institution withdraws from the NCAA membership application process, the institution will be allowed to participate in NAIA postseason competition, provided:
   a. The institution maintains NAIA membership;
   b. The institution submits written verification to the National Administrative Council that the institution is no longer involved in the formal NCAA application process; and
   c. The National Administrative Council grants the institution permission to participate in NAIA postseason competition.

2. NAIA institutions that make two or more formal applications for NCAA membership in a five-year period shall not be allowed to participate in NAIA postseason contests beginning with the academic year immediately following the second application for NCAA membership has been made, unless a waiver is granted by the National Administrative Council. An institution's subsequent withdrawal from the NCAA membership process shall not negate this postseason prohibition.

   NOTE 1: An institution must submit an official request for a postseason waiver prior to the beginning of the full academic year in which the institution seeks to

compete in NAIA postseason competition. All requests are to be reviewed by the National Administrative Council.

NOTE 2: If active NCAA membership is achieved, the institution's individual sports program(s) will be allowed to participate in NAIA postseason competition, as a dual member, provided the institution maintains NAIA membership.

I SECTION K POSTSEASON PARTICIPATION FOR FIRST-YEAR MEMBERS

Institutions may become members by affiliation of all intercollegiate sports within either or both programs (men's and/or women's) or they may become members by affiliating intercollegiate teams on a sport-by-sport basis within either or both programs (men's and/or women's).

Institutions approved for active membership in the NAIA shall become eligible for postseason participation immediately. Any institution holding full or per-sport membership in an affiliated conference or Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) during its first year as an NAIA member will count toward the conference's or CAC's membership total for determining whether the conference/CAC champion earns a single automatic qualification to the national competition. The institution shall also count toward any sport-specific minimum participation requirements for the applicable NAIA qualifying tournament. The institution shall not count toward the conference's membership total that enables the conference/CAC to earn multiple automatic qualifications to NAIA national competition.

I SECTION L REGISTRATION OF SPORTS SPONSORSHIP

At the time institutions join the Association and yearly thereafter, they must declare which sports they are sponsoring on an intercollegiate level for the given school year.

During an academic year, institutions changing a sport from club to intercollegiate status, or from intercollegiate to club status, shall not have that sport considered for NAIA postseason competition for one calendar year from when the change occurred.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Notification of Change from Intercollegiate to Club Status
Approved Ruling: When status changes from intercollegiate to club, a notification letter must be sent to the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) commissioner (as appropriate), the eligibility chair and the National Office. The institution must also notify each institution that it has scheduled in the specific sport. Because the NAIA does not recognize club sport participation, the institutions that were originally scheduled as intercollegiate contests cannot count the club games for their won-loss record or for statistics.

Playing-date agreements need not be honored by a member institution if the institution changes from intercollegiate to club status.

I SECTION M ELIGIBILITY EXCEPTIONS FOR DUAL MEMBERS

NAIA member institutions shall be allowed sport exception(s). The exception(s) will waive NAIA eligibility compliance for the selected sport(s) for competition against non-NAIA institutions.

Members wishing to use exception(s) must notify the NAIA, in writing, yearly of the sport(s) in which they wish to be excepted. Such notification must be provided no later than May 1 and will apply to the academic year following the May 1 deadline. The exempted sport(s) and their participants will not be eligible for NAIA postseason competition or honors in those specific sports, unless the conference of which the institution is a member wishes to have the institution participate in its conference cross country and golf postseason competition. Regardless of the results of its team or individual participants during the conference competition, neither the institution nor its individual

athletes will be eligible to participate in NAIA championship competition. Students participating are charged a season of competition and by the date of the first competition, members must file with their eligibility chair a list of students competing. The exception does not apply to competition against other NAIA members who have not filed for a similar exception. If such competition takes place, all NAIA eligibility and certification regulations apply to that competition.

I SECTION N DECLARATION OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN NAIA POSTSEASON COMPETITION

Every year, each active member institution shall be required to submit to the National Office its declaration of intent to participate in the national championship program in all NAIA sponsored sports. The declaration period shall take place from April 1 to June 1. Declarations are due no later than June 1 and apply to the following academic year.

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

NOTE 1: Postseason competition is defined as conference, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions), or unaffiliated grouping qualifying events. Further, those institutions shall waive their right to be included in the ratings in those specific sports.

Should an institution declare its intent to participate in a national championship program in championship sports, it must honor that commitment if the team in that sport meets the qualification standards established and is selected by the appropriate affiliated conference or Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions). This regulation requires an institution to follow the commitment in each championship sport listed above to its conclusion, which terminates with a national championship, unless the following procedure is followed.

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

NOTE 2: An institution that properly declares its intent to participate in postseason play, and later removes itself from that obligation, shall count toward an approved qualifying group's membership total for determining whether the qualifying group earns a single automatic qualification to the NAIA national competition. The institution shall also count toward any sport-specific minimum participant requirements for the applicable NAIA qualifying tournament. The institution shall not count toward the approved qualifying group's membership total that enables the qualifying group to earn multiple automatic qualifications to NAIA national competition.

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

To enter NAIA postseason play, an institution shall be required to meet conference, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions), and/or national entry deadlines and qualifying standards when applicable.

For more information on the declaration of intent as it pertains to invitational sports, see the National Administrative Council policy article XXVII, section B, item 2c.

I SECTION O SUMMER, NIGHT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND EXTENSION COURSES

1. Summer sessions may be used to earn credit hours which may be applied to meet the 24/36-Hour Rule or the second term in college Nine-Hour Rule as applicable, but are subject to the limit as listed in Article V, Section C, Item 6, paragraph 4 of the NAIA Bylaws.

   Summer credit must be earned subsequent to one of the two terms of attendance. However, summer terms cannot constitute a term of attendance. If the college has no summer session, or in instances where it is educationally desirable for the student concerned to attend a summer session at a different institution, credits may be earned at a second institution, and such enrollment shall neither constitute a term of attendance nor identify the student with the second institution.

2. Credits earned by attending night, correspondence and extension courses approved by the home institution, may be applied in satisfying the 24/36-Hour Rule and/or the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule but are subject to the definition of "term of attendance."

I SECTION P UNUSUAL CALENDARS

Colleges must certify that a student is enrolled in 12 or more institutional credit hours during the term of competition. If the institution's calendar precludes this, the institution must certify that the student is carrying at least three-fourths of the scholastic load, which a student is allowed to carry without special permission, as defined by its catalog. In institutions where three-fourths is not a feasible fraction (e.g. where credit hours are limited to units of five and the normal class load is 15 credit hours) two-thirds may be substituted for three-fourths. The institution must certify that the student is accumulating academic credit in such an amount that the student could be declared as making normal progress and that the student would, by completing credit at the same rate, complete a recognized four-year baccalaureate degree in no more than 10 semesters of attendance or its equivalent.

I SECTION Q EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

1. Domestic
   All institutions having exchange programs involving students must have the exchange program approved, in writing, by the National Eligibility Committee before students begin the program.

   Students are identified with the institution where their records are kept and fees are paid. Students who pay their fees and/or have their records kept at another institution during the exchange program period shall be considered as transfer students upon returning to their original institution unless written approval has been given by the National Eligibility Committee in advance of the program.

2. Foreign
   A United States citizen attending a foreign university under the student abroad plan, a student exchange plan or a comparable program is not considered to be a transfer student upon returning and becoming identified with the original United States institution.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Exchange Programs
Approved Ruling: Students are identified with the institution where their fees are paid and their records are kept and not where they attend class. If exchange students from your institution pay their fees to your institution and their records are kept by your institution, they are considered identified with your institution. Should fees be paid and/or records kept at the exchange institution, the student shall become identified with that institution unless advance written approval has been received from the NAIA National Eligibility Committee for this program.

I SECTION R HOSTING HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR GAMES

Member institutions are requested not to permit the use of their facilities or their personnel for staging high school all-star games unless such games are approved by the state high school athletics association in the state where the contest is held, and state high school athletics associations are involved if the participants are from more than one state.

I SECTION S ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO

Beer, wine, liquor or any other form of alcoholic beverages or any form of tobacco product shall not be endorsed by the NAIA. The advertisement of such products in connection with NAIA postseason events, as well as sponsorship, is permissible under the following conditions:

1. All such advertisements must receive advance approval from the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer.
2. Alcoholic beverages in any form shall not be allowed to be sold, disbursed or brought into the public area of any event.

I SECTION T PARTICIPATION IN AWARDS PROGRAM

Should an institution elect not to participate in championship events because of participation in or declaration to another championship event for any or all sports included in the Declaration of Intent to Participate program for men and women, the institution shall waive its right to be included in the awards program and statistical program for those sports during the season.

EXCEPTION: Student-athletes from dual member institutions that elect not to participate in a championship event shall be eligible to receive NAIA scholar-athlete awards.

I SECTION U CRITERIA FOR AFFILIATED CONFERENCES

An Affiliated Conference must meet the following requirements:

1. An affiliated conference shall be organized under governing documents that include formal recognition of the responsibility to operate in a manner consistent with minimum standards established by the NAIA.
2. Governing documents of an affiliated conference shall require that final authority for the operations of the conference reside with a formal body (e.g. Conference Council of Presidents) composed of institutional chief executive officers within the conference.
3. Governing documents of an affiliated conference shall establish those matters fully within the direct control of chief executive officers, including, but not limited to:
    a. Amendments to the constitution, bylaws and other governing documents;
    b. Budget approval and financial oversight;
    c. Employment and supervision of the conference commissioner;
    d. Conference membership; and

e. Approval of the conference strategic plan.

4. Enumeration of the above responsibilities shall not be construed to deny the right of the Conference Council of Presidents to exercise any other power or perform other duties within the field of governance of the affairs of the conference.

5. Presidents shall exercise authority in matters under their direct control by convening at least one meeting annually, in which votes may be exercised only by presidents in attendance.

6. An affiliated conference shall employ a commissioner to provide effective leadership and administrative support to the conference, and may employ other professional staff determined by the conference necessary to ensure adherence to NAIA standards. The commissioner shall not be concurrently employed by any conference member institution.

   NOTE: Affiliated conferences not fully in compliance with this criterion when it takes effect will be required to submit a specific plan and timetable by which the conference will fulfill the provisions.

7. Authorize the Council of Presidents to conduct periodic reviews of affiliated conference operations and determine sanctions related to violations of conference requirements. Conference sanctions would be consistent with those currently in place for institutional violations of NAIA rules.

8. Establish a Champions of Character Conference Committee, composed primarily of Champions of Character campus liaisons. The committee shall be charged with development and oversight of conference character education and activities.

9. An affiliated conference must have as full members a minimum of six institutions with NAIA active membership.

   a. Should an affiliated conference lose a member institution(s) and drop to five full member institutions, a grace period shall be extended to the conference for two years following the date the conference officially drops to five full members, provided the conference maintains a minimum of five full member institutions at all times.

   b. During this grace period, the conference shall remain eligible for automatic qualification in any sport in which the conference had been qualified for an automatic qualification berth immediately prior to dropping to five full member institutions, and provided five teams are declared in the sport. If the conference continues to sponsor the sport and retain its automatic qualification berth, a conference institution is not permitted to join another conference as a per-sport member. A conference that fails to regain six full member institutions by the expiration of the grace period shall no longer be eligible for automatic qualification until it again satisfies all standard requirements for automatic qualification as determined by the National Administrative Council.

10. The constitution or charter of an affiliated conference shall provide for a commissioner, eligibility chair, faculty athletics representative, registrar, information director and designate(s) for coordinator of officials.

11. The eligibility rules and standards of an affiliated conference shall be at least as strict as the NAIA.

12. An affiliated conference shall sponsor a minimum of three championships in NAIA recognized sports, of which at least one must be conducted each season (fall-winter-spring) for men and women (co-ed conferences). Single-gender conferences must sponsor a minimum of three

championships in NAIA recognized sports, of which at least one must be conducted each season (fall-winter-spring). Affiliated conferences must have at least four institutional teams participating in each of the championship events.

13. An affiliated conference shall pay national dues to be established by the Council of Presidents and/or abide by revenue sharing policies with the NAIA for postseason events to be established by the appropriate council.

14. An affiliated conference must have a conduct in competition oversight committee composed of a minimum of three members. The committee's responsibilities include recommending the scope of the conference's activities related to event management, hospitality, conduct in competition, and sanctions related to conduct in competition within the conference.

15. Governing documents of an affiliated conference shall include a clearly defined application and approval process for conference membership.

    NOTE: When conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) governing documents allow for multiple tiers of membership, an affiliated conference/CAC may permit an NAIA active member to join the conference/CAC on a per-sport(s) basis if the institution otherwise holds membership in an affiliated conference/CAC which has fewer than six institutions declaring intent to participate in NAIA postseason in the given sport(s).

    Institutions shall submit eligibility certification, request exceptional rulings, submit self-reported violations and report statistics through the affiliated conference/CAC in which the institution competes in a given sport. An institution eligible for NAIA postseason and holding per-sport(s) membership in an affiliated conference/CAC. shall:

    a) Count toward the automatic qualification calculations for the affiliated conference/CAC in the given sport for which the institution holds per-sport membership;
    b) Be eligible for automatic qualification to the national competition through the affiliated conference/CAC in the given sport for which the institution holds per-sport membership; and
    c) Be eligible for awards programs, conference/CAC ratings, national ratings, national statistical rankings and publications contests through the affiliated conference/CAC in the given sport for which the institution holds per-sport membership.

I SECTION V ELIGIBILITY CHAIR

The eligibility chair shall be appointed by the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) governing body, with input from the conference/CAC faculty athletics representatives. The eligibility chair must have significant experience in eligibility certification and eligibility rules, including but not limited to serving as an institutional faculty athletics representative, serving as eligibility chair of another NAIA conference/CAC, or serving as a former member of the National Eligibility Committee. The eligibility chair shall:

1. Receive and review the eligibility certification as submitted by the faculty athletics representative of each member;
2. Serve as the chair of the conference/CAC eligibility committee;
3. Receive and review all reports of institutional violations and all requests for exceptions from its members. The eligibility chair shall share these reports and requests with the

conference/CAC commissioner, the conference/CAC eligibility committee and report the committee's recommendation to the National Office;
4. Attend the NAIA National Convention regularly, but not less than once every three years; and
5. Facilitate rules education activities for the conference/CAC, with specific attention to the rules education of newly appointed faculty athletics representatives, athletics directors and coaches.

I SECTION W MEMBER INSTITUTIONS OF NON-AFFILIATED CONFERENCES

In cases where member institutions of non-affiliated conferences have conference standards that are less stringent than those of the NAIA, the institution must conform to the higher rules and standards of the NAIA.

I SECTION X STAFF MEMBERS REPRESENTING PROFESSIONAL SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

Interpretation Coaches Dual Roles & Working for Professional Sports Organization

Staff members of all member institutions' athletics departments shall not accept compensation or gratuities of any kind (either directly or indirectly) for representing a professional sports organization or an athlete as an agent in the negotiation of a contract for any student.

Staff members of all member institutions' athletics departments shall not accept compensation or gratuities of any kind (either directly or indirectly) in acting as scouts for a professional sports organization during the regular academic year of the staff members' institution.

I SECTION Y FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS WHICH OFFER ASSOCIATE (TWO-YEAR) DEGREES

Should a student receive an associate (two-year) degree from an institution that also offers a baccalaureate (four-year) degree, the student is identified with the four-year institution.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Institution Offering Association and Baccalaureate Degrees
Case: A student receives an associate degree from an institution that offers a four-year degree. Upon receiving the associate degree, can the student transfer to an NAIA institution and have the 16-week residency requirement waived?

Approved Ruling: No. The student is identified with the four-year institution athletically even though the student was in the two-year program. The 16-week residency requirement shall apply as applicable.

I SECTION Z BYLAWS AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

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

All proposed amendments to the NAIA Bylaws shall be submitted in writing to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer. Such proposals must be postmarked no later than 90 days prior to the annual meeting of the Association. A proposed amendment shall be mailed from the National Office to each active member institution in good standing, and each affiliated conference or Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) commissioner postmarked no later than 30 days before the annual meeting.

A proposed amendment sponsored by an NAIA affiliated conference/CAC or NAIA coaches association must have a minimum of one additional NAIA affiliated conference/CAC, NAIA council or NAIA standing committee co-sponsor the proposed amendment.

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

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

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

ARTICLE II General Student

II SECTION A ADMISSION STANDARDS, GENERAL

All students participating in intercollegiate athletics must be admitted to member institutions under admission standards that are equal to or higher than those applied to the general student body of that institution.

II SECTION B FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Assignment of scholarships, grants in aid, or student loans shall be controlled by the faculty through the regularly constituted committee on student loans and scholarships.

1. Institutionally Provided Financial Aid and Financial Benefits
    a. Any financial aid or scholarships provided to prospective or enrolled students, shall be administered by the institution's regular process as approved by the office of financial aid.

        A member institution shall award no more financial aid or scholarships to a student-athlete than the actual cost of:
        1. Tuition;
        2. Mandatory fees, books, and supplies required for courses in which the student-athlete is enrolled; and
        3. Board and room for the student-athlete only, based on the official board and room allowance listed in the official institutional publication.

    b. Additional financial benefits in money or in kind provided by the institution and awarded to prospective or enrolled students is permissible so long as such items are available to the general student body, and awarded on such bases as will not discriminate for or against presumed or recognized athletes.

        Further financial benefits to a student-athlete by a member institution, other than listed above, is prohibited.

2. Athletically Related Expenses
    a. Expenses incidental to intercollegiate athletic competition may be provided by an institution, directly or via an institution's representative or authorized booster. A prospective or enrolled student may also receive expenses incidental to non-intercollegiate athletic competition provided by a club or recreational team, or tournament/event director.

        These expenses included but are not limited to athletically related travel, lodging, meals, awards, apparel and necessary medical and/or dental expenses. Necessary medical and/or dental expenses may include medical, surgical, medication and therapy expenses incurred as a result of an athletic related injury; medical examination costs; and athletic related medical insurance. Institutions shall not provide assistance for expenses for treatment of a student-athlete's illness or injury not resulting from intercollegiate athletics participation.

b. For students who are members of an intercollegiate team, additional ancillary expenses are permissible when such expenses are related to the student's membership on a the team and provided by the affiliated conference or national office, institution or institution's representative (if approved by the institution's athletics director). Such additional ancillary expenses include but are not limited to student-athlete advisory or student-athlete leadership activities, team building outings, and mission trips.

Funds provided by boosters or booster clubs must be administered in accordance with the COP Policy Article XIV.

3. Financial Benefits

Financial benefits in money or in kind is unrestricted when provided by a prospective or enrolled student's immediate family or from those on whom they are legally dependent. Immediate family is defined as a spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, child, stepparent, stepsibling, stepchild and/or host family.

A prospective or enrolled student-athlete may receive benefits from other individuals, including but not limited to institutional and club coaches, faculty members and friends. Such individuals may provide occasional meals, transportation, entertainment, gifts or personal fundraisers. Benefits received unrelated to athletics or status as a student-athlete are permissible. Providing cash or preloaded debit cards is strictly prohibited. Ultimate responsibility for applying this regulation rests with the institution.

EXCEPTION: In cases of a natural disaster or emergency, a third party relief organization (e.g. Red Cross, United Way, local community organization, etc.) or other first responders may also provide assistance in money or in kind provided any such assistance is available to all individuals affected by the disaster or emergency.

This does not include or restrict any financial benefits earned on the basis of employment or payment for actual services rendered.

Any financial benefits or recognized awards received through any athletic participation shall be subject to NAIA Bylaws Article VII, and are not subject to the financial assistance limitations described here.

All donations to the general athletics program and/or the athletics scholarship fund by outside organizations shall be deposited in an institutional fund and be administered by appropriate institutional committees under the control of the chief executive officer.

This regulation regarding maximum financial aid to a student-athlete is not intended to place pressure on any member institution to increase its program to this level. This regulation is made to protect the NAIA from overly ambitious programs and to help protect the amateur status of student-athletes.

II SECTION C CAMPUS VISITATIONS AND TRYOUTS OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Interpretation & Approved Ruling: Prospective Students Tryouts, Camps/Clinics, & Summer Participation

1. The Association's attitude toward campus visitation of prospective students is formulated from the following three major principles:
   a. The protection of the student in maintaining normal academic progress in high school and junior college.
   b. The coordination of this rule with the overall policies of the institution affecting procurement of students with special talents.
   c. The control of tryouts consistent with making the intercollegiate program an integral part of the total program without legislating against the student.
2. Individual or group tryouts may be conducted, for the purpose of assisting in the assessment of athletics promise if tryouts are a part of the general institutional policy in the evaluation and

admission of students with special talents. Tryouts, where permitted, shall be limited to no more than two days for a specific student per member institution.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Coach Observation
Approved Ruling: NAIA coaches may attend high school and junior college competitions and/or practices to observe potential student-athletes. For this to be considered observation and not a tryout, the NAIA coach cannot ask the student to exhibit a particular skill, direct or ask the coach to organize the workout in a particular manner. Further contact or discussion with the student must fall under the parameters of the recruiting bylaws per Article II, Section D.

3. No part of the travel expense, meals, and lodging of prospective students making visitations to an institution shall be paid by the institution unless such practice is a part of the general institutional policy in procurement of other students with special talents and not only for the express purpose of securing athletes.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Expenses Paid by Institution
Approved Ruling: It is permissible for an athletic department to provide meals and or general expenses for prospective student-athletes only if it is part of the institution's general practice to do so for students with special talents who are participating in a campus visit or tryout. While there is no monetary limit, the athletic department should provide similarly priced meals and or reimbursement for travel, lodging, etc., to those provided for non-athletes in line with institutional policy.

II SECTION D RECRUITMENT

1. Recruitment of an Enrolled Student-Athlete

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

   Approved Ruling: Responding to Contact

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

   A coach or another representative of a member institution may respond to a contact by an athlete only after the enrolled athlete's institution (athletics director or faculty athletics representative) has been notified as prescribed above.

2. Recruitment of a Non-Enrolled Student

   A coach or another representative of a member institution shall not contact an athlete who has drawn equipment and is engaged in organized pre-school practice at another institution.

3. Recruitment of a Graduate Student-Athlete

   As soon as a student completes his or her undergraduate degree and graduates from a four-year institution, an NAIA coach or institutional representative may initiate contact with the student. An NAIA coach or institutional representative can initiate contact the day following a student's graduation date or completion of all academic requirements for his or her undergraduate degree, whichever is later.

If an athletic director, faculty athletics representative, or coach of a member institution is contacted or initiates contact with such an athlete, written notification of the contact is not required to be provided to the student's undergraduate institution.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Recruitment of Enrolled Graduate Student
Case: A men's swimmer graduates with his undergraduate degree in December 2016. The student continues enrollment at the same institution in the graduate school in order to continue competing in Spring 2017. Prior to Fall 2017 the student contacts an NAIA school with the intent to transfer. Is notification required?

Approved Ruling: Yes. Per Article II, Article D, Item 1, the student is currently an enrolled student at an institution of higher learning and therefore notification will be required to the student's current institution.

4. Violation of any part of the recruitment policy shall cause an immediate investigation by the National Conduct and Ethics Committee for appropriate action.

II SECTION E INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

International amateur competition for individuals representing an institution or institution teams shall be permitted, providing individual students representing their institutions are eligible according to NAIA rules and standards (and conference, if applicable). The NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer shall be notified prior to such participation. Such international play shall not affect seasons of participation.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
International Competition Exception
Case: When the Pan American Games, Olympic Games, World University Games or any other NAIA-approved international competitions are held during a term and the lateness of their competition prevents a student from enrolling in a term, may such a student compete for the member institution during this term?

Approved Ruling: Identification will be waived for any participant in NAIA-approved international competition who may, by reason of participation, not be able to enroll (or who is required to enroll in a reduced load, (i.e. fewer than 12 hours) during the term in which such competition is held. However, before such participation occurs, officials of each institution must submit the names of all athletes participating under this exception to their eligibility chair and to the National Office.

a. Such a student will be eligible to compete in intercollegiate contests, including NAIA events, upon returning from approved international competition, provided the student:
    1) Meets all eligibility requirements except the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule, and
    2) Was enrolled at the institution during the immediately preceding term.
b. Participation under this exception after returning to the institution will count as one of the four permitted seasons of competition.
c. The student shall not be charged with a term of attendance for such participation if the student is carrying fewer than 12 institutional credit hours.

II SECTION F FOREIGN STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

1. Foreign nationals enrolling in a member institution shall be subject to all NAIA eligibility rules and regulations. It is incumbent upon the institution at which the student enrolls to establish the nature of the foreign institution (e.g. whether the institution is equivalent to a four-year college, a junior college or a secondary school.) Documentation to establish proper classification shall be on file and shall be available upon request by the eligibility chair and/or National Eligibility Committee.
2. A student, who is not a United States citizen, enrolled in a member institution may return to the country of origin for the purpose of attending college for a period not to exceed one year and then return to the same member institution previously attended without establishing residency. The year that the student spent in the foreign country attending college shall be applied to the total terms of attendance allotted.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Foreign Attendance
Approved Ruling: For purposes of computing duration of eligibility for athletic participation, a year of attendance at a foreign college or university shall count as two semesters or three quarters.

ARTICLE III NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: ITS FUNCTIONS

III SECTION A THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The NAIA maintains a national headquarters where the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer and the National Office staff conduct the administrative and business affairs of the organization.

The National Office staff, in addition to its other functions, assists the member institutions in any problems of scheduling, staff replacements, publicity or any other problems that may arise. Coordination of these many activities normally is accomplished from the National Office, as are administration, operation and supervision of all the organization's national events.

The National Office staff shall oversee a library of films from the various national competitions which shall be available for showing by member institutions.

The NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer is charged with the responsibility of maintaining contact with other athletics and educational organizations with which the NAIA is affiliated.

The further broadening of services is under constant study by the councils of the Association.

III SECTION B DUTIES OF THE NAIA PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The administrative authority of the Association is vested in the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer. In the exercise of this authority, it shall be the duty of the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer to seek the advice of appropriate councils and exercise best judgment in an earnest effort to promote the best interests of the NAIA.

All executive powers not delegated to the Council of Presidents and not expressly or by implication denied the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer may be exercised by that official, subject to the supervision of the Council of Presidents.

The NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer shall:

1. Ensure that accurate records are kept of all meetings of the Association;

2. In cooperation with the chair of the Council of Presidents, prepare the agenda for all meetings of the Council of Presidents, the National Coordinating Committee and the annual meeting;
3. Keep all councils, the National Coordinating Committee and all member institutions informed in all matters pertaining to the general welfare of the NAIA;
4. Be responsible for final decisions in matters involving organizational problems within adopted policies of the Council of Presidents;
5. Be responsible for all contracts regarding the property, funds, projects and activities as necessary and proper for the successful execution of the functions of the organization;
6. Receive all funds belonging to the NAIA and deposit in financial institutions that are approved by the Council of Presidents;
7. Have full power to draw checks against such financial institution deposits as are required to pay the debts, expenses and other financial obligations of the Association;
8. Be custodian of all property belonging to the NAIA;
9. Cause to be made an annual audit of books and accounts, and present such audit to the Council of Presidents;
10. Be responsible for presenting to the Council of Presidents a detailed report of all receipts and disbursements during the preceding fiscal year ending June 30 and a proposed operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year;
11. Cause to be prepared the use of forms and other printed materials required by the NAIA and to furnish such forms and materials as required;
12. Be responsible for the employment and direction of the National Office staff under policies established by the Council of Presidents;
13. Oversee all necessary arrangements for the various events conducted under the auspices of the NAIA;
14. Cause to be published throughout the school year an official publication of the organization;
15. Conduct an active public relations and promotions program;
16. Aggressively pursue membership of those institutions meeting the standards of the Association;
17. Serve in an advisory capacity with regular or special committees established by the Council of Presidents and, except as may be specifically provided otherwise, issue all official releases from the National Office;
18. Be the official representative of the Association at ceremonial or other social occasions requiring the presence of the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer; and
19. Designate the NAIA representative at meetings and functions requiring NAIA attendance.

In addition to the above enumerated responsibilities and duties, the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer may exercise any powers and perform any duties necessary and proper for carrying out programs and policies unless such responsibilities or duties have been expressly delegated to some other official or committee.

III SECTION C NATIONAL OFFICE PERSONNEL HANDLING MONIES TO BE BONDED

The NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer and other National Office personnel designated by the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer shall be bonded for an amount of money to be determined by the Council of Presidents.

III SECTION D PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF INCAPACITY OF THE NAIA PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Should illness or other incapacity prevent the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer from fulfilling the duties of the office, it shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee of the Council of Presidents to take such action as will provide for continuing the administration of the Association.

ARTICLE IV ASSOCIATION ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

IV SECTION A STRUCTURE OF NAIA PROGRAMS

The NAIA shall be structured to provide a men's program and a women's program. An institution that meets the membership requirements may affiliate all of the institution's intercollegiate sports in the men's program, the women's program, both programs, or on a sport-by-sport basis within either program. Upon affiliation with the NAIA, all intercollegiate sports recognized by the NAIA in either and/or both programs must conform to the policies and regulations of the NAIA.

EXCEPTION: See Article I, Section L.

IV SECTION B ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

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

In the interest of democratic participation, the basic structure of the NAIA is the conference, for members which are affiliated, or the Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) for independent institutions.

Conference or CAC tournaments or championships are encouraged in all sports recognized by the NAIA.

IV SECTION C COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS DUTIES

The NAIA governing body is the Council of Presidents.

For the transaction of business by the Council of Presidents, a quorum shall consist of one third of the members of the Council.

Qualifications, composition and elections for openings on the Council of Presidents are listed in Article V of the Constitution. The Council of Presidents shall exercise full authority in the following matters:

1. Initiating operational policies necessary to perform those duties reserved in the Constitution and Bylaws to the Council of Presidents.
2. All fiscal matters of the Association.
3. The employment and supervision of the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer and, through the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer, all personnel of the National Office.
4. The submission at the NAIA National Convention of a detailed report on all receipts and disbursements during the preceding fiscal year ending June 30. The audited financial statement shall be printed and distributed to the membership in such form as to facilitate a comparison of the items of income and expenditure in connection with the various activities

of the Association during the fiscal year just concluded with the corresponding items for the preceding year.

5. Authorization of the Executive Committee of the Council of Presidents to transact necessary business of the Association in the interim between meetings of the Council of Presidents.
6. The review and action on all recommendations submitted by the appropriate committee/association through the authorized councils.
7. Decisions on withdrawal of membership or denial of specific sports sponsorship for a member institution.
8. Administrative supervision of the Conference Commissioners Association.
9. Periodic review of affiliated conference operations and sanctions related to violations of conference requirements.

The enumeration of the above responsibilities and duties shall not be construed to deny the right of the Council of Presidents to exercise any other power or to perform any other duty within the field of governance of the affairs of the NAIA. No policies and procedures exercised by the Council of Presidents shall conflict with established policies of the constituent assembly.

IV SECTION D NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE DUTIES

The National Coordinating Committee shall exercise authority in the following matters:

1. Reviewing operational policies for approval or referral which were developed by the three councils. Those policies reserved in the Constitution and Bylaws to the Council of Presidents as the official governing body of the Association shall be excluded from this charge;
2. Acting as the communications link between the National Administrative Council, the Council for Student-Athletes and the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives;
3. Acting on all requests for appeals arising from decisions of the National Eligibility Committee, the National Conduct and Ethics Committee, National Administrative Council, the Competitive Experience Committee, the Home School Committee, the NAIA Membership Committee, the National Drug Testing and Education Committee, and/or the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives. The National Coordinating Committee's decision on appeals is final, except for those decisions reserved for the Council of Presidents;
4. Soliciting nominations for the at large position to the National Coordinating Committee under the approved guidelines and presenting the candidates to the membership for final selection at the annual meeting each year; and
5. Acting upon requests for reinstatement of amateur status in accordance with established Association procedures, and review any failure by a student to uphold to uphold his or her notification responsibility per Article VII, Section B, Item 8.

The chair of the National Coordinating Committee shall also serve as an ex officio member of the Council of Presidents.

IV SECTION E NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL DUTIES

The National Administrative Council shall exercise authority in the following matters:

1. Initiating operational policies for conference, independent and national competition, national statistical services, national awards and drug testing at national competition;

2. Providing administrative supervision of all NAIA Coaches Associations, the Conduct and Ethics Committee, the National Drug Testing and Education Committee and those associations/committees assigned by them which deal with conference, independent and national competition;
3. Annually reviewing and establishing the conference, independent and national qualification plans for postseason competition for all sports;
4. Reviewing and acting on all recommendations from those associations/committees within their area of responsibility; and
5. Conducting nominations and elections in accordance with the Constitution when openings on the Council arise.

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

IV SECTION F COUNCIL OF FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVES DUTIES

The Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall exercise authority in the following matters:

1. Initiating operational policies for evaluation and implementation of Association academic standards.
2. Providing administrative supervision of the National Eligibility Committee, the National Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, the National Registrars Association and those committees assigned to them which deal with academic standards and their enforcement.
3. Reviewing and acting on all recommendations from those committees within their area of responsibility.
4. Conducting nominations and elections in accordance with the Constitution when openings on the Council arise.

The chair of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall serve as an ex officio member of the Council of Presidents.

IV SECTION G COUNCIL FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

The Council for Student-Athletes shall exercise authority in the following matters.

1. Initiating operational policies for the Champions of Character program, and conducting research and education that will benefit the health, safety and development of NAIA student-athletes.
2. Providing administrative supervision of the Champions of Character Advisory Committee, Athletic Trainers Association, Association of Student-Athletes and those committees assigned to it which deal with issues of student-athlete health, safety and development.
3. Reviewing and acting on all recommendations from those committees within its area of responsibility.
4. Conducting nominations and elections in accordance with the Constitution when openings on the Council arise.

The Council for Student-Athletes shall have two co-chairs: the chair of the Association of Student-Athletes, and a non-student representative of the council. The co-chair who represents the Association of Student-Athletes shall serve as an ex officio member of the Council of Presidents. The non-student co-chair shall serve on the National Coordinating Committee.

IV SECTION H ESTABLISHING POLICIES BY COUNCILS

Prior to establishing a policy, a council, through its National Coordinating Committee representative, must present the recommended policy to the full National Coordinating Committee. Should there be no more than one member of the National Coordinating Committee in opposition, the policy shall be enacted.

Should two or more members of the National Coordinating Committee request further study or otherwise oppose the recommended policy, the policy shall be reviewed and voted upon by the appropriate councils. The result of the councils' action shall be presented to the National Coordinating Committee for final vote. A two-thirds vote of approval shall be required for acceptance. Policies necessary to perform those duties reserved in the Constitution and Bylaws to the Council of Presidents, as the official governing body of the Association, shall be excluded from this procedure.

ARTICLE V Eligibility

NOTE: To access past years' bylaw amendments for Article V, please select the following links to see what changes were made in each of the corresponding years.

V SECTION A APPLICATION OF ELIGIBILITY RULES

Institutional membership within either or both programs (men's and/or women's) or institutional membership on a sport-by-sport basis within a program charges each institution with the responsibility of knowing, administering and enforcing the eligibility standards adopted by the members of the Association in respect to the institution's intercollegiate sports affiliated within the NAIA.

The eligibility rules which follow apply to all students representing their institution in any manner (scrimmages, intercollegiate, etc.) against competitors not directly identified with the institution in any sport recognized by the NAIA.

Any student identified with a two- or four-year college or university who then becomes identified at an NAIA institution shall also be subject to the following regulations, which were submitted and approved by the member institutions.

V SECTION B DEFINITIONS

1. Eligibility Case: An actual or possible violation of an NAIA rule or regulation as reported by the institution to the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) commissioner, the eligibility chair and/or the National Office or notification to the institution by the conference/CAC commissioner, the eligibility chair or National Office.

2. Eligibility Certification: Completion and filing of the NAIA Official Eligibility certificate, NAIA Certificate of Clearance, Transfer Player Eligibility Statement (when applicable), Eligibility Certificate for Entering Freshmen (when applicable), and Competitive Experience Outside Intercollegiate Athletics form (when applicable) for all students prior to allowing those students to represent the institution in any manner during a term.

3. End of a Term: Date listed in the institutional catalog as the last day of a term. If no such date is given, the end of the term shall be the last day of the final exam period for that term.

4. Enrollment: Completion of institution's enrollment forms or cards (payment of fees is not considered by the NAIA as a definition of enrollment).

5. Entering Freshman: A student who upon becoming identified with an NAIA institution has not been previously identified with any institution(s) of higher learning for any two semesters or three quarters (or the equivalent).

6. Exhibition: A competition against competitors not identified with the institution when:

   a. The competition does not meet the definition of a scrimmage pursuant to Article V, Section B, Item 18 of the NAIA Bylaws;
   b. The competition is noted as an Exhibition on the institutional schedule; and
   c. The competition is against a Non-NAIA opponent.

   If the competition meets this definition then it shall not be included in individual and team statistics, won-loss records or coaching records. The competition shall count against frequency of play limits pursuant to Article I, Section H, Item 1 of the NAIA Bylaws. An NAIA institution will be limited to one exhibition per season. A student will be charged a season of competition for participating in an exhibition competition.

7. Good Standing: Maintenance of NAIA eligibility standards as well as the general institutional requirements for all students in order to represent the institution in any extracurricular activity.

8. Identification: Representing an institution in an intercollegiate contest or enrolling in 12 or more institutional credit hours with a minimum of nine institutional credit hours at the NAIA member institution in any given term (excluding summer session) as reported by the institution's registrar on an official transcript based on the institution's official census date.

Approved Rulings & Casebook Examples for Identification

EXCEPTION: An entering freshman shall identify with an institution during the student's first two semester terms or first three quarter terms by representing an institution in an intercollegiate contest or enrolling in 12 or more credit hours with a minimum of nine credit hours at the NAIA member institution as reported by the institution's registrar on an official transcript based on the institution's official census date.

NOTE 1: For any student seeking eligibility as a first-time participant in any NAIA sport, this definition of identification shall be applied to all terms, regardless of the dates during which the terms occurred.

NOTE 2: For all other students, this definition of identification only applies to terms that begin after April 14, 2014. For terms that begin prior to April 14, 2014, the definition of identification in effect during the term shall apply.

NOTE 3: Participation in an intercollegiate contest in the fall before school starts identifies the student with the institution and charges the student with a season of competition and a term of attendance, even if the student decides to transfer or leave school before classes start. The Progress Rule (Article V, Section C, Item 9) shall apply for participation in the same sport.

However, the term shall not be applied in determining the Nine-Hour Rule or the 24/36-Hour Rule if enrollment in 12 institutional hours was not noted on the institution's official transcript.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Branch Campus Identification
Approved Ruling: Identification is validated by the official transcript that shows the student meeting the definition of identification at the particular institution. A student may compete for a branch campus location, given that the branch campus location has a separate certification and eligibility process than the parent institution. However, a student-athlete may compete for only one campus location in a given term. The student may not compete for the parent institution if they are certified to compete for the branch campus location during the academic term. If the student wishes to transfer after competing at the branch campus location, the transfer rules will apply, even if transferring to the parent institution.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
International Students – Identification
Approved Ruling: International transcripts often reflect only courses for which the student took and passed the exam at the end of a term. For courses where the final exam was not taken, the course generally does not appear on the official transcript. A letter from a school official may serve in conjunction with – or in lieu of, when no official transcript is available – an official transcript to show the additional coursework for which the student was enrolled.

An international student will be considered to have identified and will be charged a term of attendance if the studen attended any class and was enrolled in a regular, full-time course load. An international student whose official academic record does not reflect all attempted coursework but who attended a class while enrolled as a regular full-time student at an international university will be charged with a term of attendance based on a letter from a school official showing all coursework attempted.

9. Institutional Credit Hour: Any credit hour attributed to a course that is recorded on the transcript with a grade and credit hours earned. Institutional credit hours shall be accepted for eligibility certification purposes only after the instructor submits the completed course grade in the normal manner to the institutional registrar for posting on the transcript.

   EXCEPTION: Coursework awarded earned credit hours with a grade of F (or the equivalent) shall not be considered institutional credit hours for purposes of the Nine-Hour Rule (Article V, Section C, Item 5), 24/36-Hour Rule (Article V, Section C, Item 6) and the Progress Rule (Article V, Section C, Item 9).

   Credit hours attributed to a course in progress shall be considered institutional credit for purposes of determining identification and enrollment in 12 credits when, as applied to the general student body, the course would appear on the transcript with a grade and credit hours earned upon completion.

   The grade assigned to a course may include, but is not limited to, a letter grade, credit/no credit, pass/fail, and satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Institutional Credit
Case: A student enrolled in a course for three credit hours and subsequently failed the course, showing zero hours earned for the course on the student's transcript. Had the student completed the course successfully, credits associated with the course would have been shown on the student's transcript as earned and with a grade. Does the course count as institutional credit for this student?

Approved Ruling: Yes. The course itself is considered institutional credit even if a student fails the course. A student's performance in a given course does not determine whether the course meets the definition of institutional credit for purposes of identification and 12-hour enrollment. The student has not earned any institutional credit hours for the course, but the course will be considered institutional credit hours attempted by the student in that term and will be used for evaluating identification, 12-hour enrollment and GPA calculations.

Recognition of Credits
Approved Ruling: When the grades are submitted in the normal manner to the registrar for posting on the transcript and the student is properly certified, the student is then recognized as having the credits apply in meeting NAIA regulations.

10. Inter-Term: A session or a group of courses that occurs and is reflected on the official academic transcript between two regular academic terms and is reported on the official academic transcript. These sessions cannot meet the definition of a term of attendance as defined in Article V, Section B, Item 21. Summer terms cannot constitute an inter-term.

    The inter-term shall be treated as follows in determining eligibility:

    a. Inter-terms are considered non-terms. A student cannot identify during the inter-term, and hours earned during the inter-term are considered non-term hours and shall be applied toward eligibility accordingly.

    b. Completed inter-term credit can be used toward eligibility requirements once the grades are posted in the normal manner and as long as the credit is shown to be earned before the start of the NAIA institution's Winter/Spring term. Credit is considered earned at the end of the academic term that the course is attributed to on the issuing institution's transcript, pursuant to Article V, Section B, Item 3. If the issuing institution's transcript does not attribute the course to an academic term and instead includes specific start/end dates, the end date listed on the transcript will be used. If neither a term nor dates appear on the issuing institution's transcript, dates of the course as verified by the institution's registrar may be used.

       For students with continuing identification at the same NAIA institution, the credit must be approved and accepted by the NAIA institution and appear on the NAIA institution's transcript.

    c. Courses taken in these sessions cannot be used to meet the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule as described in Article V, Section C, Item 3.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Non-Term — Attendance at a Non-Accredited Institution
Case: A student attends a non-accredited college, either junior or senior college, which may or may not sponsor an intercollegiate athletics program. What is the status of such a student?

Approved Ruling: For institutions in the U.S., the NAIA shall use The Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs compiled by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Post Secondary Education to determine if terms are to be recognized by the NAIA. If an institution is listed in this online database at the time of a student's attendance, the student transferring from this institution shall be charged terms of attendance, seasons of competition and be required to meet residency regulations as applicable.

If the institution is not listed in the online database and is not an NAIA associate member, the student is considered not to have attended an institution of higher learning with regard to athletic eligibility. Foreign postsecondary institutions are considered accredited when determining terms of attendance.

NOTE: The NAIA shall use the Accredited Institutions of Post Secondary Education published by the Council on Post Secondary Accreditation by the American Council on Education to determine if terms are to be recognized by the NAIA for terms prior to August 1, 2012.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Non-Term — High School
Approved Ruling: High school students may take 12 or more hours of college credits in a term without establishing a term of attendance.

Non-Term — Military Service
Approved Ruling: Members of the armed services, while on active duty, may take 12 or more hours of college work during a term without establishing a term of attendance.

11. Intercollegiate Contest: Any athletics competition in a sport recognized by the NAIA and sponsored by the institution as an intercollegiate sport against competitors not identified with the institution. Alumni contests are considered to be competition within the institution and not recognized as intercollegiate.

12. Non-Term: Any term that does not meet the definition of a term as defined in Article V, Section B, Item 21.

    NOTE: This definition of non-term only applies to terms that begin after August 1, 2004. Prior to August 1, 2004, a non-term was enrollment in fewer than nine institutional credit hours at a single institution during a given term or any summer session or inter-term.

13. Normal Progress: The accumulation of academic credit at a rate so as to meet the minimum standards listed in Article V, Section C, Item 9 of the NAIA Bylaws.

14. Participation: Competing in an intercollegiate contest as defined by Article V, Section B, Item 11 of the NAIA Bylaws.

15. Postseason Competition: Conference, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) or unaffiliated grouping qualifying events.

16. Prospective Student: An individual who has never identified or whose previous collegiate identification was with another collegiate institution. The individual remains a prospective student until the student identifies with an institution in accordance with Article V, Section B, Item 8.

Approved Ruling: A prospective student-athlete must be identified with the NAIA institution in order to compete over the summer.

Prospective students are not permitted to practice or compete with an institution's team.

EXCEPTION 1: A prospective student may practice and compete with an institution's team during the summer (May 16th-July 31st) if the student is a high school graduate (or the equivalent) and not identified with any other institution of higher learning, and:

1) Enrolled in a full-time class load, as defined by the institution, for the applicable summer term, or

2) Enrolled in at least 12 institutional credit hours for the immediately subsequent fall term.

Such practice activities and competitions are not considered to be a tryout.

EXCEPTION 2: A prospective student, who is a high school graduate (or the equivalent) and not identified with any other institution of higher learning, may practice with an institution's team(s) prior to the start of the institution's academic term, or between regular academic terms, if the practice activity occurs during the team's 24-week season. Such practice activities are not considered to be a tryout.

17. Residency: Identification with an institution for 16 calendar weeks (112 calendar days) during the regular school year (summer session not included).

18. Scrimmage: A competition against competitors not identified with the institution when:
    a. The competition is not listed or is noted as a scrimmage on the institutional schedule; and
    b. No scores or statistics are reported by the NAIA institution(s).

Scrimmages shall not be allowed in the following intercollegiate sports: competitive cheer, competitive dance, cross country, golf, swimming and diving, indoor and outdoor track and field, and wrestling. Students must be certified as eligible prior to participating in a scrimmage. Seasons of competition will not be charged to students who participate only in scrimmages. Transfer students shall be governed by the association under which they competed.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE

Scrimmage – Reporting Scores/Statistics

Approved Ruling: For a contest to be considered a scrimmage, scores and statistics cannot be reported by the NAIA institution. This includes scores or statistics listed or appearing in an article on statistical reporting sites, athletic or institutional websites, social media posts such as facebook or twitter, or community newspapers or websites.

Scrimmages — Season of Competition

Approved Ruling: A student participating in a contest that fits the definition of a scrimmage (Article V, Section B, Item 18) shall not be charged a season of competition.

Non-Intercollegiate Scrimmage

Approved Ruling: Students who have competed in only non-intercollegiate scrimmages will not be charged a season of competition if the scrimmage(s) meet the definition of an NAIA scrimmage, and if the student participates in no more than the number of scrimmage allowed for the sport per NAIA Bylaws Article I, Section H, Item 2.

19. Season of Competition:

a. Participation in more than 20% of the maximum allowable number of intercollegiate contests or dates (excluding scrimmages) at an NAIA institution, whether in a varsity, junior varsity or freshman program, during the 24-week season. Any participation in NAIA-approved postseason shall result in a season of competition. The NAIA shall count seasons of competition based on intercollegiate participation charged by another intercollegiate athletic association.

A student who participates in the following number of contests or dates during the 24-week season will be charged a season of competition.

Baseball	11 contests	Lacrosse	5 contests
Basketball	7 contests	Softball	11 contests
Bowling	4 contests	Swimming and diving	3 meets
Competitive cheer	3 dates	Tennis	6 dates/tournaments
Competitive dance	3 dates	Indoor track and field	3 meets
Cross country	2 meets	Outdoor track and field	3 meets
Football	3 contests	Volleyball	6 dates
Golf	3 contests	Wrestling	5 dates
Soccer	5 contests		

NOTE 1: These limits shall be updated annually to reflect 20% of the maximum allowable contests or dates as listed in Article I, Section H, Item 1 of the NAIA Bylaws.

b. Participation in any professional-level competition on or after the first day of the thirteenth month following high school graduation. A student will be charged a season of competition for participating in at least one professional-level event within a 12-month period. A team, league or event will be defined as professional-level competition and result in charging a student a season of competition if any one of the following is met:

i. Competition on a team or within a league (all sports) shall result in a season of competition if the team or league self-declares as professional.

ii. Competition on a team or within a league (all sports) shall result in a season of competition if both of the following are met:
   1) The team or league self-declares as semi-professional; and
   2) Team(s) within the league pay or reimburse participants beyond actual expenses of travel, meals and lodging.

iii. For individual sports, a student's participation will be evaluated based on the student's specific division, series or group/heat within the event. If that division, series or group/heat within the event is self-declared as professional or semi-professional, the student's competition shall result in a season of competition charged.

The NAIA shall take at face value seasons of competition based on non-collegiate participation as assessed by another intercollegiate athletic association, including determination of unattached status. Additional seasons of competition, based on professional-level participation, will be charged when the student is not enrolled in a collegiate institution, or is enrolled but does not represent the institution in intercollegiate competition.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Summer Competition – Transfers and Students with Break in Enrollment
Approved Ruling: Competition after May 15 by a student who transfers institutions or has a break in enrollment is subject to a competitive experience review if the student was not charged with a season of intercollegiate participation during the preceding academic year. Summer competition by a student charged with a season of intercollegiate competition during the preceding academic year is not subject to a competitive experience review unless the summer participation falls outside of the student's 12-month window.

Case: A student identifies at a junior college but does not compete in the spring. The student participates in elite level competition during the summer, beginning after May 15. Can the student compete in intercollegiate competition during the subsequent academic year without being charged an additional season of competition?

Approved Ruling: Yes. The intercollegiate competition occurring during the subsequent academic year is considered a continuation of the in-progress season charged for the summer competition. Unless the summer competition falls outside of the student's 12-month window. The student is charged for the elite level summer competition, regardless of whether the student participates in intercollegiate competition during the subsequent academic year.

EXCEPTION 1: An individual who trains or competes as a member of a non-collegiate postsecondary education (i.e. preparatory school) team will not be charged a season of competition.

EXCEPTION 2: The date of a student's 18th birthday will be used as the date of high school graduation if:
a. The date of high school graduation cannot be ascertained; or
b. The student earned a high school equivalency through the GED or other exam(s) without otherwise graduating high school.

EXCEPTION 3: An individual who participates in national or Olympic team trials or competes as a member of a national or Olympic team will not be charged a season of competition for such participation.

EXCEPTION 4: As an exception, a student who suffers a season-ending injury while enrolled at a non-NAIA institution may request a medical hardship from the NAIA to have the intercollegiate season of competition returned. All medical hardship requests must meet the following criteria:

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

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

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

d. The student must have participated in 20% or fewer of the maximum allowable number of intercollegiate contests or dates, excluding scrimmages, during the 24-week season as listed for the sport. If the student competed in more than 20% of the maximum limit (see detailed list in Article V, Section B, Item 18a), the student is not eligible for a medical hardship.

NOTE 1: For any student seeking eligibility as a first-time participant in a given NAIA sport, this definition of season of competition shall be applied to all prior competition in that sport, regardless of the date of competition.

NOTE 2: For all other students, this definition of season of competition only applies to competition that occurs after May 1, 2022. For all prior competition for these students, the definition of season of competition in effect at the time shall apply.

NOTE 3: For purposes of this bylaw, eligibility shall be determined by a national third-party administrator (NAIA Eligibility Center) authorized by the Council of Presidents.

NOTE 4: Unless specified elsewhere in the NAIA Bylaws (i.e. Article V, Section F, Item 9) no student shall be charged more than one season of competition during any 12-month period. Participation in professional-level competition after May 15 shall be charged within the 12-month period that includes the subsequent academic year.

NOTE 5: Athletes charged a season of competition pursuant to this paragraph must also comply with other applicable NAIA Bylaws, including Article VII (Amateur Rules) and Article V, Section C (Eligibility Requirements).

20. Start of Term: Date listed in the institutional catalog as the first day of a term. If no such date is given, the start of the term shall be the first date of classes for that term according to the institution's academic calendar.

21. Term of Attendance: A term of attendance is any quarter, semester or trimester (excluding summer sessions) in which the student becomes identified at a single institution.
The word "term" as used throughout the bylaws refers to quarter, semester or trimester, whichever applies as the official unit of class attendance at any college or university.

    If a student identified with an institution officially totally withdraws from that institution within 21 calendar days following the official opening date of classes as stated in the institutional catalog and returns and again becomes identified with the same institution (without becoming identified at another institution), the student shall not be charged with a term of attendance for the term in which the student withdrew.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Term of Attendance
Approved Ruling: A student is identified and charged a term upon enrolling in 12 or more institutional credit hours at a single institution or at least nine or more institutional credit hours at an NAIA institution with at least three hours at another institution as reported by the institution's registrar on an official transcript based on the institution's official census date, or by representing an institution in an intercollegiate contest.

Term of Attendance – Graduate Student
Approved Ruling: A graduate student will be charged a term of attendance by enrolling in the number of institutional credit hours that equates to full time enrollment as defined by the institution's graduate school policies.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Withdrawal and Transfer
Case: A freshman enrolled for 12 credit hours at an institution this past fall and withdrew prior to the institution's official census date. The student withdrew within the drop period established by the institution, and no courses appear on the official transcript for the term. Is this student subject to the Nine-Hour Rule (Article V, Section C, Item 5) for eligibility certification purposes in the next term?

Approved Ruling: No. The student withdrew from classes prior to the institution's census date, and no classes appear on the official transcript for the fall term. Therefore the student did not identify in the fall term and is not charged a term of attendance. The student is not considered a second-term freshman for eligibility purposes during the next term.

22. Transfer: A student who becomes identified with an NAIA institution after having previously been identified with a two- or four-year institution of higher learning. Transfer students must complete the official NAIA Transfer Player Eligibility Statement prior to their first participation at the NAIA institution no matter how long ago the transfer occurred.

    Once the student has completed the transfer form and has been in attendance for one term, the student is no longer considered a transfer student at the institution.

23. Varsity Intercollegiate Sport: A sport that has been accorded that status by the institution's chief executive officer or committee responsible for intercollegiate athletics policy and satisfies all of the following conditions:
    a. It is a sport that is administered by the department of intercollegiate athletics;
    b. It is a sport for which the eligibility of the student is reviewed and certified by the institution's faculty athletics representative or designated eligibility representative; and
    c. It is a sport in which qualified participants receive the institution's official varsity awards.

V SECTION C ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

For a student to be eligible for any NAIA recognized intercollegiate competition, a member institution must ensure that the student conforms to the following regulations. Any student competing in a sport recognized by the NAIA who is a first-time NAIA participant must receive an eligible determination from the NAIA Eligibility Center prior to representing an NAIA institution in competition against competitors not directly identified with the institution. The Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall determine specific policies and exceptions necessary to institute this requirement. See the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives policy for further information.

A first-time NAIA participant shall be defined as any student who has not previously represented an NAIA institution by competing in a scrimmage, exhibition or contest. This includes varsity, junior varsity and freshman team competitions in any sport that was recognized by the NAIA at the time of the student's competition.

1. An entering freshman student must be a graduate of an accredited high school or be accepted as a regular student in good standing as defined by the enrolling institution.
2. An entering freshman student can be eligible immediately by achieving an overall high school grade point average of 2.300 or higher on a 4.000 scale. Alternatively, an entering freshman student can become eligible by meeting two of the three entry-level requirements below. The three entry-level requirements are as follows:

a. A minimum score of 18 on the ACT or 970 on the SAT (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math) for tests taken beginning May 2019. EFFECTIVE DATE May 1, 2019 (for tests taken beginning May 1, 2019);

EXCEPTION: For ACT tests taken beginning March 2016 through April 30, 2019, a minimum score of 16 will satisfy this requirement. This exception will apply to tests taken through April 30, 2019, after which point the exception no longer applies. For SAT tests taken prior to May 1, 2019, a minimum score of an 860 will satisfy this requirement.

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

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Untimed ACT/SAT Scores
Approved Ruling: Students diagnosed with a learning disability may use untimed ACT/SAT test results to meet freshman eligibility standards. However, the test must be arranged, approved and conducted according to the procedure established by the ACT or SAT national office for the administration of such tests. Minimum score results needed to meet NAIA freshman eligibility standards still must be achieved.

ACT/SAT Testing in the Fall Term
Approved Ruling: A student may take the ACT/SAT during the current fall term and use the results to meet the entering freshman requirement, provided the test is taken on a national testing date, the minimum score is achieved, and the results are received from the national test center in the usual manner before the student represents your institution. The key factor is that the test must be taken prior to the beginning of the term in which the student initially participates. Students would be eligible for participation on the day following the close of the fall term. Residual tests are not accepted.

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

EXCEPTION: A prospective student attending an accredited U.S. high school, can satisfy NAIA entering freshman academic requirements prior to completing high school graduation requirements provided the student has registered with the NAIA Eligibility Center and satisfies one of the following sets of academic criteria:

1. A student may satisfy freshman academic requirements upon completing six semesters, or its equivalent, of secondary education by obtaining:
    i) An ACT/SAT test score in accordance with the regulations found in Bylaws Article V, Section C, Item 2a; and
    ii) An overall high school grade point average of 3.000 or higher on a 4.000 scale.
2. A student may satisfy freshman academic requirements upon completing seven semesters, or its equivalent, of secondary education by obtaining:
    i) An ACT/SAT test score in accordance with the regulations found in Bylaws Article V, Section C, Item 2a; and
    ii) An overall high school grade point average of 2.500 or higher on a 4.000 scale.

The early determination of eligibility by the NAIA Eligibility Center shall be the center's only determination. It shall be the responsibility of the certifying member institution to verify that an entering freshman has graduated from an accredited high school or been accepted as a regular student in good standing as defined by the enrolling institution and met all other NAIA, conference and institutional academic requirements prior to representing the institution in any manner against outside competition.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
High School GPA
Approved Ruling: The GPA shall be determined from the student's high school transcript that includes all coursework taken through the term immediately prior to graduation (e.g. the eighth term of school in which eight terms are necessary for a student to graduate).

High School GPA — Overall 2.000
Approved Ruling: Should a high school use a four-point scale, the high school GPA shall be used. Should a high school use something other than a four-point scale (e.g. a 12-point scale which uses the + and -), all high school grades will be converted to the four-point scale to establish the GPA. Should the high school report grades as a numerical percentage, a student in the "C" range is considered to have met this regulation.

High School GPA — Attending Multiple High Schools
Approved Ruling: If a prospective student-athlete attended multiple high schools, the GPA listed on the student-athlete's final transcript is the GPA that will be used to determine initial eligibility.

High School GPA — Prep School Attendance
Approved Ruling: Should a student be identified with a preparatory school for one full academic year, the GPA at the preparatory school shall be combined with the overall high school GPA for application to the freshman rule.

c. Rank in the upper half of the student's high school class, as it appears on the final high school transcript after the student's date of graduation. The class rank must appear on the student's transcript, leaving certificate or other academic document. If the student's class rank does not appear on the above-mentioned documents, the rank can be provided to the NAIA Eligibility Center via the NAIA High School Portal.

EXCEPTION 1: Completion of nine institutional credit hours prior to identification at any institution of higher education can be used if no class rank appears on the final official high school transcript. The credit hours must be completed with a grade of "C" or better. The coursework must be accepted as institutional credit on the certifying NAIA institution's official transcript. The coursework must also be shown as earned prior to the term in which the student wishes to compete, as indicated on an official transcript. For CLEP or AP credit not applied to the transcript within a term, official documentation issued by the testing service noting the date the exam was taken will suffice.

For purposes of this rule, the NAIA does not recognize a +/- attached to a letter grade. Consequently, a C+, C, and C- shall count as a C.

Exception 2: As an exception and in accordance with policies found in the Membership Guide to the NAIA Eligibility Center, a letter from the student's principal

or headmaster, assistant or vice principal, guidance counselor or registrar, written on the school's letterhead and with the school's official seal, stating that the student meets the class rank requirement can be accepted.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
High School Class Rank
Approved Ruling: The class ranking shall be determined from the student's high school transcript that includes all coursework taken through the term immediately prior to graduation (e.g. the eighth term of school in which eight terms are necessary for a student to graduate).

High School Class Rank — Top 50%
Approved Ruling: An incoming freshman student who graduates number 50 out of a high school graduating class of 100 shall meet the class rank requirement.

High School Class Rank — Prep School Attendance
Approved Ruling: Once students graduate from high school, their class ranking will not change. Attendance at a preparatory school will not affect this regulation.

NOTE 1: GED and HiSet Students
The GED or HiSet certification of achievement will be recognized as satisfying the grade point average equivalent. A GED or HiSet student must achieve a test score in accordance with the regulations found in Bylaws Article V, Section C, Item 2a to meet the freshman requirements.

NOTE 2: Home-schooled Students
Home-schooled students who complete a home schooling program conducted in accordance with the laws of the student's state of residence will meet entering freshmen requirements by satisfying any of the following three options:
For tests taken beginning May 2019, achieve a minimum score of 20 on the ACT or 1040 (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math) on the SAT.

For ACT tests taken prior to March 2016, a minimum score of 20 is required. For ACT tests taken beginning March 2016 through April 2019, a minimum score of 18 will satisfy this requirement. For SAT tests taken prior to May 2019, a minimum score of 950 (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math) is required.

Completion of nine institutional credit hours prior to identification at any institution of higher education. The credit hours must be completed with a grade of "C" or better. The coursework must be accepted as institutional credit on the certifying NAIA institution's official transcript. The coursework must also be shown as earned prior to the term in which the student wishes to compete, as indicated on an official transcript.

Receive a home school waiver from the NAIA Home School Committee. A student receiving a home school waiver will be recognized as meeting entering freshman requirements. The Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall establish policy governing the issuance of a home school waiver by the NAIA Home School Committee.

NOTE 3: International Students
An incoming freshman who graduated from a high school outside of the United States or one of the U.S. territories shall meet the same eligibility criteria required of a regular freshman student listed in Article V, Section C, Item 1 and Article V, Section C, Item 2. High school graduation and cumulative grade point averages shall be determined based on current published NAIA initial-eligibility academic guidelines for international students.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
International Student – Multiple Graduation Dates
Approved Ruling: When an international student graduates from a high school in the student's native country, and subsequently graduates from a high school in the United States, the date of graduation from the high school in the United States shall be used for eligibility purposes. Official records from the high school in the United States shall be used for compliance with NAIA initial freshman eligibility regulations.

3. The student must be identified and enrolled in a minimum of 12 institutional credit hours at the time of participation.

EXCEPTION: A student who will complete requirements for graduation for a baccalaureate degree within 10 semesters, 15 quarters, 12 trimesters or less may retain eligibility during the last term of attendance of the senior year by enrolling in fewer than 12 institutional credit hours. By signing the Official Eligibility Certificate, the registrar verifies that the student has completed all other academic requirements for graduation except for the currently enrolled credits.

A student invoking the above exception who completes all academic requirements for graduation and who subsequently enrolls in and seeks a second baccalaureate or equivalent degree at the same institution, who enrolls in and pursues a second major area of study at the same institution, who enrolls in a graduate or professional school, who is enrolled in a fifth-year, post-baccalaureate degree teacher education program or post-baccalaureate certification program is eligible to participate provided the student has athletic eligibility remaining and meets the criteria of the exception to Article V, Section D, Item 5.

The term in which the student invokes this exception shall be counted as a term of attendance. However, this term will not count in the calculation of the 24/36-Hour Rule. For a semester school to calculate the 24 credit hours, the institution should consider the two terms immediately preceding the term the student completes the requirements for graduation.

A student who invokes the above exception and does not graduate forfeits any remaining eligibility in all sports sponsored by the NAIA.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Maintaining Institutional Identification
Approved Ruling: A student must maintain 12 institutional credit hours, with at least nine institutional credit hours at an NAIA institution in order to participate in intercollegiate athletics. Upon reducing the class load to fewer than 12 institutional credit hours, the student is no longer eligible.

12-Hour Enrollment Rule — Graduate Hours
Approved Ruling: Graduate credit hours may be included in the 12 institutional credit hours in which a student must be enrolled.

12-Hour Enrollment Rule Exception — Last Term of Attendance
Case: A student invokes the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule Exception during spring 2016 and graduates at the end of the academic term with a BA in Biology. The student has the opportunity to return fall 2016 and chooses to re-enroll in BA Chemistry. The student only needs nine hours in this degree program to graduate at the end of the academic term in fall 2016. Can the student invoke the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule Exception more than once if the student has less than 12 hours remaining in the second degree program?

Approved Ruling: No. A student can be enrolled in only one "last term of attendance" and therefore cannot invoke the exception more than once.

4. The student must maintain institutional identification during any term of participation. For exceptions see Article V, Section D, Items 3 and 4.

5. a. An entering freshman who satisfies initial eligibility requirements in Bylaws Article V, Section C, Item 2 must have accumulated a minimum of nine institutional credit hours prior to identification for the second term of attendance.

   Only those institutional credit hours earned after identification (at any institution) may be applied toward meeting the Nine-Hour Rule for a second-term freshman.

   b. An entering freshman who satisfies one of the initial eligibility requirements found in Bylaws Article V, Section C, Item 2 can gain eligibility in a subsequent term if the student passed 12 institutional credit hours with a grade of "C" or better during the first term of attendance at the certifying NAIA institution.

For purposes of this rule, the NAIA does not recognize a +/- attached to a letter grade. Consequently, a C+, C, and C- shall count as a C.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Passing Grade – Mid Year Eligibility
Approved Ruling: A grade of a "P" may be used in lieu of a C to gain mid-year eligibility if the official transcript or academic catalogue specifically states that a grade of a P equates to a grade of a C in the grading rubric.

Nine-Hour Rule — Summer Attendance Prior to Initial Identification
Approved Ruling: A student who enters college for the first time in the summer and then enrolls for the fall term, may not apply summer credit hours to meet the Nine-Hour Rule. Summer attendance does not identify a student with an institution. The hours earned in the summer cannot count toward the Nine-Hour Rule because they occur prior to the student's initial identification.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Nine-Hour Rule — Identification
Case: A student graduates high school in May. She enrolls in 12 credit hours at an NAIA institution the subsequent fall. She passes all 12 hours, but only six meet the definition of institutional credit. The student has not taken any additional college coursework. Is the student eligible for the spring semester?

Approved Ruling: No. An entering freshman identifies in the fall by enrolling in 12 credit hours. She is considered a second-term freshman in the spring and must have accumulated at least nine institutional credit hours prior to the beginning of the student's second term of attendance.

Nine-Hour Rule — Incomplete Grades
Case: A first-term freshman passes eight hours and receives four hours of incomplete work. An extension is granted to complete the work because the student is otherwise passing the incomplete course. Does this student satisfy the Nine-Hour Rule required for second term freshmen?

Approved Ruling: No. The student has not passed the nine institutional credit hours required for all second-term freshmen and is therefore ineligible. Upon making up the incomplete and having the grade submitted to the registrar for posting on the transcript, the Nine-Hour Rule would then be satisfied. The athlete shall not compete until this incomplete is made up, the grade is submitted to the registrar and the student is properly certified as eligible. The same also applies to complying with the 24/36-Hour Rule.

6. After completion of the second semester term or third quarter term of attendance and from then on, a student must have accumulated a minimum of 24 institutional credit hours in the two immediately previous terms of attendance in a semester system or 36 institutional credit hours in the three immediately previous terms of attendance in a quarter system.

   A student transferring from a quarter system to a semester system must have accumulated 24 institutional credit hours in the previous two terms of attendance after the first term of attendance at the new institution.

   A student in a quarter system must have accumulated 24 institutional credit hours in the previous two quarter terms of attendance if completion of three quarter terms of attendance has not occurred. Upon completion of three quarter terms of attendance the student must have accumulated 36 institutional credit hours.

   No more than 12 institutional credit hours earned during summers and/or during non-terms may be applied to meet the 24/36-Hour Rule. Such credit must be earned after one or both of the two immediately previous terms of attendance.

   All credit hours used to meet this total of 24/36 institutional credit hours are to be taken at face value and are not to be converted, even if earned at different institutions using different credit-hour systems (e.g. quarter and semester).

   EXCEPTION 1: See Article V, Section B, Item 8, Note 3.

   EXCEPTION 2: A transfer student who has met the graduation requirements for an associate degree from a junior college will be exempt from meeting the 24/36-Hour Rule for the first term upon transferring to an NAIA institution provided:
   a. The transferring student passed all hours required for graduation in the term in which graduation occurs; and
   b. Less than 24/36 hours were required for graduation during the last two semesters/three quarters terms.

Students receiving this exception must pass at least 12 hours in their first term of attendance at the four-year school to retain eligibility for a second term. The last semester/trimester/quarter at the junior college shall count as a term of attendance.

Note: This rule applies to all student-athletes' certification beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, regardless of when the student's graduation or terms of attendance occurred.

EXCEPTION 3: A student will be exempt from meeting 24/36-Hour Rule only during the first term in which the student initially competes in any sport at the intercollegiate level, provided the student has not previously participated in any intercollegiate sport at any institution, and meets one of the following:

a. Meets freshman eligibility requirements (applies only to students in the first four semesters/six quarters, or the equivalent, of attendance); or
b. Has an overall GPA of 2.000 on a 4.000 scale calculated on the basis of all transcripts from all institutions (applies to students in all terms following the fourth semester/sixth quarter, or the equivalent, of attendance).

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE

Summer Credit Excluded from 24/36-Hour Rule

Case: A student passes four hours during the summer 2016 term, 12 hours during the following Fall 2016 term, and eight hours during the spring 2017 term. Does the student meet the requirements of the 24/36-Hour Rule going into Fall 2017 term?

Approved Ruling: No. In this case, the summer credit was earned prior to one of the two terms of attendance. For summer credit to be applied, it must be earned after one or both of the two terms being applied.

24/36-Hour Rule — Transfer Credit

Case: A student enrolls in a winter course outside of his NAIA institution in hopes of using the credit for eligibility purposes for the spring term. When the official transcript is released from this institution, the institution assigns the credit to the following spring term, not the winter term. The NAIA institution will allow for the credit to be transferred in under its winter term, in accordance with its transfer credit policies. Can the student use these credits for eligibility for the spring term?

Approved Ruling: No. Regardless of how the NAIA institution will treat the credit, if the credit is posted on the official transcript from the original institution as completed in the spring term, the credits cannot be used to determine eligibility for to the spring term.

24/36-Hour Rule — Identified Student

Case: A freshman at an NAIA institution is registered in 10 credits at their institution and two institutional credits at an ouside institution during the fall academic term. The student earns an A in the outside course; however, the student's NAIA institution will not accept the credit as transfer credit on its institutional transcript. Can these credits be used to satisfy the 24/36-Hour Rule?

Approved Ruling: No. If the student is currently identified at an NAIA institution and the institution will not accept the transfer credits, these credits cannot be used towards the 24/36-Hour Rule.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE

24/36-Hour Rule — Non-NAIA Transfer Student

Approved Ruling: When a non-NAIA student enrolls in fewer than 12 institutional credit hours due to completing all academic requirements for graduation for a baccalaureate degree and competes, that term shall be counted as a term of attendance. However, this term will not count in the calculation of the 24/36-Hour Rule. This term shall be excluded and the immediately previous two semester/ three quarter terms shall be used.

Official verification must be provided by the registrar confirming that the student was enrolled in the final remaining credits required to meet degree completion. Such verification must be provided to the eligibility center.

24/36-Hour Rule — Converting Terms

Case: A student completed 10 semester hours during the first term at a junior college and completed 12 quarter hours the next term at our institution. As a matter of institutional policy, we convert all hours to our terms, and thus the 10 semester hours would equal 15 quarter hours. Using this method, the 15 and 10 quarter hours would total more than 24 hours the two previous terms. Is this permissible in determining NAIA eligibility?

Approved Ruling: No. Credits earned at a school are not to be converted but taken at face value when applying the 24/36-Hour Rule. In this case, the athlete has completed only 22 hours of credit the last two terms and would not be eligible.

24/36-Hour Rule — Transfer Quarter System

Case: A student is enrolled at an institution which uses a quarter system. The student has completed 11 institutional credits in Fall 2015 term of attendance, 14 institutional credits Winter 2016 term of attendance and 11 institutional credits Spring 2016 term of attendance. Is the student eligible under the 24/36-Hour Rule?

Approved Ruling: Yes. Under the 24/36-Hour Rule, a student who completes 36 institutional credit hours during the last three quarter terms of attendance is eligible to compete, provided he meets all other eligibility requirements.

Case: The student now transfers from the quarter system to a semester system entering Fall 2016. The student passes 12 institutional credit hours in the Fall 2016 at her new institution. Will she meet the requirements of the 24/36-Hour Rule due to her passing 36 hours in her previous three terms of attendance and be eligible for the spring semester?

Approved Ruling: No. A student must accumulate 36 institutional credit hours in the previous three quarter terms of attendance. If a student does not complete three quarter terms, the rule of accumulating 24 institutional credit hours in the previous two terms of attendance takes precedent. In this instance, the student has accumulated only 23 hours in the previous two terms of attendance and is not eligible.

24/36-Hour Rule vs. Progress Rule

Case: What is the difference between the 24/36-Hour Rule and the Progress Rule for participation in a second season of competition? If a student has earned 24/36 hours in the last two semester/three quarter terms of attendance, isn't the Progress Rule met as well?

Approved Ruling: The 24/36-Hour Rule and the Progress Rule are two separate concepts and are to be applied independently.
The 24/36-Hour Rule states that a student must have accumulated a minimum of 24/36 institutional credit hours in the immediately previous two semester/three quarter terms of attendance. These hours are always taken at face value, even if a transfer is involved and the new institution does not accept all of the hours.

7. The student must be making normal progress toward a recognized baccalaureate degree and maintain the minimum grade point average as defined by the institution and the NAIA (when applicable).

8. Upon reaching junior academic standing as defined by the institution, a student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.000 on a 4.000 scale. The 2.000 cumulative GPA or higher must be certified each grading period in which the student wishes to compete after junior academic standing is reached.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Calculating Undergraduate and Graduate GPA
Case: A student completes an undergraduate degree in December of 2015. The student continues to identify with the institution by enrolling in a master's program spring of 2016. The student will continue with the master's program for fall 2016. The institution's GPA will separate the undergraduate GPA and graduate GPA on their official transcript. How should the NAIA institution evaluate the student's GPA for Article V, Section C, Item 8?

Approved Ruling: The NAIA institution shall certify the student according to the policies of their respective institution. If the institution separates the GPA after one term in graduate school, the NAIA institution must take the official GPA as presented on the transcript.

9. a. To participate a second season in a sport, all students must have accumulated at least 24 semester/36 quarter (or equivalent) institutional credit hours. Transfer students shall use institutional credit hours as certified by the previous institution(s) to meet this requirement only for their first term of attendance at a member institution. Thereafter, only institutional credit recognized by the student's current institution and submitted to the registrar for posting on the transcript shall apply.

EXCEPTION: A freshman who initially becomes identified after the first term in the fall shall meet this requirement by having passed 12 semester or 20 quarter institutional credit hours. This exception shall apply to the second season of competition regulation only.

To participate the third season in a sport, all students must have accumulated at least 48 semester/72 quarter (or equivalent) institutional credit hours. Transfer students shall use institutional credit hours as certified by the previous institution(s) to meet this requirement only for their first term of attendance at a member institution. Thereafter, only institutional credit recognized by the student's current institution and submitted to the registrar for posting on the transcript shall apply.

To participate the fourth season in a sport, all students must have accumulated at least 72 semester/108 quarter (or equivalent) institutional credit hours, at least 48 semester/72 quarter hours of which must be in general education and/or in the student's major field of study.

EXCEPTION: An entering freshman who has been charged one or more seasons of competition for non-intercollegiate participation will be exempt from meeting the Progress Rule for one year (two semester/three quarter terms) at an NAIA institution. This exception applies only to a student's first season of competition at the NAIA institution, after which the student will be required to have earned the requisite hours needed to satisfy the Progress Rule.

Transfer students shall use institutional credit hours as certified by the previous institution(s) to meet this requirement only for their first term of attendance at a member institution. Thereafter, only institutional credit recognized by the student's current institution and submitted to the registrar for posting on the transcript shall apply.

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

EXCEPTION: A student is exempt from this requirement during their second season of competition in a sport if the previous season of competition was charged for non-intercollegiate participation.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Freshman Exception for Progress Rule
Case: A student identifies at an NAIA institution in the spring 2017 semester and competes in the sport of swimming. The student transfers to a quarter school for Fall 2017 and competes in swimming, using the Progress Rule exception. Can the student continue to use the exception for the Winter 2018 quarter?

Approved Ruling: Yes. The student will be able to use the exception as the student is still being certified for their second season of competition during the winter 2018 term. The exception is specific to the season of competition, not the academic term.

Progress Rule — Transfer Credit taken at Face Value First Term Only
Approved Ruling: A transfer student bringing in "D" credit may have the "D" credit hours applied to all academic requirements the first term the student is identified only. Thereafter only those credits that are accepted toward a degree or are required by your institution and placed on your institutional transcript may apply.

Credit Hours Used for Eligibility
Approved Ruling: All institutional credit hours used for eligibility, (e.g., 24/36-Hour Rule and Progress Rule) must show on the transcript as earned in the term prior to the semester the student is seeking eligibility and wishes to compete.

10. The student must be eligible according to the institution's standards for intercollegiate competition.

11. The student must be eligible according to affiliated conference standards when such standards are more stringent than NAIA rules and standards.

12. A repeat course is defined as a course previously passed with a grade of "D" or better in any term, summer or non-term, and subsequently retaken.

    For the purposes of this rule, the NAIA does not recognize a +/- attached to a letter grade. Consequently, a B+, B, and B- shall count as a B, a C+, C, and C- shall count as a C and D+, D, and D- shall count as a D.

    Repeat courses previously passed with a grade of "D" in the initial attempt and retaken, earning a grade of "C" or better, shall be considered toward satisfying the 24/36-Hour Rule.

Repeat courses previously passed with a grade of "D" in the initial attempt and retaken, earning a grade of "D", shall be excluded and cannot be considered towards satisfaction of the 24/36-Hour Rule. Only the initial attempt shall be considered toward satisfying the 24/36-Hour Rule.

A maximum of one repeat course per term previously passed with a grade of "D" (or the equivalent) may be counted toward satisfying the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule.

Repeat courses previously passed with a grade of "C" or better cannot be applied to meet either the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule or the 24/36-Hour Rule.

EXCEPTION: If at the time of certification, a student's declared major field of study at the NAIA institution requires the student to repeat a specific course to satisfy a degree completion or general education requirement, the repeat course(s) that was not passed with the requisite grade can be applied to meet the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule and the 24/36-Hour Rule.

A maximum of one repeat course per term previously passed with a grade of "C" or "D" (or the equivalent) may be counted toward satisfying the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule.

NOTE: This rule applies to all student-athletes' certification beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, regardless of when the coursework was completed.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Repeat Course — Term of Attendance
Approved Ruling: All repeat courses previously passed shall be applied to the definition of a term of attendance. The allowing of one course previously passed with a "D" grade to count toward satisfying the 12 institutional credit hour rule is an exception to the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule only.

Re-taking a Failed Course
Approved Ruling: A student may repeat a course that was previously failed and have it count toward the current 12-Hour Enrollment Rule and, if passed, toward the 24/36-Hour Rule. A failed course is not considered a repeat course.

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

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

14. A student who is eligible the last day of a term (as reported on the institution's official academic calendar) may retain eligibility until midnight of the 30th calendar day following the close of a term to allow an institution time to recertify eligibility through the official Eligibility Certification Process (as reported on the institution's official academic calendar) may retain eligibility until midnight of the 30th calendar day following the close of a term to allow an institution time to recertify eligibility through the official Eligibility Certification Process This regulation does not apply to students who complete all requirements for graduation or complete 10 semesters of attendance (or equivalent). Further, students who are discovered to be ineligible by the institution through the official Eligibility Certification Process or by conference standards shall lose eligibility immediately upon such discovery.

15. A student enrolling in college after the date set by the institution for enrollment of regular full time students will not be eligible to compete in intercollegiate athletics until two full calendar weeks of residency have been completed.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Late Enrollment
Approved Ruling: A student completing enrollment after the date established and published by an institution for enrollment of regular full-time students must be withheld from all participation until establishing two full calendar weeks of residency. Competition may begin the 14th day after attending class.

V SECTION D RETENTION: REESTABLISHMENT OF ELIGIBILITY (ALSO SEE ARTICLE V, SECTION E, ITEM 2)

1. A student may participate four seasons in one sport in 10 semesters, 12 trimesters or 15 quarters of attendance if otherwise eligible. The 10 semesters need not be consecutive. During the ninth or tenth semester, or equivalent, the student may participate in any sport in which the student has not already used four seasons of competition.

2. With reference to establishing or reestablishing eligibility in the same institution, a student is eligible for athletics participation on the day following the close of a term, provided the student meets all eligibility requirements for the upcoming term and is properly certified as eligible.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Recognition of Credits
Approved Ruling: When the grades are submitted in the normal manner to the registrar and are posted on the transcript and the student is properly certified, a student is then recognized as having the credits apply in meeting NAIA regulations.

Incomplete Grades
Approved Ruling: If a student is ineligible due to having insufficient hours but can become eligible if an incomplete grade is made up satisfactorily, the student shall not compete until the incomplete is made up, the grade is submitted to the registrar as described above and the student is properly certified as eligible.

3. A student attending a college on the trimester system may participate in spring sports if the student was identified the previous term at that institution and completed 24/36 institutional credit hours or more since the beginning of the fall term of the current school year, and is otherwise eligible although not enrolled during the third trimester.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Eligibility for Postseason Play
Case: An NAIA institution's softball team has made it to the postseason world series during the same time grades for the spring 2016 academic term were finalized at the institution. One of the softball players who was eligible and competed the entire spring 2016 term did not earn 24 hours between the fall 2015 and spring 2016 academic terms and will be ineligible for the fall 2016 academic term. Is this student ineligible for the softball postseason?

Approved Ruling: No. Per Article V, Section D, Item 4, a student who is eligible during the regular sport season shall retain eligibility for participation in NAIA postseason competition provided the student was in attendance the term immediately preceding the postseason competition.

4. A student who is eligible during the regular sport season for a particular sport and who is eligible at the end of the regular sport season shall retain eligibility in that particular sport for participation in NAIA postseason competition provided the student was in attendance the term immediately preceding the postseason competition.

5. A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation from a four-year institution as defined by that institution shall no longer be eligible to compete in intercollegiate athletics.

   EXCEPTION 1: A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation and who is enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate or equivalent degree at the same institution, or who is enrolled and pursuing a second major area of study at the same institution may participate in intercollegiate athletics provided the student has athletic eligibility remaining.

   EXCEPTION 2: A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation and who is enrolled in a graduate program, professional school or fifth-year, post-baccalaureate degree teacher education program or post-baccalaureate certification program may participate in intercollegiate athletics provided the student has athletic eligibility remaining and the following conditions are satisfied:
   1. The graduate must be enrolled in a full-time class load as defined by the school in lieu of 12 institutional credits at the time of participation.
   2. To maintain eligibility status, the student must successfully complete the full-time class load as defined by the institution.
   3. The registrar must verify that the above conditions have been met prior to participation of the student.

6. A student who has been dismissed/expelled or suspended (or its equivalent) for any reason, including athletic department policy, from any institution of higher learning must establish residency of two semesters, two trimesters, or three quarter terms of attendance at a four-year institution or until the institutional dismissal or suspension period at the sanctioning institution has been terminated, whichever is shorter, before intercollegiate participation at an NAIA institution shall be permitted.

   NOTE: This provision applies to all student-athletes beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, regardless of when the suspension and/or residency occurred.

   EXCEPTION 1: If the suspension (or its equivalent) occurred at a two-year institution within the student's first two semesters, three trimesters, or three quarter terms of attendance, the required residency (if necessary) may take place at any two-year or four-year institution.

   EXCEPTION 2: A student who has been dismissed/ expelled or suspended (or its equivalent) for failure to meet institutional academic requirements, but still meeting NAIA eligibility requirements at the time of dismissal/suspension, shall not be subject to this restriction provided the student has not participated in intercollegiate athletics at any collegiate institution for one full calendar year after suspension from the original institution.

V SECTION E TERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

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

   EXCEPTION 1: A female student will be granted a two semester or three quarter one-time extension due to pregnancy. The request for the extension period of time will be processed as an exceptional ruling to a standard rule.

EXCEPTION 2: A student may be granted up to a two semester or three quarter one-time extension to the ten semester rule due to a debilitating illness (e.g. cancer, chemical dependency) and treatment, or a sufficiently intrusive psychological or mental illness. Appropriate medical documentation that establishes the student's inability to compete is required and must be provided by an individual who is qualified and licensed to diagnose and treat the particular illness (e.g., doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathic medicine, psychologist, psychiatrist, clinical counselor, etc.). The request for the extended period of time will be processed as an exceptional ruling to a standard rule.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Counting Terms of Attendance (Semesters/Quarters/Trimesters)
Approved Ruling: All terms (not hours) are converted to the type of term used by the institution currently being attended. The terms are converted as follows:

1 semester = 1 1/2 quarters = 1 1/5 trimesters
1 quarter = 2/3 semester
1 trimester = 5/6 semester

NOTE: This conversion refers only to terms of attendance. Credit hours earned at an institution are not converted but rather applied at face value.

Fractions of Terms
Approved Ruling: A student may play out a term if they have two-thirds of a term left. However, if a student has less than one-half a term remaining at the beginning of a term, their eligibility terminated.

2. A student who loses eligibility at the end of a term because of graduation becomes ineligible at the end of the week (11:59 p.m., Saturday) in which the term ends.

   EXCEPTION: Students who graduate at the close of the fall/winter term and who have qualified for NAIA national competition for the immediately following spring/summer through the conference event held in the fall/winter shall not be required to have been in attendance the immediately preceding term prior to postseason competition to be eligible. The student is subject, however, to any contrary ruling which may be made by the local institution or conference.

3. A student who loses eligibility at the end of a term other than because of graduation or completion of 10 semesters/15 quarter terms of attendance becomes ineligible no later than midnight of the 30st calendar day following the close of the term. If an institution checks eligibility prior to the 30-day deadline (Article V, Section J, Item 2) and determines that a student has become ineligible, the student becomes ineligible immediately.

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

5. Any student for whom any of the following conditions apply shall have no eligibility remaining in that sport within the NAIA:

   a) Completed eligibility;
   b) Been permanently banned in a given sport(s) at any four-year institution, either NAIA-affiliated or other; or
   c) Been permanently banned in a given sport(s) by any athletic association (two-year or four-year).

   A student for whom any of these conditions apply cannot regain eligibility in that sport at an NAIA institution.

EXCEPTION: For eligibility purposes the NAIA does not recognize the NCAA "five-year rule" or age-limitation regulations.

V SECTION F TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS: GENERAL

1. A student previously identified with an institution of higher learning (two- or four-year), who then transfers to a member college or university must complete the Official NAIA Transfer Player Eligibility Statement, and the institution must submit this statement to the eligibility chair prior to the student participating.

2. A student becomes identified with an institution upon representing an institution in an intercollegiate contest or enrolling in 12 or more institutional credit hours as reported by the institution's registrar on an official transcript based on the institution's official census date (summer session not included). Anyone transferring after identification becomes a transfer student.

3. If a student identified with an institution officially withdraws from that institution within 21 calendar days following the start of term and returns and becomes identified with the same institution (without becoming identified at another institution), the student shall not be charged with a term of attendance for the term in which the student withdrew.

4. If a student becomes identified at an institution and officially totally withdraws from that institution within 21 calendar days and subsequently becomes identified at an NAIA institution after remaining out of school for at least two full consecutive semesters, two full consecutive trimesters or three full consecutive quarters following the term of withdrawal, the term shall not be counted in application of the Nine-Hour Rule or 24/36-Hour Rule. The term shall be charged as a term of attendance with respect to the 10 semester, 12 trimester or 15 quarter limit. However, the transfer rule shall apply and the term shall be counted in application of the Nine-Hour Rule or the 24/36-Hour Rule if the athlete participated during the 21 days.

5. If a student identified with an institution officially withdraws from that institution then transfers and becomes identified with another institution, the student shall be charged with a term of attendance (and zero hours credit) if they meet the definition of identification as determined by the official transcript after the institution's official census date.

6. A transfer student who was suspended or was declared otherwise ineligible due to misconduct while representing an institution in competition, in accordance with Article VI, Section B, Item 7, must serve the period of suspension at the institution to which the student transfers before intercollegiate participation shall be permitted.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Suspension within Previous Athletic Department
Case: A student was admitted in good standing and has enrolled at our institution. The student was placed on suspension by the previous institution's athletic department. Does the previous suspension for violating athletic department policies affect eligibility at our institution?

Approved Ruling: Yes. The student must establish two full semesters (or the equivalent) at your institution or until the institutional suspension period at the suspending institution has been terminated, whichever is shorter. This residency of two semesters is still required if the student was allowed to attend the previous institution after the athletic department policy suspension. However, violation of team/coach's rules is not considered the same as violating institutional athletic department policies.

7. Attendance during a summer session or in a non-term (enrolled in fewer than 12 credit hours) does not count toward satisfying the 16-week residence requirement.

8. A student transferring to an institution using the trimester system may meet the residency requirements by enrolling in any regular trimester and establishing 16 calendar weeks (112 calendar days) of residence.

9. A student charged with a season of competition in one sport by different institutions in the same academic year shall be charged with two seasons of competition. A student could amass two seasons of competition within one academic year.

   EXCEPTION: A student competing at a junior college who meets the requirements for graduation from that junior college and transfers to a member institution during the same sport season and is otherwise eligible to compete at the member institution in the same sport shall be charged with only one season of competition.

V SECTION G TRANSFER: PREVIOUS IDENTIFICATION AT A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION

1. A student who has participated in an intercollegiate contest at the immediately previous four-year institution and then transfers to an NAIA member institution shall be required to be in residence for a period of 16 calendar weeks before being eligible for the sport(s) previously participated in at the four-year institution.

   Approved Rulings for Transfer Residency

   A student shall have the 16 calendar weeks residency requirement waived for participation in that same sport provided the student has a cumulative minimum overall GPA of 2.000 (on a 4.000 scale) from all previously attended institutions of higher learning and receives a written release from the athletics director, assistant or associate athletics director, or compliance officer at the immediately previous four-year institution.

   EXCEPTION 1: If a student's NAIA school requests a written release from the student's previous four-year institution and the previous institution does not respond to the request within 30 days, the written release will be deemed automatically approved, provided the NAIA institution can produce the prescribed written documentation showing a transfer release was requested. To satisfy this requirement, the NAIA institution's request must be made via email and directed to the previous four-year institution's athletics director, associate athletics director and/or compliance officer, including as many of these individuals as possible.

   EXCEPTION 2: A student who has completed all academic requirements for graduation and who has transferred to an NAIA institution and enrolled in a graduate program, professional school or fifth-year, post baccalaureate degree teacher education program will not be subject to the residency requirement. A graduate transfer student can compete immediately at the new institution, and there is not a release or minimum GPA required, pursuant to any applicable conference rules.

   A student who has not participated in an intercollegiate contest at the immediately previous four-year institution is not subject to the residency period in that sport.

   The term "16 weeks" refers to 16 consecutive calendar weeks (112 calendar days), including vacations and inter-terms (except summer terms). The 16 weeks does not refer to school weeks.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
16-Week Residency Period – Practice
Case: Can a student-athlete, who must fulfill the 16-week residency period, practice with the team during the 16-week residency period?

Approved Ruling: As long as the student is enrolled at the institution during the residency period, the student can practice with the team.

2. This period shall be counted from the opening date of classes as stated in the official college catalog or from the date on which the student enrolls, whichever is later. No part of the 16 weeks shall fall between the end of the term immediately preceding the regular summer term and/or summer vacations and the beginning of the fall term.
3. The residency requirement shall be satisfied at the beginning of the day following the end of the 16 calendar weeks (at the beginning of the 113th calendar day) from the first day of class. Should the 16-week period be satisfied after the institution's regular season has been completed, the student has established eligibility for the following season in that sport but is not eligible for postseason athletic competition in that sport which is held during an extended period of the term just completed.

V SECTION H TRANSFER: PREVIOUS IDENTIFICATION AT A JUNIOR COLLEGE

A student whose immediately previous identification and participation was with a two-year institution and who transfers to an NAIA member institution shall not be required to meet the 16-week residency requirement. The student shall fulfill all academic requirements of the NAIA and is entitled to only four seasons of competition in a given sport at the intercollegiate level.

V SECTION I MILITARY SERVICE ELIGIBILITY EXCEPTION

1. A student whose college attendance has been interrupted or delayed by one year or more of continuous active military duty in the armed forces of any nation shall be eligible for athletic participation immediately upon enrolling in a minimum of 12 institutional credit hours and becoming identified.

   The student may retain eligibility in the succeeding term by:

   a. Having earned a minimum of 24/36 institutional credit hours the two immediately previous terms of attendance; or
   b. Satisfying the requirements for a second-term student by having completed nine institutional credit hours the immediately previous term of attendance.

2. The duration of the application of the Military Service Eligibility Exception shall be limited to the first two full semesters or three quarters following release from active duty. Thereafter, the student is not entitled to any provisions of the Military Service Eligibility Exception rule, and all regulations shall apply.

3. Military Service Seasons of Competition Exception
   An individual serving full-time in the armed forces of any nation shall not be charged with a season of competition for competing in outside competition while representing the military (base team or intra-military) during the period of full-time service.

V SECTION J SUBMISSION OF NAIA OFFICIAL ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATES

1. It shall be the responsibility of the faculty athletics representative of each member institution to check the eligibility of each student prior to allowing the student to represent the institution in

any manner (i.e. scrimmages, intercollegiate contests) against competitors not directly identified with the institution in any sport recognized by the NAIA.

An NAIA Official Eligibility certificate signed by the registrar, athletics director, coach and faculty athletics representative of the institution is to be submitted to the appropriate eligibility chair prior to participation. Reports become delinquent on the date following the first contest.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
30 Day Extension of Eligibility
Approved Ruling: After the end of a term, an institution has 30 calendar days or until the first contest after the end of the term (whichever is later) to re-check the eligibility of all students who were certified as eligible for the term just ending. This applies only to students being re-certified between the terms during the academic year. Students establishing eligibility for the second term must be certified prior to participation.

During this 30-day period, all students who were eligible during the term just ending may continue to represent their institution in intercollegiate athletics. Should a student continue to represent an institution after this 30-day period and not be re-certified, it shall be considered a violation of Article V, Section J, Item 1. Further, students declared ineligible by the institution or conference shall lose eligibility immediately upon such declaration.

NOTE: The Certificate of Clearance is required for completion of eligibility certification, but it is not required to be submitted to the eligibility chair. The faculty athletics representative must retain a signed copy of the Certificate of Clearance, and produce the certification upon request.

2. Institutions which sponsor sports that carry over from one term to another (basketball, swimming and diving, wrestling, etc.) must certify that students participating in these sports are eligible for all terms in which the competition takes place.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Submitting Eligibility Certificates
Approved Ruling: The NAIA Official Eligibility Certificate, the Certificate of Clearance, and if applicable, the Transfer Player Eligibility Statement, and Competitive Experience Outside Intercollegiate Athletics Form must be sent to the eligibility chair before competition is allowed. Students competing prior to submitting the proper forms are participating ineligibly. Penalties for delinquent filing can be severe.

Certification of Student-Athletes
Approved Ruling: Eligibility certification is required for all students before representing their institution in any manner (scrimmage, exhibition, freshmen, junior varsity or varsity) against competitors not directly identified with the institution in any sport recognized by the NAIA. The institution must submit eligibility certification to the eligibility chair prior to participation.

V SECTION K PROCESSING OF ELIGIBILITY CASES

1. Eligibility cases are defined as cases where an actual or possible violation of an NAIA rule or regulation has taken place.
2. Should the eligibility chair after reviewing all information determine that a violation has not occurred, the case will be closed at that time.
3. Eligibility cases which are initiated by an institution must be submitted by the faculty athletics representative and the athletics director at that institution to the eligibility chair.

When apparent violations come to the attention of the eligibility chair, the eligibility chair shall notify in writing the faculty athletics representative, the athletics director and the chief executive officer of the institution before processing the case.

4. The eligibility chair shall inform the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) commissioner (when appropriate) and the national eligibility staff liaison of each new eligibility case being investigated upon receipt of the case.
5. Upon receipt of an actual or apparent violation, the eligibility chair shall obtain the following information and send it to the eligibility committee members, the national eligibility staff liaison, and the chief executive officer of the institution being investigated:
    a. All pertinent data on the case (e.g. type of violation, date, place, etc.);
    b. An up to date transcript of the student(s) involved;
    c. A written statement signed by the institution's athletics director and faculty athletics representative concerning the case and corrective steps to be taken by the institution; and
    d. Statement from the student(s) involved, if possible.
6. A recommendation from the eligibility committee as to the disposition of the case shall be submitted by the eligibility chair on behalf of the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) to the chief executive officer of the institution being investigated and the national eligibility staff liaison for dispersal to the National Eligibility Committee.
7. The chief executive officer, after reviewing the case and the eligibility committee recommendation or conference action, may within seven days of receipt send a response to the national eligibility staff liaison which will be included in the material sent to the NAIA National Eligibility Committee.
8. In eligibility cases involving the participation of an ineligible student, Article VI, Section B, Item 2 in the NAIA Bylaws is to be applied by the institution.
9. Institutions are encouraged to contact their eligibility chair for clarification of an existing regulation. The eligibility chair may give interpretations of existing regulations but may not give a ruling on a specific individual.

    When the eligibility chair deems it desirable, the request may be forwarded to the National Office for clarification by the NAIA National Eligibility Committee.
10. The conference/CAC commissioner shall inform in writing the institution's athletics director and chief executive officer when an institution receives a warning, reprimand or suspension related to misconduct in competition.
11. Conferences may not make final determinations relative to cases where a violation has occurred. All eligibility cases must be processed through the NAIA National Eligibility Committee or the NAIA National Conduct and Ethics Committee for appropriate action.
12. Conference action taken by an affiliated conference whose requirements are more stringent than those of the NAIA will be supported by the NAIA. Should a conference member be found to be in violation of an Association rule, the case will be processed to include a recommendation from the conference.

    In cases where NAIA members belong to a non-affiliated conference, the NAIA National Eligibility Committee shall rule whether such conference action against a member institution shall be respected and supported.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Request for an Eligibility Ruling
Case: A student wants to participate this weekend, but the faculty athletics representative has concerns about the student's eligibility status. Due to the lack of time, can the eligibility chair, a member of the National Eligibility Committee, or the National Office be called for a telephone ruling?

Approved Ruling: No. Neither the eligibility chair nor the National Office can rule on an eligibility case. The National Eligibility Committee is the only body designated within the Association that may rule on eligibility cases. Such rulings will be made only after receipt and review of all information pertaining to the case.

The faculty athletics representative of each member institution is charged with certifying that a student has complied with all regulations. The faculty athletics representative relies heavily upon the information from the registrar and, to some extent, the athletics director and coach, but the final decision rests with the faculty athletics representative.

The request for clarification of a specific rule may be requested by phone from the eligibility chair, but the clarification shall apply only to the specific rule. The final determination with regard to
eligibility status of an individual again rests with the institutional faculty athletics representative.

V SECTION L PROCESSING REQUESTS FOR AN EXCEPTIONAL RULING TO A STANDARD RULE

In exceptional cases, where extenuating circumstances exist, an institution may request an exceptional ruling to a standard rule. Such a request may be made before or after participation of the student(s) involved. If applicable, such student(s) shall be withheld from further competition until the case is closed.

Exceptional cases are to be processed as follows:

1. The request for an exceptional ruling must be submitted to the eligibility chair by the faculty athletics representative and the athletics director of the institution requesting the ruling. The request must include all pertinent information concerning the request. Transcripts, the standard rule in question, and the reasons why an exceptional ruling should be granted must be included.
2. The eligibility chair shall see that the request for an exceptional ruling is forwarded to the National Office along with the eligibility committee's recommendation. The conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) commissioner shall also receive a copy of the request and the eligibility committee's recommendation.
3. The institution requesting the exceptional ruling shall secure a recommendation from the conference/CAC (when applicable). The conference/CAC recommendation shall be sent to the National Office.
4. The institutional request and all documentation shall be sent to the National Eligibility Committee, through the national eligibility staff liaison, for a ruling. The ruling shall apply only to the specific case and will not establish a precedent.

ARTICLE VI INFRACTIONS AND PENALTIES

VI SECTION A ENFORCEMENT

The Council of Presidents has the power to enforce provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws and all other policies.

The Council of Presidents has authorized the National Eligibility Committee to act on behalf of the Association in processing all eligibility cases and, when appropriate, to apply appropriate penalties of Article VI, Section C of the NAIA Bylaws which are not reserved exclusively to the Council of Presidents. The National Conduct and Ethics Committee shall also be empowered to process all conduct and/or ethics cases and apply appropriate penalties of Article VI, Section C of the NAIA Bylaws which are not reserved exclusively to the Council of Presidents.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Withholding an Athlete from Participation
Approved Ruling: If there is reasonable doubt as to a student's eligibility, the National Eligibility Committee may direct an institution to withhold a student from competition pending a final ruling.

The Council of Presidents is empowered by the membership as the only body which may expel member institutions or deny specific sports sponsorship for member institutions. Such action shall not be taken lightly and will be considered only after a full review by an appropriate committee has been conducted and a recommendation for such action has been submitted to the Council for action.

VI SECTION B INFRACTIONS

1. Institutional Violation(s): An Administrative Error Not Requiring Forfeits

   An administrative error is defined as an eligibility case where one or more students who were otherwise academically eligible were left off the official eligibility certificate, or where the filing of the official eligibility certificate was completed correctly but was filed after the date of first competition and within five days of the first contest. In such cases the following shall apply:

   a. Forfeitures shall not be required for contests in which improperly certified students who were otherwise eligible competed;

   b. Such institutions also shall receive an official warning for the first offense; and

   c. Repeated violations of certification procedures shall lead to an official reprimand and/or probation and/or suspension of the sport or of all sports sponsored in the affected program (men's and/or women's).

2. Institutional Violation(s): Use of Ineligible Athletes or Other Violations of NAIA Bylaws Regulations Which Require Institutional Forfeits

   Forfeits are required in cases where the National Eligibility Committee or the affected institution has determined that a competing student was academically ineligible, an eligibility certificate was submitted over 5 days late, or other NAIA Bylaws regulations have been violated, other than administrative error(s) defined above.

3. Reporting Violations: An Institutional Responsibility

   Should any chief executive officer, faculty athletics representative, athletics director and/or coach become aware of an apparent institutional violation involving an athlete or institutional representative of any member institution, it shall be the responsibility of the individual to notify their athletics director and faculty athletics representative of that violation immediately. The

athletics director or faculty athletics representative, upon being notified, shall contact in writing the athletics director and faculty athletics representative at the institution in question and send copies of the notification to the National Office and the eligibility chair. This notification shall take place within five days of receiving the information. Failure to abide by any part of this regulation shall be viewed as unethical conduct and shall cause an investigation by the National Conduct and Ethics Committee for appropriate action against the institution for withholding information.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Protest Stipulation
Approved Ruling: An NAIA institution may lodge a protest questioning the eligibility of a specific student. Such protest must be documented and must be submitted in accordance with the NAIA Bylaws.

However, if the protest is submitted fewer than 15 days prior to the beginning date of an NAIA event or championship, and if the student in question has been duly certified by the institution as eligible for competition in that event or championships, it shall not receive consideration until after the NAIA national event is completed. Should the protest be upheld, penalties shall include forfeiture of any individual or team honors won. Institutions considering the filing of such a protest are cautioned to ensure that a basis for protest does, indeed, exist and can be documented.

4. Declaration of Intent to Participate in NAIA Postseason Competition

   Should an institution declare its intent to participate in baseball, basketball, competitive cheer, competitive dance, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, volleyball and/or wrestling then decline an invitation to participate or change its declaration after the filing deadline, it shall be suspended in the affected sport for the next academic year in which the institution sponsors the sport on an intercollegiate level in the NAIA. Institutions suspended due to a failure to meet Declaration of Intent to Participate requirements shall not be permitted to participate in NAIA national championship competition. The suspended institution may, at the conference's discretion, be permitted to participate in conference postseason competition and/or receive conference awards. Upon written request by the affected institution within 30 days of notification of suspension, the National Administrative Council may revoke the suspension and apply alternative penalties as deemed appropriate.

   For more information on the declaration of intent as it pertains to invitational sports, see the National Administrative Council policy article XXVII, section B, item 2c.

5. Delinquent Filing of the Declaration of Intent to Participate Certificate

   Institutions which fail to file the official Declaration of Intent to Participate certificate in baseball, basketball, competitive cheer and dance, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, volleyball and wrestling with the National Office by June 1 shall:

   a. Be declared ineligible to participate in NAIA postseason competition in those sports in which they are delinquent;

   b. Cause statistical service of NAIA to be denied in the sport(s) found delinquent; and

   c. Cause their students and coaches within the delinquent sport(s) to be ineligible for NAIA awards in the delinquent sport(s) for that season.

6. Violations of Requirements for Affiliated Conferences

   Should an affiliated conference fail to meet established requirements, the Council of Presidents may apply sanctions including, but not limited to, the following:

   a. Place the conference on official warning for a specified time. A warning is notification that a violation has occurred and notification that future violations will lead to stronger penalties.

   b. Place the conference on official reprimand for a specified time. A reprimand is notification that a violation has occurred, which requires a written response of corrective measures to be taken by the institution.

   c. Place the conference on probation for a specified time. Probation is notification that a serious violation has occurred, which requires a written response of corrective measures to be taken by the conference. Any future violation while on probation may lead to suspension of the conference. Probation shall be listed on the NAIA website.

   d. Place the conference on suspension for a specified time. Suspension of a conference shall cause the institutions which are members of the conference to forfeit all automatic bids (either conference bids or unaffiliated groupings) to NAIA national championships competition. Teams from suspended conferences may be selected for NAIA national championship events through the at-large process.

7. Conduct in Competition

   It is the responsibility of the offending institution to provide written notification to its commissioner of any incidents of misconduct during a contest, including ejections from a contest, within five days of the incident.

   Any coach or student-athlete ejected on one or more occasions while representing an NAIA member institution in competition shall be subject automatically to the following penalties:

   a. Suspension for the next contest after the coach or student-athlete is ejected for the first time (in one sport) in a single season. A coach or student-athlete ejected for fighting, as reported by the game official, shall be automatically suspended for one additional contest.

   b. Suspension for the next two contests if a coach or student-athlete accumulates two ejections (in one sport) in a single season. This includes postseason play and may carry over to the following year depending on when the ejection occurs. A coach or student-athlete ejected for fighting, as reported by the game official, shall be automatically suspended for one additional contest.

   c. Ineligibility for the remainder of all regular season and postseason participation if a coach or student-athlete accumulates three ejections (in one sport) in a single season. Should the third ejection occur in either of the last two contests of the year, the coach or returning student-athlete will be suspended for the first two contests of the following year.

   NOTE 1: Any coach or student-athlete ejected from a junior varsity or varsity contest shall be suspended for the next contest at the same level or higher as the contest from which the student or coach was ejected. Contests that are defined as scrimmages and exhibitions shall not satisfy the suspension penalty.

   Any coach who changes employment from one NAIA institution to another NAIA institution while subject to a pending suspension due to misconduct during a contest must serve the term of the suspension at the new institution.

   A transfer student who was suspended or declared otherwise ineligible due to misconduct while representing an institution in competition must serve the period of suspension at the institution to which the student transfers before intercollegiate participation shall be permitted.

Ejections are not subject to appeal. Suspensions resulting from this bylaw caused by an ejection which are greater than the sport-specific rule may be appealed to the National Conduct and Ethics Committee with initial notification to, and recommendation from the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions). The National Conduct and Ethics Committee may uphold, reduce or remove the suspension based on review of game video or other available information. Suspensions resulting from the bylaw equal to or less than the sport-specific rule may not be appealed.

NOTE 2: An institution or affiliated conference shall retain the right to apply more stringent penalties than the NAIA rules and standards. If sport specific rules are more stringent than NAIA rules, the institution must also conform to the sport specific rules.

8. Character-Driven Coaching Online Training

It is the responsibility of each institution to ensure every coach completes the Character-Driven Coaching online training within the first 60 days from the effective date of employment, in accordance with Bylaws Article I, Section E. An institution has an obligation to self-report the failure of any coach who does not complete the training accordingly. The National Conduct and Ethics Committee shall review any such report, and the institution and coach shall be subject automatically to the following penalties:

a. The coach is prohibited from participating in any scrimmage, exhibition, or contest until the course has been successfully completed and verification is provided to the National Office.
b. Following successful completion of the course and verification provided to the National Office, the institution must withhold the coach from the next regularly scheduled contest.
c. The institution must conduct a review of its internal processes for ensuring timely completion of the training for all coaches, and report its findings to the National Office.
d. The coach must successfully complete the course within 30 days of the official closing letter from the National Conduct and Ethics Committee.

Failure to comply with these requirements or repeated violations shall lead to further sanctions, which may include but are not limited to an official reprimand, probation and/or suspension of individual coaches and/or the institution's athletics department.

9. Use of an Ineligible Student in Intercollegiate Competition

Any member institution which permits the use of a student who is ineligible according to NAIA rules and standards in either program in which it holds membership shall thereby automatically:

a. Forfeit all contests in which the ineligible student participated or the institutional violation occurred. Letters of notification and forfeiture of contests won shall be sent to the athletics director of the offended institution with copies of the letter to the appropriate eligibility chair and the National Office;

b. Charge the ineligible student with a season of competition for participating pursuant to Article V, Section B, Item 19;

c. Cause a review of the case by the appropriate committees of this Association. The ineligible student may be assessed additional penalties up to being declared ineligible for further intercollegiate competition for withholding information or supplying false or incomplete information;

d. Supply to the eligibility chair and, if applicable, the conference/CAC commissioner a complete statement concerning the ineligible participation, including a listing of the ineligible student's college work (transcript preferred), a statement of institutional action to

correct the situation which led to the violation, and a statement from the student(s) if possible;

e. Be suspended from participation in all postseason events sponsored by the NAIA only in the sport in which the ineligible student participated, until all required information is submitted; and

NOTE: The sport in which the violation occurred shall remain suspended from participating in NAIA events until the case is finalized by the appropriate committee of the Association, which will notify the institution involved.

f. Have the case reviewed by the appropriate committees of this Association. The institution may be subject to additional penalties.

NOTE: Forfeits shall not be required nor will an institution be subject to any penalties if a student who has been properly certified as eligible represents an institution in competition but is subsequently determined to have been ineligible due to any of the following:

a. A mistake by the NAIA Eligibility Center;
b. False information was supplied by the student; or
c. False information was supplied on the student's behalf.

Forfeits shall be required and the institution may be subject to additional penalties if the institution knew of the eligibility center's mistake or the dissemination of false information, or if the institution failed to perform due diligence on the student's eligibility certification.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Ineligible Participation – Institution
Approved Ruling: The institution shall automatically be suspended from competing in all NAIA postseason competition in the program affected until clearance is given by the National Eligibility Committee and shall forfeit all contests in which the ineligible student was used.

Ineligible Participation – Student
Approved Ruling: The ineligible student shall be charged with a term of attendance and a season of competition in that sport by the institution as standard procedure. In addition, the National Eligibility Committee may require the institution to charge the student with additional seasons of participation as a penalty.

Ineligible Participation – Student Reestablishes Eligibility
Approved Ruling: If a student participates, is subsequently ruled ineligible in a given sport, and then reestablishes eligibility during the same season, the student may be charged with a second season of competition in that sport if the student again competes during the same season in which the student initially was ruled ineligible.

10. Violations Reviewed by the National Conduct and Ethics Committee

The chief executive officer of an institution reported to be in violation shall be notified of the allegation prior to a formal investigation. The National Conduct and Ethics Committee shall collect and consider all information regarding the issue, and, in cases where violations are found to have occurred, take action as authorized in Article VI, Section C of the NAIA Bylaws.

The Council of Presidents is empowered by the membership to suspend or expel member institutions whose athletics conduct or behavior has clearly violated the Code of Ethics or recruitment policy.

Should a possible violation of the NAIA Coaches Code and/or Code of Ethics occur involving one or more institutions participating in a national championship during the course of competition at the site of the national championship, the national championship Tournament Committee shall be authorized to review the case and, if a violation is found to have occurred, may place an institutional team, participant(s), and/or staff members on suspension for one or more contests. Such sanctions shall be limited to the duration of the applicable national championship. All pertinent information and decisions by the tournament committee shall be forwarded to the Conduct and Ethics Committee for further review.

11. Student-Athlete's Failure to Report Name, Image, Likeness Compensation

    A student-athlete receiving compensation for the use of his or her name, image or likeness to promote a commercial product or enterprise, or public or media appearance must report it in writing to his or her athletics director when such promotion incudes reference to his or her status as a student-athlete or institution. Failure to do so shall result in an institutional self-report, to be reviewed by the National Coordinating Committee. The committee is empowered to review such violations and apply penalties as necessary, including but not limited to a warning or reprimand to the student-athlete, withholding the student from future competitions, and/or determining the student has lost his or her amateur status.

VI SECTION C PENALTIES

The NAIA National Eligibility Committee, and/or National Conduct and Ethics Committee, and/or National Drug Testing and Education Committee, after reviewing the violation(s), shall apply one or more of the following courses of action.

1. Place any or all of the institution's athletics program on official warning for a specified time. A warning is an institutional notification that a violation has occurred and notification that future violations will lead to stronger penalties.
2. Place any or all of the institution's athletics program on official reprimand for a specified time. A reprimand is an institutional notification that a violation has occurred which requires a written response of corrective measures to be taken by the institution.

   After ten days has expired without a proper written response, a reminder shall be sent from the national office. This reminder shall constitute notice to the institution that if a second 10-day period expires without a response, the school shall be suspended from postseason until it is filed. Continued failure to file or repeated failure to respond on time may result in additional penalties.
3. Place any or all of the institution's athletics program or staff on probation for a specified time. Probation is an institutional notification that a violation has occurred which requires a written response of corrective measures to be taken by the institution. Any future violation while on probation is likely to lead to suspension of any or all athletics programs. Probation shall be listed on the NAIA website.

   After ten days has expired without a proper written response, a reminder shall be sent from the national office. This reminder shall constitute notice to the institution that if a second 10-day period expires without a response, the school shall be suspended from postseason until it is filed. Continued failure to file or repeated failure to respond on time may result in additional penalties.

4. Require the institution to withhold the student in question from competing in one or more contests during the current or next sport season and/or charge the student with one or more additional seasons of competition and/or ban the student from further intercollegiate competition. Banning of a student may result from improper conduct, withholding information or supplying false information about previous seasons of competition or attendance at institutions of higher learning.
5. Require the institution to relieve athletic staff of NAIA-designated responsibilities for a set period of time and/or ban the staff member(s) from further involvement in the institution's NAIA-sponsored athletic programs. During this time the staff member(s) is prohibited from engaging in all NAIA-sponsored activities involved with any NAIA member's athletics program. Banning of athletic staff may result from improper conduct, violating the NAIA Coaches Code or supplying false information regarding eligibility or financial aid. All decisions in which an NAIA member institution's athletic staff representative is banned will be reviewed by the NAIA Council of Presidents prior to notification of the staff member and the NAIA member institution and is subject to review and modification at the discretion of the Council of Presidents at any time.
6. Place any or all of the institution's athletics program or staff on suspension for a specified time. Suspension shall deny the institution's participants and/or staff member(s) in the affected sport(s) the opportunity to participate in any postseason competition. The specific sport(s) and their participants shall also be excluded from the national awards program, and all statistical services during the period of suspension. Institutional suspensions shall be listed on the NAIA website during the suspension period.

   An institution that properly declares its intent to participate in postseason play, and is later suspended under the provisions of this regulation, shall count toward an approved qualifying group's membership total for determining whether the qualifying group earns a single automatic qualification to the NAIA national competition. The institution shall also count toward any sport-specific minimum participant requirements for the applicable NAIA qualifying tournament. The suspended institution shall not count toward the approved qualifying group's membership total that enables the qualifying group to earn multiple automatic qualifications to NAIA national competition.
7. Deny voting privileges during the suspension to institutions which have their total athletics program on suspension. Such institutions are no longer considered to be in good standing within the Association.
8. Recommend to the NAIA Council of Presidents the denial of specific sports sponsorship for a member institution for a specified time.
9. Recommend to the NAIA Council of Presidents the withdrawal of institutional membership.

VI SECTION D NOTIFICATION OF PENALTIES

The chief executive officer of the institution involved shall be notified of action taken by the appropriate council or its duly appointed committee. The National Office shall also inform the eligibility chair and the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) (when applicable) of the action taken.

VI SECTION E APPEALS

An institution (chief executive officer, athletics director or faculty athletics representative) shall have the right to request an appeal of a ruling by the National Eligibility Committee, the National Conduct and Ethics Committee, the National Administrative Council, the Competitive Experience Committee, the Home School Committee, the NAIA Membership Committee, the National Drug Testing and Education Committee and/or the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives on behalf of the

institution and/or student to the National Coordinating Committee, within 30 days of notification, provided:

1. There is new or additional evidence pertinent to the case that was not considered in reaching the initial decision;
2. The decision reached was demonstrably capricious or arbitrary; and/or
3. There was demonstrable bias or discrimination which influenced the decision.

The chief executive officer, the faculty athletics representative or the director of athletics may request an appeal of the findings to the National Coordinating Committee on one or more of the listed grounds. An individual may appeal on his or her own behalf a ruling that includes the penalties listed in Article VI, Section C, Item 5. Requests for an appeal must be made in writing to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer within 30 days of the notification to the school and/or individual of the original decision. The letter should clearly state the reasons for the requested appeal and include documentation and information to support that request.
An affiliated conference commissioner may, on behalf of an institution, appeal a decision regarding championship alignment. The process for requesting such an appeal shall be followed as outlined above.

The National Coordinating Committee will review the written request for appeal and reach one of the following decisions:

1. No sufficient grounds exist for allowing the appeal;
2. The appeal is justified and the case is returned to the appropriate national committee for reconsideration; or
3. The appeal is justified and the case will be decided by the National Coordinating Committee.

All current rights to provide testimony/evidence remain for the appealing institution or individual under investigation in both the original and appeal process.

The National Coordinating Committee shall be informed of all committee findings as part of its responsibility for reviewing appeals of the National Eligibility Committee and the National Conduct and Ethics Committee.

ARTICLE VII AMATEUR RULES AND REINSTATEMENT PROCEDURES

VII SECTION A DEFINITION OF AN AMATEUR

1. To properly control competition in the NAIA program, only amateur students shall be eligible to participate in a given sport. An amateur is a student who engages in athletics contests for educational values, personal pleasure, satisfaction, and for the love of the sport, not for monetary or material gain.
2. A student who becomes a professional in a particular sport recognized by the NAIA is considered a professional in that sport only (except for the sport-specific exception listed below) and therefore is ineligible for intercollegiate competition in that sport, except as permitted by the governing legislation of the NAIA.

   EXCEPTION 1: A student who becomes a professional in cross country, indoor track and field or outdoor track and field is considered a professional in all three sports.

   EXCEPTION 2: A student who becomes a professional in indoor or arena football is considered a professional in the sport of football.

EXCEPTION 3: A student who becomes a professional in indoor soccer is considered a professional in the sport of soccer.

EXCEPTION 4: A student who becomes a professional in beach volleyball is considered a professional in the sport of volleyball.

VII SECTION B ACTS PERMITTED BY NAIA AMATEUR CODE

The following acts will NOT cause an athlete to lose amateur standing.

1. Playing with an amateur team against a professional team or player if competing under the sponsorship or approval of NAIA or the governing body of the sport concerned.
2. Participating as a member of a team while not receiving remuneration (expense reimbursement) beyond actual expenses of travel, meals and lodging only from the immediately previous city to the event, even though other members of the team may receive remuneration in excess of NAIA amateur limits. Expenses must be itemized and properly documented.
3. Receiving reasonable compensation for officiating or coaching in amateur, recreational or interscholastic programs. A student may solicit and be paid reasonable compensation on a lesson basis.
4. Coaching at the intercollegiate level when compensation (if any) meets the criteria set forth in Article II, Section B of the NAIA Bylaws. Such compensation shall be considered athletic aid, as defined by official NAIA policy, and shall be reported as such.
5. Competing in a non-team athletics contest, certified as amateur by that sport's national governing body, and receiving financial reimbursement (expense reimbursement) for such participation when such remuneration does not exceed the actual expenses for travel, meals and lodging only from the immediately previous city to the event. Expenses must be itemized and properly documented.
6. Participating in radio or television programs for the purpose of promoting an amateur athletic event.
7. Receiving reasonable compensation for supervision of physical education, playground or recreational activities.
8. Receiving compensation for use of name, image or likeness to promote any commercial product or enterprise, or public or media appearance. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to notify their institution's athletics director in writing of any compensation the student receives from the use of their name, image or likeness in relation to their school or status as a student-athlete.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Tryouts at Professional Camps
Approved Ruling: Attendance at a professional camp to participate in a tryout is not a violation of amateur standing in the NAIA if there is no contract (player or agent), no financial payment (though student may be housed and fed), and no participation against other teams.

Competition Against Professional Team
Case: Is it permissible within NAIA eligibility rules for a student to compete on a collegiate team against a professional team?

Approved Ruling: Yes, if the game is under the sponsorship or has written approval of the NAIA or of the sport's governing body.

Playing with Players Having Lost Amateur Standing
Case: May a student compete on a non-professional team where some players are receiving compensation in excess of travel, meals and lodging?

Approved Ruling: Yes, provided the team is not considered professional in any manner and the student in question receives no more than actual expenses for travel, meals and lodging. Such expenses must be documented and itemized.

Officiating/Coaching
Approved Ruling: A student may coach or officiate at the amateur, recreational or interscholastic level for reasonable compensation. A student may coach at the intercollegiate level as long as compensation (if any) meets the criteria set forth in Article II, Section B of the NAIA Bylaws and, as compensation is institutionally controlled, must be included in the Year-End Report as institutionally related financial aid. The student may belong to an official's association without prejudice to amateur standing.

Employment of Students
Approved Ruling: With certain restrictions, employment in areas such as summer camps, recreation programs, municipal centers or private clubs will not jeopardize an athlete's eligibility. Students may solicit and be paid a reasonable amount on a lesson basis, or wages must be paid on a fixed hourly, weekly, or monthly basis that is commensurate with the going rate for such employment. Students may give instruction when incidental to the overall job requirements.

VII SECTION C RECOGNIZED AWARDS RECEIVED BY STUDENTS

The NAIA shall recognize the following award structure for awards directly resulting from place of finish or participation in athletics as conforming to the amateur regulations of this Association.

1. Individual awards presented to a student in recognition of intercollegiate athletics participation, or other athletic participation occurring during an academic term in which the student is identified with an NAIA member institution, shall be approved by the member institution and conference, if applicable, and shall conform to the following requirements:
    a. All such awards must be of a personal nature (e.g. trophies, scholarship funds distributed in accordance with NAIA financial assistance rules, non-transferable clubhouse credits). Cash awards, cash equivalents or certificates redeemable for cash shall cause a student to lose amateur standing within the NAIA; and
    b. A student may receive more than one award while being recognized (e.g. a first-place team trophy and an outstanding-performer watch), but the value of each

individual award shall not exceed $1,000.00, nor shall the combined value of all such awards exceed $1,500.00.

2. An individual participating as a recognized amateur under the rules of a sport's national governing body shall adhere to the amateur award regulations of the national governing body of that particular sport when the individual is not institutionally identified or when such events are held during the summer in which the individual is not representing an institution.

VII SECTION D ACTS THAT RESULT IN LOSS OF AMATEUR STANDING

The following acts will cause a student to lose amateur standing for participation in intercollegiate competition recognized by the NAIA in the sport in which any or all such acts occur.

1. Receiving (directly or indirectly) expense reimbursement beyond actual expenses of travel, meals and lodging only. Expenses must be itemized and properly documented.
2. Signing a contract with any professional team.
3. Participating in any athletics contest as a professional or as a member of a team where the student in question receives remuneration exceeding the actual expenses of travel, meals and lodging only.

Amendments to this section may be authorized and implemented by the Council of Presidents, in consultation with the National Coordinating Committee, if needed on an emergency basis. Such authority should only be invoked by the Council of Presidents if external factors – such as changes in state or federal law rendering compliance with NAIA amateurism regulations impossible – create a situation where action outside the normal legislative amendment process as described in Bylaws Article I, Section Z is necessary. If such emergency action is necessary, a proposal codifying the emergency action should be brought before the NAIA membership for consideration through the standard legislative procedure at the association's next business meeting.

CASEBOOK EXAMPLE
Semi-Professional Teams
Case: A student has signed an agreement to play for a semi-professional soccer team. Although this team bills itself as "semi-professional," none of the players receive more than actual expenses of travel, meals and lodging. Has the student lost amateur standing?

Approved Ruling: Yes, because the team includes the word "professional" in its advertising. The student is considered to have signed an agreement with a professional team.

VII SECTION E REINSTATEMENT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

A student who has lost amateur status in a sport shall have amateur standing reinstated in that sport upon satisfying the following conditions:

1. Ceasing to participate in violation of NAIA amateur-standing regulations;
2. Being charged a season of competition in that sport for every competition season in which the student competed in any manner as a professional or in which the student was in violation of the NAIA amateur code;
3. Fulfilling two consecutive semesters/three consecutive quarters (or the equivalent) of attendance at the NAIA institution at which the student wishes to participate prior to being allowed to represent the institution in that sport in any manner in intercollegiate athletics; and

4. Having appropriate verification regarding satisfaction of these criteria submitted to the NAIA National Coordinating Committee for review and final dispensation.

ARTICLE VIII DRUG TESTING AND REINSTATEMENT PROCEDURES

The NAIA conducts testing for performance enhancing drugs at NAIA National Championship and NAIA Invitational competitions. The following penalties and processes shall apply for any student(s) who test positive on such a drug test.

VIII SECTION A CHALLENGE OF A POSITIVE TEST

An institution may challenge the results of a positive test. The National Drug Testing and Education Committee will consider all such challenges, and will consider any applicable medical exemptions.

VIII SECTION B PENALTIES

A student-athlete who tests positive for use of a banned substance, as defined by the NAIA banned substances list, shall be sanctioned as outlined below.

1. As a first offense, a student-athlete who tests positive for the use of any banned substance:
    a. Shall be immediately suspended from further competition in all sports;
    b. Shall be suspended in all sports for a minimum of 365 days from the date of the specimen collection that led to the positive test result;
    c. Shall be charged one additional season of competition in the applicable sport as a punitive measure (in addition to being charged a season of competition for the student's actual participation); and
    d. Shall be charged one punitive season of competition in all additional sports because of the positive test result (in addition to any seasons of competition the student may have been charged for actual participation).
2. As a second offense, a student-athlete who tests positive for the use of any banned substance:
    a. Shall immediately lose all remaining eligibility within the NAIA in all sports.

    A positive test on an exit test (see Article VIII, Section E, Item 3) taken during the reinstatement process shall constitute a second offense.

    An institution's athletics program(s) or staff member(s) may be brought before the National Conduct and Ethics Committee for additional penalties if the institutional staff member(s) provided or required the student's use of the banned substances that led to a positive test.

VIII SECTION C REPORTING OF INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION RESULTS

1. Individual placings and honors earned by a student-athlete who tests positive at the national championship will be vacated, and will remain vacant. Subsequent placings will not be reassigned.
2. In the sports of cross country, golf, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, swimming and diving, tennis, and wrestling, if a student-athlete tests positive and the individual student-athlete's score/points affects the team score/points:
    a. The individual's points will be deducted from the overall team score/points; and
    b. Team scores will be recalculated accordingly, and all team placings will be reassigned (if applicable).

VIII SECTION D REPORTING OF TEAM COMPETITION RESULTS

In the sports of baseball, basketball, competitive cheer, competitive dance, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball, if a student-athlete who competed as a member of the team at the

national championship tests positive, any determination regarding the team's placement or honors will be determined by the National Drug Testing and Education Committee.

VIII SECTION E STUDENT-ATHLETE REINSTATEMENT

A student-athlete who tests positive for the use of any banned substance as a first offense must successfully complete a reinstatement process before the student is eligible to resume competing. The student must successfully satisfy the following conditions:

1. Complete the required suspension and be charged seasons of competition as dictated in Section B, Item 1.
2. Complete an appropriate counseling or treatment program, as determined by the student-athlete's institution. The institution shall dictate the specific treatment plan, as it deems appropriate, for the specific student-athlete. The institution must provide verification that it approved the treatment plan and that the counseling or treatment program has been completed.
3. Pass an additional drug test (i.e. exit test) administered by the NAIA's third-party provider during the 11th month of the suspension.
4. Receive verification from the National Drug Testing and Education Committee that all components of reinstatement have been satisfied.

ARTICLE IX STANDING COMMITTEES

(This Article is excluded from the NAIA Bylaws Amendment Procedures as per Article I, Section Y of the NAIA Bylaws. Revisions may be made by appropriate governing councils to allow them to exercise their responsibility.)

IX SECTION A POLICIES OF SELECTION

A great deal of the planning and work on the various projects of the NAIA is accomplished by standing committees. These committees are established by the Council of Presidents at their request or the request of one of the governing councils. The Council of Presidents shall strive for equitable and/or proportionate representation, as applicable, from each program on these committees.

Each standing committee has a member from one of the councils to serve as a coordinator. A chair, vice-chair and other officers deemed necessary to administer the committee are established and are perpetuated by recommendations from the committee to the affected council.

IX SECTION B COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations from the committee shall be submitted to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer who shall direct them to the appropriate council(s) for review and action.

The NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer shall notify the committee and general membership of action taken.

IX SECTION C STANDING COMMITTEES AND DESCRIPTIONS

1. Awards/Hall of Fame Committee

   This committee annually reviews the Association's recognition and awards programs and recommends revisions, additions or deletions, where appropriate, to the National Administrative Council. The Hall of Fame Program, recognition programs, special awards, awards of merit, trophies, bowls, banners and plaques to championship teams and individuals, All America and Scholar-Athlete certificates, all-tournament team awards, and other awards authorized by the Association, are under the review and jurisdiction of this committee. This committee comprises

five members from the NAIA Athletics Directors Association (if nominated and selected by ADA membership, associate/assistant athletic directors may represent the ADA), two members from the NAIA Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, three members from the coaches associations, a member of the NAIA Sports Information Directors Association and two at-large positions will be designated for females and/or minorities. The chair is elected by this group. The National Administrative Council shall make the appointments to this committee. The term of appointment shall not exceed three years and is renewable.

2. National Conduct and Ethics Committee

   This committee shall be charged with reviewing and acting upon cases:

   a. Involving inappropriate conduct of a physical or verbal nature by players, coaches or fans;
   b. Involving violations of the NAIA Code of Ethics;
   c. Involving violations of the Institutional Financial Aid Policy (See Council of Presidents Policy);
   d. Involving violations of the campus visitation/tryout, financial assistance, recruitment, scheduling and/or frequency of play regulations;
   e. In which a student or institutional representative provides false or inaccurate information to the NAIA or to a member institution; and/or
   f. Involving violations of the Declaration of Intent to Participate in postseason-play regulations.

   The committee comprises three members from the NAIA Athletics Directors Association, two members from the NAIA Faculty Athletics Representatives Association and two at-large positions will be designated for females and/or minorities. Each association shall select its own members with the committee chaired by a member of the NAIA Athletics Directors Association. This committee shall report to the National Administrative Council. This committee is authorized to impose penalties on institutions' athletics programs, coaches and/or students as authorized in Article VI, Section C of the NAIA Bylaws.

3. Constitution and Bylaws Committee

   The functions of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee are as follows:

   a. To be responsible for an annual review of the Constitution and Bylaws;
   b. To work with amendment presenters to assure the intent of the proposal has been met and determine the effect the proposal will have on current regulations not addressed in the proposal; and
   c. To present an opinion on all NAIA Bylaws amendment proposals to the membership at the annual meeting.

   This committee shall make recommendations to the Council of Presidents regarding the Constitution and Bylaws.

   This committee shall be chaired by the chair of the National Eligibility Committee and shall include the parliamentarian for the annual business meeting, a representative from the National Administrative Council, Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives and, if desired, Council of Presidents as well as the entire National Eligibility Committee.

4. Conference Information Directors Committee

   This committee is charged with promoting and publicizing events, programs and activities within the conference. This committee reviews all phases of conference publicity and information as well as providing guidance on national policy involving statistics and other information related items. All recommendations are submitted to the National Administrative Council, which oversees

this committee. This committee includes all conference and information directors and is organized to include a chair, a vice-chair and a Secretary.

5. Competitive Experience Committee

   This committee is appointed by and reports to the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives. A member of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives shall be appointed by the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives to serve as chair. The committee shall consist of nine members (including the chair), and shall include, at a minimum, two active institutional faculty athletics representatives or conference eligibility chairs, one athletics compliance administrator, three directors of athletics currently employed at an NAIA member institution, a conference commissioner currently employed by an affiliated NAIA conference, and two at-large positions will be designated for females and/or minorities.

   The committee's duties include:

   a. Oversight of operations of the NAIA National Eligibility Center. The committee shall prepare reports related to the operation of the Eligibility Center for review periodically by the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives and Council of Presidents;
   b. Development of policies (for review by the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives) related to administration of the NAIA National Eligibility Center, including definitions and determination of elite-level competition; and
   c. Review of appeals submitted by member institutions related to eligibility determinations for individual student-athletes rendered by the NAIA National Eligibility Center.

6. Divisions of Competition Committee

   This committee is appointed by and reports to the National Administrative Council. The committee shall consist of five to seven members which shall include a minimum of two active coaches. The committee shall deal with the implementation and administration of divisions of competition in those sports approved for divisional competition.

   The committee's duties include:

   a. Hearing appeals of divisional placement;
   b. Recommending the reassignment of teams to postseason competitive groupings when competition is not available otherwise; and
   c. Establishing working policy for the administration of divisions of competition.

7. National Eligibility Committee

   a. The National Eligibility Committee is appointed by the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives to serve as the official body to administer all eligibility matters.

      An officer of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives is named each year to serve as coordinator for this committee and to work closely with the committee in the administration of the program. The National Eligibility Committee is composed of five members: four faculty athletics representatives/ eligibility chairs and one athletics compliance administrator whose normal function in their institution or conference makes them knowledgeable and skillful in this area. Selection of the committee will take gender and minority representation into consideration to maintain a balance on the committee.

      NOTE: Additional selection criteria should be applied at the next regularly occurring election cycle.

   b. The National Eligibility Committee's duties are as follows:

1) Operates under policies developed by the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives and works with the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer in the disposition of all eligibility cases, problems or interpretations;
2) Acts as the interpreting body of the Constitution and Bylaws for the Association;
3) Is authorized to impose penalties on an institution's athletics program and/or charge an institution with the responsibility of imposing sanctions on students as authorized by Article VI, Section C of the NAIA Bylaws;
4) Initiates such changes in NAIA standards or policies as it feels are in the best interest of the organization and makes recommendations for consideration by the annual meeting body and membership; and
5) Works with the faculty athletics representatives and athletics directors of member institutions in developing a national program of rules and standards.

8. NAIA RISE Committee

This committee will consist of up to 16 members: one representative of the Council of Presidents, one representative of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, two representatives of the Association of Student-Athletes (one male and one female), four representatives of the Conference Commissioners Association, one representative from the Athletics Compliance Administrators Association, up to four at-large members to be appointed by the Council of Presidents, and three at-large positions to be designated for females and/or minorities.

Note: Additional selection criteria should be applied at the next regularly occurring election cycle.

The NAIA RISE Committee reports to the Council of Presidents. The purpose of this committee is to raise the level of commitment and awareness about issues related to leadership, diversity, and inclusion in the governance of all phases of the NAIA.

9. International Relations and Competition

This committee is responsible for surveying all areas of international athletics and to make recommendations for a practical program for the organization which will provide opportunities and challenges for individual athletes and teams, and fulfill the NAIA's responsibility as a national collegiate administrative body with membership in all national governing bodies, the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), and the United States-International University Sports Federation (US-IUSF).

This committee shall be established by and report to the Council of Presidents.

10. Home School Committee

The functions of this committee are as follows:

a. Review proposed changes to the NAIA home school waiver policies and make recommendations on such proposals to the CFAR;
b. Review and act upon home school waiver requests from schools and/or student-athletes; and
c. Review and research applicable state regulations on home school education and make recommendations to the CFAR regarding necessary policy changes.

This committee is appointed by and reports to the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives. It consists of five members, a minimum of two from the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, a minimum of one from the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, a minimum of one from the Registrars Association and one at-large member.

11. Champions of Character Advisory Committee

    The functions of this committee are as follows:

    a. Use the guiding principles of the NAIA strategic plan in concert with the developed strategies and performance objectives in order to create a course of action and integrate throughout the NAIA membership.
    b. To be responsible for an annual review of conduct in competition, Scorecard implementation, online education, convention programming, development of resources, character research, and annual award.
    c. Oversee the Campus Character Liaison responsibilities.
    d. Specific national Champions of Character awards selection. (i.e. Dr. LeRoy Walker, Coach of Character, All That's Right in Sports).
    e. Provide annual review and recommendations of rules and programming to the Council for Student-Athletes.

    The committee shall consist of 11 members: one representative from the Council of Presidents, one representative member from the from the Conference Commissioners Association (CCA), one representative member from the Athletic Directors Association (ADA) (if nominated and selected by ADA membership, associate/assistant athletic directors may represent the ADA), two Campus Character Liaisons (CCL), one men's sport head coach, one women's sport head coach, two members (one male and one female) from the Association of Student-Athletes (ASA) and two at-large positions to be designated for females and/or minorities. Each body shall select its own members, with the committee chaired by a member of the NAIA National Administrative Council. Selection of the committee will take geographic location into consideration to maintain a balance on the committee. Additional professionals may be asked to assist the committee and must be qualified by experience and or title. This committee shall report to the Council for Student-Athletes and work in consultation with the Council of Presidents and other key stakeholders.

12. National Drug Testing and Education Committee

    The functions of this committee are as follows:

    a. To be responsible for an annual review of the drug testing policy;
    b. Provide annual recommendations to the National Administrative council on championships at which testing will occur and methods for selecting student-athletes to be tested;
    c. Review and rule upon exception requests and appeals related to positive drug tests; and
    d. Review NAIA drug education program and provide recommendations to the Council for Student-Athletes.

    The committee shall consist of 10 members: one member from the Council of Presidents, one member from the Athletics Directors Association (if nominated and selected by ADA membership, associate/assistant athletic directors may represent the ADA), two members from the Athletic Trainers Association, one member from the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, one member of the Conference Commissioners Association, and two members from the National Administrative Council, and two at-large positions to be designated for females and/or minorities. Each body shall select its own members with the committee chaired by a member of the NAIA National Administrative Council. Additional professionals may be asked to assist the committee and must be qualified by experience and or title. This committee shall report to the National Administrative Council and work in consultation with the Council for Student-Athletes and other key stakeholders.

ARTICLE X ASSOCIATIONS OF THE NAIA

X SECTION A ORGANIZATION OF ASSOCIATIONS WITHIN THE NAIA

Each association shall have a member from an appropriate council as its coordinator. Officers necessary to conduct the business of each association shall be elected from among the members of each association.

X SECTION B ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Each association shall hold an annual meeting at a time established by that association.

Recommendations from each association shall be presented to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer who shall route the recommendation to the appropriate council for action. The NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer shall notify each association and the general membership of action taken.

X SECTION C ASSOCIATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

1. Athletics Directors Association (NAIA ADA)

   This association is organized to foster the professional growth and development of all member institution representatives who are engaged in the administration of intercollegiate athletics.

   Periodic newsletters and NAIA Athletics Directors Workshops are used to effect an exchange of ideas and information to enhance the administration of programs and the NAIA.

   Additional projects to extend professional services to NAIA athletics directors shall be adopted from time to time.

2. Athletics Trainers Association (NAIA ATA)

   This association is organized to promote the growth of certified athletics trainers within the NAIA, educate the membership on the importance of injury prevention and rehabilitation, assist the association in staffing national events with certified trainers, promote in service training and in all ways act to upgrade the athletics training profession.

   Membership shall be open to all those performing in the capacity of trainers at member institutions. Classification of membership is as follows:

   a. Certified: NAIA trainers who are certified by the National Athletics Trainers Association (NATA);
   b. Associate: Full-/part-time students who act as student trainers; and
   c. Advisory: Team physicians of NAIA institutions

3. Conference Commissioners Association (CCA)

   This association recommends policies for the continued operation of the national conference affiliation program for men's and women's programs. The association works to strengthen interconference and conference-association relationships. It isolates problems common to NAIA conferences and organizes to study and achieve solutions to these problems. This association shall meet twice annually, once in conjunction with the NAIA National Convention and one other time each year.

   Each affiliated conference shall have its commissioner or president eligible to vote on association business. Any commissioner or president of a certified football conference, who is not the commissioner or president of an affiliated conference, shall serve as a non-voting member of the association.

4. Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA)

   This association makes recommendations to the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives on all phases of the intercollegiate athletics program, particularly in the areas of academic requirements and policies. This association includes all faculty athletics representatives and shall meet annually during the NAIA National Convention.

5. Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)

   NOTE – as of July 2021, the Association of Independent Institutions changed its name to Continental Athletic Conference (CAC). Per NAIA bylaws, the CAC meets the definition of an association and will be treated accordingly for purposes of policy and bylaw application.

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

   The Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) shall:

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

6. National Association of Intercollegiate Athletic Coaches Associations (NAIACA)

   All active coaches at member institutions shall hold membership in the sport association in which they coach.

   The NAIA Coaches Associations (NAIACA) are charged with the responsibility for carrying out programs beneficial to the coaches of the organization.

   Each sport recognized by the NAIA shall establish a coaches association. Officers shall be elected from within the membership of each association with lengths of terms to be either for one or two years, as decided upon by each association. At least one female and/or minority member shall serve as an officer on each NAIACA's executive committee.

NOTE: Additional selection criteria should be applied at the next regularly occurring election cycle.

The NAIACA programs are conducted subject to the NAIA Constitution and Bylaws and association policies.

The objective of each association shall be:

a. To help maintain the highest possible standards in the coaching profession;
b. To arrange for and conduct clinics in its sport;
c. To arrange for discussions on various phases of athletics problems;
d. To promote professional growth within the coaching profession; and
e. To take a leading role in the investigation of playing rules deemed desirable by the majority of the membership and to make recommendations for adoption or revision of rules in accordance with the desires of the majority.

Each NAIACA is charged with the formulation and distribution of a standard of ethics for the member coaches of its association and the establishment of means whereby such rules of conduct may be enforced throughout the membership.

All recommendations to achieve these objectives will be reviewed by the National Administrative Council for action.

7. Registrars Association (NAIA RA)

   This association makes recommendations to the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives regarding the format of the official eligibility certificate, conversion tables/equivalency scores to be used for GED students and international students who will be first-time entering freshman students; interprets applications of unusual institutional calendars; and provides general guidance in its area of expertise.

   This association includes all registrars at member institutions.

   The association shall meet annually during the national convention of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).

8. Sports Information Directors Association (NAIA SIDA)

   This association is responsible for the promotion and publicity of its member institutions. Membership is open to individuals of each member institution who are delegated the duties and responsibilities of handling sports information and promotion. Through its membership, the association recommends policies and procedures for statistical services and publication contests. NAIA Sports Information Directors Association works closely with College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) in the promotion of all intercollegiate athletics.

9. Association of Student-Athletes (NAIA ASA)

   This association is responsible for representing student-athletes within the governance of the NAIA and promoting amongst its membership the growth and development of the Champions of Character ideals. The association will comprise of no fewer than 24 student-athletes representing each affiliated conference and the Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions). The CAC will have one representative per every 10 member institutions. Four at-large positions will be designated for minority student-athletes. Additional student-athletes nominated through the conference/CAC may serve as at-large members to ensure representation of each NAIA championship sport.

   Representatives shall serve a single, two-year term. To be eligible to serve as a representative, a student must:

a. Be identified with an NAIA member institution;
b. Have completed at least one season of competition in an NAIA championship or invitational sport and two semester/three quarter terms of attendance at an NAIA member institution; and
c. At the time of nomination have no less than two seasons of competition and four semester/six quarter terms of attendance of eligibility remaining in the NAIA.

10. Athletics Compliance Administrators Association (ACAA)

This association is responsible for the professional development of athletics compliance administrators, and for assisting in responsible growth of the position across the association. This association may make recommendations regarding athletics compliance policies to the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives. The association will meet annually at the NAIA National Convention, and membership is open to individuals of member institutions who are delegated the duties and responsibilities of an athletics compliance administrator as described in Article I, Section D.

11. Senior Woman Leader Association (SWLA)

This association is responsible for the professional development of senior woman leaders, and for assisting in responsible growth of the position across the association. In addition to promoting the growth and development of senior woman leaders, this association will initiate professional development opportunities for female staff and student-athletes. The association will meet annually at the NAIA National Convention, and membership is open to all individuals of member institutions holding the role of senior woman leader as described in Article I, Section E.

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

The membership has authorized the Council of Presidents to initiate policies within the field of governance of the affairs of the NAIA (Article IV, Section C of the NAIA Bylaws).

In carrying out their duties as charged by the membership of the Association, the Council of Presidents has established the following policies.

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I — COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

The Council of Presidents shall be elected from institutional chief executive officers and is composed of conference and A.I.I. (Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) representatives, and members elected at-large. Serving as ex-officio members shall be the chair of the National Coordinating Committee, the chair of the National Administrative Council, the chair of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, the chair of the Conference Commissioners Association, the chair of the NAIA Sports Information Directors Association, the chair of the Council for Student-Athletes, and the president of the Athletics Directors Association.

A. Audit Review Committee
The Audit Review Committee of the Council of Presidents reports directly to the Council of Presidents and is independent of the Executive Committee. The committee provides general oversight of the NAIA's financial operations, controls, policies, and annual audit. The committee meets two times annually in conjunction

with the meetings of the Council of Presidents. Duties of the Audit Review Committee include:

1. Ongoing review of financial statements, audit and management letters;
2. Council of Presidents review of Conflict of Interest Form;
3. Quarterly meetings to review the management letter items and other current topics;
4. Quarterly reviews of financial statements with approval of Council of Presidents Executive Committee; and
5. Make recommendations to the Council of Presidents regarding the engagement of the NAIA's audit firm.

B. Conference Review Committee

The Conference Review Committee (CRC) reports directly to the Council of Presidents and oversees the annual conference evaluation process and guide initiatives to strengthen conferences. Duties of the committee include:

1. Oversee initiatives to improve and strengthen affiliated conferences;
2. Develop, implement and conduct an annual review of affiliated conference operations;
3. Offer recommendations to the Council of Presidents regarding compliance with requirements for affiliated conferences, and when necessary, recommending appropriate action as specified in the bylaws
4. Provide periodic reports to the Council of Presidents regarding affiliated conference operations; and
5. Assess the conference evaluation process and make recommendations for procedural changes as needed.

C. Eligibility Center Oversight Committee

The Eligibility Center Oversight Committee reports directly to the Council of Presidents and provides general oversight of the NAIA Eligibility Center. The committee will consult with staff members of the eligibility center and national office regarding the center's financial operation and business processes, and will work in concert with the National Eligibility and Competitive Experience Committees related to policy and procedural matters. Duties of the committee include:

1. Review of standard performance indicators (e.g., registration numbers, telephone and email service levels);
2. Quarterly financial reports (including, each spring, review of proposed annual operating budget, and each fall, recommendations regarding allocation of all or part of annual net income for specified eligibility center operations or new initiatives);
3. Updates on current operational issues (e.g., development of new technology platforms, telephone systems);
4. Policy discussions (e.g., transcript processing, legislative issues, treatment of fee waivers); and
5. New business initiatives (e.g., recruiting agency registration, international student credential evaluation service).

D. Membership Committee

The Membership Committee reports directly to the Council of Presidents and provides general oversight of the membership application process and additional initiatives related to NAIA membership. The committee provides input and recommendations on a variety of membership topics, including membership

recruitment and retention, associate membership, branch campuses. The committee's chair is responsible for working with the staff to present the committee's report to the full Council of Presidents twice a year in conjunction with regularly scheduled Council of Presidents meetings.

II – ELECTION/APPOINTMENT TO THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

1. One council member shall be elected in each conference.
2. There shall be representation from independent and public institutions, affiliated conferences and A.I.I., Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) members, minorities and women.

III – ELECTION/APPOINTMENT PROCESS

The Council of Presidents' year begins on August 1.

A. Regular Elections
   1. May — A communique will be sent to all chief executive officers within each conference and A.I.I. with vacancies stating the status of the current Council of Presidents member and requesting signed authorizations from those chief executive officers willing to serve and to have their names listed on the official ballot.
   2. June — A ballot will be sent to all chief executive officers within each conference or A.I.I. with vacancies containing the name(s) of those who indicated a willingness to serve. A plurality of votes cast will elect.
   3. July — If a tie occurs, a run-off election will be conducted.
   4. August — Council of Presidents membership is announced.
   5. When needed, the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer can modify this process and time frame.

B. Special Elections Vacancies
   Except as noted below, when a vacancy exists in an elected position, the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer will notify the chair of the Council of Presidents of that fact and then proceed to conduct an election to fill the vacancy. That election will be conducted in the same manner as a regular election, except that the time frame may be different.

C. At-Large Elections
   1. August — The Executive Committee of the Council of Presidents will elect at-large members to the Council of Presidents.
   2. August — At-large members will be announced.

D. At-Large Vacancies
   When a vacancy occurs in an at-large position, it shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee of the Council of Presidents.

E. Short Term Vacancies
   When a vacancy occurs with less than a year remaining in the term, the Constitution empowers the appointment of a replacement. In this situation, the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer will request that the chair of the Council of Presidents appoint a chief executive officer to serve the remainder of the term.

IV – COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS DESIGNEE

A member of the Council of Presidents who serves as a conference or independent representative may choose a designee to attend Council of Presidents meetings in his or her place. For a Council of Presidents conference representative, the designee must be a president from an institution within the conference. For a Council of Presidents A.I.I. representative, the designee must be a president from an independent institution. Once

appointed, the designee may be changed during the term of the Council of Presidents representative only if the current designee is no longer serving as a chief executive officer within the applicable conference or A.I.I. - Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions). During Council of Presidents meetings, designees shall have the right to voice opinions and to speak to issues before the Council and shall have voting privileges on behalf of the designated conference/A.I.I. representative.

Council of Presidents at-large members are excluded from this policy.

V — CONFERENCE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

The following policies have been adopted by the Conference Commissioners Association (CCA):

1. Must conduct at least two in-person meetings of conference athletics administrators annually.
2. The conference commissioner must attend all official meetings of the Conference Commissioners Association.
3. The conference representative on the National Administrative Council must attend all official meetings of the Council.
4. Conference representatives must meet all deadlines for requested information, including but not limited to:
    a. Nominations for national awards;
    b. Conference tournament plans;
    c. Conference tournament results;
    d. Annual conference certification forms;
    e. Annual conference organization report forms;
    f. Officials' rating forms;
    g. Ratings information; and
    h. Statistical information.

VI — MEMBERSHIP REINSTATEMENT

Former NAIA institutions that hold NCAA membership are eligible for reinstatement under the following guidelines:

A. Criteria for Reinstatement of Former Members
    1. The institution must have held NAIA membership for more than five consecutive years; and
    2. The institution must have dropped NAIA membership while in good standing (no evidence of violations or infractions when school dropped NAIA membership).

B. Benefits for Reinstated Members
    1. The institution will be provided an exception allowing the institution to be eligible for NAIA postseason play immediately; and
    2. The NAIA National Office will assist reinstated members in positively promoting change in current affiliation.

C. Guidelines for Reinstated Members
    1. The institution must immediately drop membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association;
    2. The institution must complete the new member application and approval process; and
    3. The institution must receive a positive recommendation from the NAIA Membership Evaluation Team regarding the institution's understanding of all NAIA rules and guidelines.

Membership reinstatement is effective immediately for institutions that meet the criteria.

VII – LOSS OF ACCREDITATION

If an active member's accreditation is removed by its accrediting agency, the member shall be immediately reclassified as an associate member. However, the member institution's chief executive may request a continuance of active membership for the remainder of the fiscal year. Such request must be in writing and should include the rationale for postponing the reclassification from active to associate membership. Should the Council of Presidents grant a continuance, active membership will terminate automatically at the conclusion of the current fiscal year unless accreditation has been reinstated.

VIII – ASSOCIATION FINANCES

A. The fiscal year shall be July 1 through June 30. A budget shall be adopted for each fiscal year and it must be in balance.

B. An audit firm will be employed to make an annual financial audit to be reported directly to the Audit Review Committee of the Council of Presidents.

C. Fiscal policy goals and guidelines:

1. Championship events should be financially independent with income from a specific event to cover expenses of that event. If funds are not sufficient, then a formula for equitable distribution will be utilized.
2. National and local sponsors are to be developed for the purpose of providing additional reimbursement to institutions participating in national championships.
3. The Association should provide a reserve equal to 60 days' operating expenses.
4. A quasi-endowment fund should be established and, at the end of each year, the Executive Committee and the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer shall determine how much will be added to this fund.
5. A convention registration fee should be established each year based on the actual cost of the convention to the Association.

IX – DUES

A. Annual membership dues will be determined by the Council of Presidents.

B. Member institutions holding dual affiliation in the NAIA and the NCAA or Canadian Interuniversity Sport may request an alternate dues structure from the Council of Presidents.

X – TRADEMARK

The name National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, initials NAIA, logo and other NAIA symbols and insignia are registered in the United States Patent and Trademark office. The name, initials and marks are fully protected and are the exclusive property of the Association. Expressed, written approval by the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer is required for the use of the NAIA initials, name or marks, including use at NAIA events.

XI – REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES

A. Team Travel

Travel reimbursement to member institutions participating in postseason events is not guaranteed by the Association for any event. All transportation and housing expenses incurred to attend an NAIA championship shall be the financial responsibility of the institution. The NAIA will reimburse up to 100 percent of transportation and housing expenses of the official party to those institutions that used the NAIA travel service from remaining championship profits. Reimbursement will not be available to

institutions not using the NAIA travel service. Seventy-five percent of net income from opening-round events will be used for travel reimbursement in the sports of football, soccer, volleyball and baseball.

The traveling team will receive and pay the transportation bill (air and/or ground) and any meal and housing bills incurred (i.e. to and from, and while at the national championship site.) Exceptions will not be made to these policies unless approved in advance in writing by the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer.

1. Transportation
   Institutions located within 750 miles (800 for football) of the event shall receive travel reimbursement based on ground transportation rates, regardless of whether the team flies or drives. Institutions located more than 750 miles (800 for football) from the event may be reimbursed for either ground or air transportation at the NAIA's discretion, depending upon geography and distance from NAIA-designated airports.

   Transportation: Opening Rounds (Soccer, Volleyball, Baseball)
   There are two categories for transportation reimbursement:
   a. Trips less than 750 miles:
      1) Ground transportation only. Air travel will not be eligible for reimbursement without prior written approval from the NAIA Department of Championships.
      2) Expenses for one standard, 55-passenger bus, or up to two 15-passenger vans. Institutions are responsible for arranging all ground transportation needs.
      3) Teams traveling close to 750 miles may submit a written request to the NAIA Department of Championships for approval to use air travel. Written request must be accompanied by:
         i. The estimated cost of ground transportation; and
         ii. A quote from the NAIA travel service for the cost of airline tickets.
      4) Any airline tickets purchased without written approval from the NAIA Department of Championships will not be eligible for reimbursement.

   b. Trips more than 750 miles:
      1) Air transportation may be used.
      2) Commercial airline flights for up to a certain number of the official party (depending on sport).
      3) Institutions using commercial flights must use the NAIA travel service. An institution not using the NAIA travel service for commercial flights will be ineligible for reimbursement, unless prior written approval was obtained from the NAIA Department of Championships. Any such requests must be accompanied by a:
         i. Quote from the NAIA travel service for the cost of airline tickets; and
         ii. Quote for alternative proposed travel arrangements.
      4) The traveling team's institution is responsible for transportation expenses incurred from campus to the NAIA-designated airport for departure and return.

Transportation: Football

There are three categories for transportation reimbursement:

a. For trips less than 400 miles:
   1) Pre-approved expenses for one, 55-passenger bus and one additional vehicle.

b. For trips between 400 and 800 miles:
   2) Pre-approved expenses for two, 55-passenger buses.

c. For trips more than 800 miles:
   1) Air transportation may be used.
   2) Institutions using commercial flights must use the NAIA travel service. An institution not using the NAIA travel service for commercial flights will be ineligible for reimbursement, unless prior written approval was obtained from the NAIA Department of Championships. Any such requests must be accompanied by a:
      i. Quote from the NAIA travel service for the cost of airline tickets; and
      ii. Quote for alternative proposed travel arrangements.
   3) Charter flights will be coordinated by the NAIA through an approved air charter company. All institutions that charter a flight must be prepared to pay for all costs associated with the flight up front. When charter air travel is used, the NAIA reimburses the institution for 60 seats at a predetermined rate. It is the responsibility of the traveling school to sell the additional seats beyond the above mentioned 60.
   4) The traveling team's institution is responsible for transportation expenses incurred from campus to the NAIA-designated airport for departure and return.

2. Housing

   The host institution arranges a hotel block for the traveling team's official party while at the competition site. The traveling team is financially responsible for the cost of the rooms and must provide receipts with the Traveling Team Expense Form to be eligible for reimbursement.

   a. All traveling teams must stay at the designated hotel or assigned property in order to be eligible for the event and any reimbursement funds.
   b. A maximum number of rooms will be eligible for expense reimbursement.
   c. In the sports of volleyball and soccer, for trips less than 400 miles (one way) a maximum of two nights stay will be eligible for reimbursement. For trips 400 miles or greater, a maximum of three nights stay will be eligible for reimbursement.

3. Expense Report

   Within 15 days after participating in an opening round, the traveling team shall submit the Traveling Team Expense Report Form with receipts to the NAIA National Office. The institution's president and the director of athletics will be

notified when expense reports are not submitted within 15 days following the opening round competition.

Submitting incomplete or late expense reports may jeopardize the institution's eligibility for reimbursement.

Reimbursement will be generated from opening round bid guarantees minus expenses and will be approved by the Council of Presidents following the completion of fall national championships. Reimbursement funds will be released in February for fall championships and July for spring championship.

B. Individual Travel (For Council of Presidents' travel, see Article X, Section C of Council of Presidents Policy.) Individuals attending meetings or events as representatives of an association, committee, council or officially representing the NAIA shall be covered by the following travel policy:

1. All travel must be approved in advance by the NAIA staff liaison responsible for the committee or activity.
2. Some of the NAIA's associations, due to their budgets, may find it impossible or inadvisable to reimburse their representatives for the full expenses incurred. In those cases, they may approve a definite honorarium for the traveler. Under no circumstances may this honorarium exceed actual travel costs incurred.
3. The NAIA will be responsible only for direct travel between the home base to the point of the assignment. Variations, such as side trips, will be paid for by the traveler.
4. Housing arrangements (to include location, rates and length of stay) must be approved by the NAIA.
5. Meals will be reimbursed only for the actual cost incurred by the traveler. Daily meal allowance should not exceed $30.00.
6. The following travel expense guidelines will be followed for reimbursement purposes:
    a. Local Travel — Individuals will be reimbursed for local ground transportation to and from the airport (see Ground Travel below), parking fees, tolls, taxis or shuttle fees.
    b. Ground Travel — Reimbursement may be claimed at the current rate approved by the Council of Presidents. However, ground travel claims must not exceed the cost of the lowest available air travel fare.
    c. Air Travel — Upon receiving approval of travel requests from the NAIA staff liaison, all air travel arrangements MUST be made through the NAIA official travel agency. Authorization will be given to the NAIA travel agency to charge the air travel directly to the NAIA. Travel schedules may be adjusted by the NAIA to receive the maximum reduction in fares.

        Individuals who change their air schedules, thereby increasing the fare or causing a penalty fee, shall be financially responsible for the increase in fare or penalty unless approved in advance by the NAIA.
    d. Reservations — When making reservations, identify yourself, your institution, and the NAIA staff liaison contact. Be prepared to give the agent the following information:
        1) Date of departure;

2) Origin and destination;
3) Date of return;
4) Special requests or preferences (e.g. general departure times);
5) Business and home telephone numbers of traveler; and
6) Address to which ticket should be delivered (generally, your flight will be confirmed while you are on the telephone).

e. Change of Reservations — If you need to cancel or change reservations, call the NAIA staff liaison as soon as possible. Before making a change, check to see if your ticket is non-refundable or non-changeable. If the ticket is non-refundable or non-changeable and the ticket is changed at the traveler's choice, any extra charges or fees will be at the traveler's expense.

f. Unused or Canceled Tickets — If any portion of a ticket is unused or canceled, never destroy the ticket. The ticket must be returned immediately to the NAIA staff liaison for proper credit.

NOTE: This is very important because the refund process for a lost or stolen ticket can take six to eight months. Always return to the NAIA immediately.

g. Lost or Stolen Tickets — If a ticket is lost or stolen, call the travel agent immediately.

h. Delivery of Tickets — The NAIA travel agent is responsible for the delivery of tickets to the traveler before the date of departure. Street addresses are absolutely necessary for tickets to be delivered properly. When reservations are made too late for tickets to be mailed, arrangements will be made for the traveler to pick up the tickets at the airport terminal. The traveler will be required to show adequate identification to pick up the tickets.

C. Council of Presidents' Travel

1. Individual members of the Council of Presidents are responsible for their expenses to the meeting held during the National Convention. Council members are acting as representatives of their respective institutions and should be reimbursed accordingly.
2. The NAIA will provide airline ticket, or mileage reimbursement, and up to two nights hotel accommodations for attendance at the fall meeting of the Council of Presidents. All other costs, including airport-to-hotel transportation, meals and incidentals, are to be paid by the Council of Presidents member.
3. Should the Council of Presidents be requested to have a special meeting other than during the National Convention or the regular fall meeting, representatives shall be reimbursed in accordance with the above stated policy.

XII — INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID POLICY

A. Definition of Institutional Financial Aid
Institutional financial aid is all aid institutionally managed or controlled, exclusive of Pell grants, state grants, SEO grants and loans not controlled by the institutions.

B. Countable Aid
Countable aid is any and all financial assistance to student-athletes that is funded by the institution, controlled or allocated by the institution, regardless of category, title or original source. Countable aid includes institutional athletic grants or scholarships, academic scholarships, leadership and/or performance scholarships; outside

scholarships administered by the institution; institutional benefits, room credits, or meal credits; institutional loans and institutional work study, as defined in financial aid packages and that is funded by the institution; and reciprocal tuition waivers when waiver offers are decided on an student-by-student basis.

C. Non-Countable Aid
Non-countable aid is aid that is not funded, controlled or allocated in any significant way by the institution. Non-countable aid includes Pell, SEO, federal or state grants, benefits, scholarships and/or work study; loans not controlled by institutions; campus employment; state-mandated tuition waivers; and institutionally funded tuition waivers for employee dependents attending the institution of the employee; and reciprocal tuition waivers when waiver offers are not decided on a student-by-student basis.

D. Athletes Counting Toward Limits
Any student-athlete who participates in more than 20% of the maximum allowable number of varsity contests in a particular sport must count towards the team's upper limit of financial aid. The financial aid policy, including the aid limits, will apply to varsity participants only. Financial aid to junior varsity-only participants will not count against the institution's allowable limits and will not be reported to the NAIA.

Baseball	12 contests
Basketball	7 contests
Bowling	4 contests
Competitive cheer	3 dates
Competitive dance	3 dates
Cross country	3 meets
Football	3 contests
Golf	4 contests
Soccer	5 contests

Lacrosse	5 contests
Softball	7 dates
Swimming and diving	3 meets
Tennis	6 dates/tournaments
Indoor track and field	3 meets
Outdoor track and field	3 meets
Volleyball	12 games
Wrestling	5 dates

NOTE: These limits shall be updated annually to reflect 20% of the maximum allowable limit as listed in Article I, Section G, Item 1 of the NAIA Bylaws plus one additional contest/date.

No limit will be placed on the number of student-athletes on any varsity roster, nor on the combined total number of all varsity and junior varsity athletes. Any intercollegiate contest that meets the following criteria will be considered a varsity contest and must be included in calculating the student's varsity participation:

1. Is included in the institution's or the individual's varsity statistics and/or won-loss record;
2. Can be used for qualification for postseason competition, (indoor and outdoor track and field, swimming and diving, wrestling, women's golf); or
3. Can be counted toward team scoring (e.g. indoor and outdoor track and field, swimming and diving, wrestling, etc.) for the institution's varsity team.

All varsity rosters will be submitted with Year-End financial reports.

NOTE: Designation of varsity or junior varsity status for a contest must be made at the time of scheduling for team sports and upon submission of entry forms for individual sports (indoor and outdoor track and field, swimming and diving, wrestling, etc.). In individual sports, athletes cannot qualify for postseason competition based on results of contests in which they are designated as junior varsity.

Provision has been made for an alternate from a junior varsity program to replace a student-athlete on a varsity roster who must drop off the team due to a season-ending injury, verified by a physician (M.D. or D.O.), or other comparable personal crisis, but not due to a varsity student becoming ineligible. In such replacement cases a season of eligibility will be used by both athletes per current policy, but no change will be made in counting financial aid. That is, the aid of the original varsity player will count toward the limit, and the aid of the replacement player from the junior varsity program will not count for that season.

E. Multi-Sport Athletes

In the case where a student is a varsity participant in more than one sport for more than 20% of the contest limit in each sport, that student's aid shall be equally prorated to each sport. Institutions are permitted to prorate financial aid if students participate in sports sponsored by either the NAIA or the NCAA. In order to prorate the student's aid, each sport to which the student's aid will be applied must meet the requirements of varsity intercollegiate sport outlined in NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section B, Item 21.

The current list of sports sponsored by either the NAIA or the NCAA is:

Baseball	Field hockey	Rowing (women's only)	Tennis
Basketball	Football	Rugby (women's only)	Indoor and outdoor track and field
Bowling	Golf	Sand volleyball (women's only)	Volleyball
Competitive cheer	Competitive dance	Cross country	Gymnastics
Swimming and diving	Ice hockey	Soccer	Wrestling
Equestrian (women's only)	Lacrosse	Softball	Skiing
Fencing	Rifle	Water polo	

F. Calculating Cost of Attendance and Multiple Tuition Levels

As practices in higher education have changed, schools are increasingly relying on more complex financial aid structures, including various costs of tuition rather than a single fixed tuition rate. The Council of Presidents has adopted a "proportionality model" to factor the cost of attendance and multiple tuition levels at a member institution.

To calculate the proportionality model, the member institution will take into account the individual's tuition cost based on the category assigned as reported in the Year End Report (i.e., domestic undergraduate tuition, domestic graduate tuition, international undergraduate tuition, etc.). Each institution will report one standard cost for room and board, books, and fees. The student's percentage that will count towards the team's overall financial aid limits will be calculated by the total amount of countable financial aid awarded to the student divided by the summation of the tuition cost plus the standard cost of room and board, books, and fees.

G. Academic Exemption

1. Academically gifted students will be exempt from the aid counted by use of the following criteria:
   a. Aid to continuing students with a 3.60 cumulative GPA or who are in the top 10% of the class will not count against the limits.
   b. Only one-half of the aid to continuing students with a 3.30 - 3.59 cumulative GPA or who are in the upper 11% - 25% of the class will count against the limits.
   c. Aid to entering freshmen will be exempt upon achievement of the following:

i.) Minimum SAT/ACT score: 1130 SAT/23 ACT = half exemption, 1270 SAT/27 ACT = full exemption**;
ii.) Cumulative high school GPA: 3.50 - 3.74 = half exemption, 3.75 - 4.0 = full exemption; or
iii.) High school class rank: top 11% - 25% = half exemption, top 10% = full exemption.

NOTE: For SAT and/ or ACT tests taken prior to March 2016, full and half exemptions will be met with the following test scores: 1050 SAT/23 ACT = half exemption, 1200 SAT/ 27 ACT = full exemption.

For SAT and/ or ACT tests taken May 1, 2019, or after, full and half exemptions will be met with the following test scores: 1140 SAT/ 23 ACT = half exemption, 1280 SAT/ 27 ACT = full exemption.

The following guidelines should be used in academic factoring:

a. Institutions may use the student's cumulative GPA from either the seventh or final high school semester for incoming freshmen. For home-schooled students, use ACT/SAT scores. For students from high schools that do not grade, use ACT/SAT scores or class rank.
b. Transfer students' exemptions are determined in the same way as eligibility, using the cumulative GPA at face value for the student's first term of identification at a member institution only.
c. International students' exemptions are determined in the same way as eligibility, using the ACT/SAT score, class rank or cumulative GPA, if determined.
d. ACT/SAT tests taken on national test dates during the fall term can be counted as if it were taken in the spring or summer.
e. For continuing students, use the cumulative GPA immediately preceding the fall term of the year being reported.

H. Upper Limits for Institutional Aid

Football	24		Cross country	5		Golf	5
Basketball	8		Swimming and diving	8		Soccer	12
Bowling	5		Baseball	12		Tennis	5
Volleyball	8		Softball	10		Wrestling	10
Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field	12		Competitive Cheer	12		Competitive Dance	10
Lacrosse	12						

Institutions not in compliance with the financial aid policy will be subject to the following sanctions by the National Conduct and Ethics Committee.

1. First instance of violation of the financial aid limit: Reprimand and the financial aid limit in the affected sport(s) will be lowered by the amount the institution was in violation.
2. Second instance of violation of the financial aid limit: Probation and the financial aid limit in the affected sport(s) will be lowered 1.5 times the amount the institution was in violation.

3. Third instance of violation of financial aid limit: Suspension and the financial aid limit in the affected sport(s) will be lowered 2 times the amount the institution was in violation.

NOTE: These are guidelines only. The Conduct and Ethics Committee has the discretion to vary from these sanctions in their decisions. The Council of Presidents also has discretion to alter these guidelines as deemed necessary.

I. Requesting an Exception

Institutions that do not philosophically fit in with the financial aid policy may exercise their rights as members to request an exception. An institution or a conference/A.I.I. may submit to the Council of Presidents through the National Administrative Council a request for exception if this policy or its implementation procedures harm or threaten to harm a school or the conference/A.I.I. unfairly and/or unintentionally. The responsibility to propose an alternative policy and/or procedures shall reside with the requesting school or conference (as appropriate). If the request is from a single institution, its conference must support the request for the exception. Or, in the case of an independent, the A.I.I.- Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) must support the request for the exception.

Requests for exception must be submitted by the institution's chief executive officer. Requests may be granted on a yearly basis or multi-year schedule subject to review by Council of Presidents.

XIII – YEAR-END REPORTS (INSTITUTIONAL)

Each member institution is required to file the following forms with the NAIA National Office yearly.

1. NAIA Substance Abuse Certification of Compliance Report;
2. Institutional Financial Aid Report;
3. Varsity Roster for Institutional Teams; and
4. An accounting of national championship expenses.

Institutions shall have until December 1 to complete the certificates and return to the NAIA National Office.

Institutions delinquent in filing any of the above certificates shall be suspended from all NAIA postseason competition. The suspension shall be lifted upon receipt of the completed certificates in the NAIA National Office.

XIV – OPERATION OF NON-SCHOOL SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS (BOOSTER CLUBS)

The NAIA recognizes the importance of booster clubs and similar support groups to the institution and to the community, provided such assistance is rendered in an educationally sound manner.

A. The NAIA requires each institution to have complete control over all funds being used to assist the institution's athletics program.

B. The NAIA requires that all scholarship assistance be controlled by the faculty through the regularly constituted committee on student loans and scholarships. The NAIA further requires that all donations to the scholarship fund by an athletic booster club be deposited in the general scholarship fund to be controlled by the above committee. The scholarships may carry the name of the donor, but there can be no requirement or commitment that compromises general financial aid principles of the institution.

C. It is recommended that an institutional representative (athletics director, faculty athletics representative or business manager) act as a consultant to the booster club in all matters relating to the institution and its programs.

Because the athletics department at an NAIA institution is considered a part of the total institutional structure, rather than a separate adjunct, all financial assistance given by a booster club must be administered by the institution, as are all general funds, rather than directly by the athletics department.

D. The key to an effective booster club is to not lose sight of the club's primary purpose of assisting the institution. The institution must remain in control of its athletics program, and is totally responsible for all action taken by organizations associated with it and purporting to represent it.

Non-school supporting organizations generate their income through dues, raffles, sales, fundraising programs and other such activities, and these funds are to be accounted for in a professional manner and are subject to audit by the institution.

E. Non-school supporting organizations cannot give any financial assistance, in kind or in money, to any prospective or current student-athlete nor to the student's family or relatives.

F. Non-school supporting organizations or individuals may assist an institution in sponsoring a tournament, but the control of the tournament (such as selecting teams, officials, scheduling, etc.) must remain under the control of the institution.

For example, if a booster club undertakes a project to resurface an institution's track, this project must be approved by the institution's chief executive officer and/or the appropriate institutional committee. The monies collected can then be applied to the project. A booster club cannot simply give the monies directly to the athletics department or to the coach for this purpose. Institutional clearance, approval and monitoring is required. The same concept is true for all projects relating to physical plant improvements, coaching aids, athletic banquets, coaching travel, team travel or the hosting of tournaments. Institutional approval, not just athletics department approval, is needed before a project is undertaken.

Active booster clubs working closely with college administrators play an important role in the promotion of educationally-sound athletics. Their efforts, when properly channeled, serve the needs of all students and the community.

XV — NAIA INSURANCE COVERAGES

A. Catastrophic Athletics Injury
   1. All NAIA member institutions are required to participate in the NAIA catastrophic athletic injury insurance program for student-athletes.
   2. Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company is the catastrophic insurance carrier.
   3. Coverage is provided for participation in scheduled games, supervised practice sessions, and authorized group or team travel that is paid for or reimbursed by the sponsoring organization, in connection with such games or practice sessions.

B. Liability Insurance
   1. All affiliated conferences are required to pay a premium each year to cover their cost of NAIA liability insurance.
   2. K & K Insurance Group, Inc. is the liability insurance carrier.
   3. Coverage is provided for athletic events that are authorized, sanctioned or scheduled by the NAIA. This coverage will pertain to championships under the

auspices of the NAIA. It is extended to affiliated conferences as it pertains to conference championships and other qualifying events.

XVI – SPONSORS AND ADVERTISERS AT NATIONAL EVENTS

Businesses or corporations shall not be solicited as sponsors or contributors to an NAIA National Championship, or any NAIA activity or endeavor, without prior written approval of the NAIA Marketing Department.

XVII – AFFILIATED CONFERENCE CERTIFICATION DEADLINE

The annual deadline for affiliated conference certification forms is April 1. Conference commissioners are required to submit to the NAIA National Office the list of schools that are conference members. Sport qualification plans are created based on this information as well as the information from each institution's Declaration of Intent to Participate certificate. The conference members listed on the certification forms as of the April 1 deadline each year will be included in the qualification plans as a conference member. All schools which are accepted into a conference following the April 1 deadline will not be included as a conference member until the following academic year.

XVIII – TICKET POLICY FOR NATIONAL EVENTS

One complimentary, general admission ticket for all National Championship events shall be made available to members of the following groups (upon presentation of a membership card and appropriate identification).

1. NAIA Conference Commissioners Association
2. NAIA Athletics Directors Association
3. NAIA Faculty Athletics Representatives
4. NAIA Coaches Associations
5. NAIA Sports Information Directors Association
6. NAIA Athletic Trainers Association
7. NAIA Registrars Association
8. NAIA Athletics Compliance Administrators Association
9. NAIA National Committees

The chief executive officer of each member institution shall receive two complimentary tickets upon presentation of the NAIA membership card and appropriate identification. All cards are non-transferable.

XIX – ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE PROCESS

Pursuant to NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section J, Item 1, it is the responsibility each member institution to certify the eligibility of each student prior to participation in any manner (i.e. scrimmage, exhibition, intercollegiate contest) against competitors not directly identified with the institution. Each member institution is required to file eligibility certification through the electronic Eligibility Certification Process (ECP) software system. It is the responsibility of each institution to facilitate eligibility certification through this process, unless otherwise approved by the NAIA national office.

XX – POLICIES FOR POSTSEASON EVENTS – RADIO

A. All requests for broadcasting of any NAIA national meet, tournament or game must be directed, in advance, to the NAIA Department of Sports Information for permission to originate.

B. Broadcasting space will be assigned as facilities permit.

C. Exclusive rights may be granted to stations (commercial or non-commercial) with the following policies to apply:

1. The participating institutions will determine if exclusive rights are to be granted to any station in their particular markets.
2. If a station is given exclusivity, no other station in that market will be permitted to originate a broadcast or take a feed without permission from the station that was given exclusive rights.
3. Stations or institutions purchasing exclusive rights may provide feeds of the originating broadcast to other stations.
4. Stations or institutions purchasing rights will be charged a rights fee, as listed in the Rights Fees for NAIA national championships at the end of this section.
5. All rights fees must be made payable to the host site and be submitted in advance of the originating broadcast.
6. All necessary lines must be requested and paid for by the originating station.
7. The originating station must submit a listing of all stations on its network, if any, at the time of payment, and will be responsible for the rights fees for all of these stations.

D. NAIA policy governing the acceptance of advertisers and advertising copy for broadcasts of NAIA championship events is as follows:

Beer, wine, liquor, or any form of alcoholic beverage, or any form of tobacco products, shall not be endorsed by the NAIA, but the advertisement of such products in connection with NAIA events is permissible under the following conditions:

1. All such advertisements must receive advance approval from the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer.
2. Alcoholic beverages in any form shall not be allowed to be sold, dispersed, or brought into the public areas of any NAIA event.
3. No commercial may directly or indirectly relate any advertised product to the institution, athletes involved or the NAIA.

XXI — POLICIES FOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS — TELEVISION

A. The NAIA owns television rights to all of its championship meets, tournaments and games, and may award exclusive rights to commercial or non-commercial stations.

B. All stations interested in producing a telecast from any NAIA championship meet, tournament or game must first obtain written approval from the NAIA Department of Sports Information.

C. The NAIA Department of Sports Information will coordinate arrangements for all telecasts.

D. All necessary installation of lines, uplinking, satellite transmission, construction of any facilities, cost of talent and any other production costs shall be the sole financial responsibility of the originating station.

E. Policies, procedures and costs for televising of any games in the NAIA Football National Championship Series are as follows:

1. Policies and Procedures

a. All stations (commercial or non-commercial) interested in producing a telecast of any game in the football championship series must receive permission from the NAIA Department of Sports Information. Space will be assigned as facilities permit.
b. Television stations within a 200-mile radius of the site wishing to air a live or same-day telecast must adhere to the following restrictions.
   i.) The NAIA will require that 5,000 tickets or 80 percent of the stadium's seating capacity (whichever is applicable) must be sold by noon Thursday of game week for a station to secure a telecast.
   ii.) A stadium's seating capacity will be determined by the NAIA.
c. Television stations outside a 200-mile radius of the site wishing to air a live or same-day telecast will not be subject to the ticket-sales restriction above.
d. If more than one commercial station in a market expresses interest in producing a telecast of any game(s), then a sealed bid process will be used by the NAIA to determine which station will receive exclusive rights to televise a game.
e. Stations televising a first-round game in the football championship series have first rights to subsequent games played in the championship series (excluding the championship final); however, notification must be given by the station to the NAIA no less than 24 hours after the completion of the previous game.
f. Stations that televise a first-round game in the championship series, but decline to televise a subsequent game, relinquish first rights to the championship game.
g. Participating stations will agree to run 30-second promotional spots on the two institutions involved in the game, plus a 30-second promotional spot on the NAIA.

2. Costs: See Rights Fees for NAIA national championships at the end of this section.

3. All rights fees must be paid in advance of the telecast with a check submitted to the NAIA game administrator and made payable to the host site.

F. Policies, procedures and costs for televising of any games in the men's and/or women's basketball tournaments are as follows:

1. Policies and Procedures
   a. The NAIA, in conjunction with a designated television carrier, may offer interested stations (commercial and non-commercial) and cable systems an opportunity to purchase rights and receive individual game feeds from the designated television carrier.
   b. All information related to telecast costs and procedures for the men's or women's tournaments should be directed to:
   NAIA Department of Sports Information, 120 W. 12th Street, Suite 700, Kansas City, MO 64105.

G. NAIA policy governing acceptance of advertisers and advertising copy for telecasts of NAIA championship events is as follows:

Beer, wine, liquor or any form of alcoholic beverage, or any form of tobacco products, shall not be endorsed by the NAIA, but the advertisement of such products in connection with NAIA events is permissible under the following conditions.

1. All such advertisements must receive advance approval from the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer.
2. Alcoholic beverages in any form shall not be allowed to be sold, dispersed or brought into the public areas of any NAIA event.
3. No commercial may directly or indirectly relate any advertised product to the institution, athletes involved or the NAIA.

Rights Fees for NAIA National Championships

NOTE: The NAIA reserves the right to transfer all television rights to outside agencies and/or host sites, in which case fees may vary.

		RADIO	TELEVISION	TELEVISION	WEB BLOGGING
BASEBALL	Commercial:	$200/game (non-exclusive) + $75 per	$500/game/station (live)	$250/game/station (delayed)	$75
	Non-Commercial:	$150/game (non-exclusive) + $50 per	$250/game/station (live or delayed)		
MEN'S BASKETBALL - DIVISION I	Commercial:	$200/game (non-exclusive) + $75 per	$500/game/station (live)	$250/game/station (delayed)	$75
	Non-Commercial:	$150/game (non-exclusive) + $50 per	$250/game/station (live or delayed)		$50
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - DIVISION I	Commercial:	$200/game (non-exclusive) + $75 per	$500/game/station (live)	$250/game/station (delayed)	$75
	Non-Commercial:	$150/game (non-exclusive) + $50 per	$250/game/station (live or delayed)		$50
MEN'S BASKETBALL - DIVISION II	Commercial:	$200/game (non-exclusive) + $75 per	$500/game/station (live)	$250/game/station (delayed)	$75
	Non-Commercial:	$150/game (non-exclusive) + $50 per	$250/game/station (live or delayed)		$50
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - DIVISION II	Commercial:	$200/game (non-exclusive) + $75 per	$500/game/station (live)	$250/game/station (delayed)	$75
	Non-Commercial:	$150/game (non-exclusive) + $50 per	$250/game/station (live or delayed)		$50
COMPETITIVE CHEER AND DANCE	Commercial:	$150/game (non-exclusive) + $75 per	$500/game/station (live)	$250/game/station (delayed)	$75
	Non-Commercial:	$100/game (non-exclusive) + $50 per	$250/game/station (live or delayed)		$50
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY	Commercial:	$150/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$75
	Non-Commercial:	$100/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$50
FOOTBALL	Commercial:	$200/game (non-exclusive) + $75 per	$500/game/station (live)	$250/game/station (delayed)	$75
	Non-Commercial:	$150/game (non-exclusive) + $50 per	$250/game/station (live or delayed)		$50
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF	Commercial:	$150/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$75
	Non-Commercial:	$100/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$50
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S LACROSSE	Commercial:	$150/sport (non-exclusive) + $75 per	$500/match/station (live)	$250/match/station (delayed)	$75
	Non-Commercial:	$100/sport (non-exclusive) + $50 per	$250/match/station (live or delayed)		$50
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD	Commercial:	$150/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$75
	Non-Commercial:	$100/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$50
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD	Commercial:	$150/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$75
	Non-Commercial:	$100/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$50
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER	Commercial:	$150/game (non-exclusive) + $75 per	$500/game/station (live)	$250/game/station (delayed)	$75
	Non-Commercial:	$100/game (non-exclusive) + $50 per	$250/game/station (live or delayed)		$50
SOFTBALL	Commercial:	$150/game (non-exclusive) + $75 per	$500/game/station (live)	$250/game/station (delayed)	$75
	Non-Commercial:	$100/game (non-exclusive) + $50 per	$250/game/station (live or delayed)		$50
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING	Commercial:	$150/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$75
	Non-Commercial:	$100/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$50
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS	Commercial:	$150/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$75
	Non-Commercial:	$100/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$50
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL	Commercial:	$150/sport (non-exclusive)	$500/match/station (live) (Pool Play)	$250/match/station (delayed) (all other)	$25
	Non-Commercial:	$100/sport (non-exclusive)	$250/match/station (live or delayed)		
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL	Commercial:	$150/sport (non-exclusive)	$500/match/station (live) (Pool Play)	$250/match/station (delayed) (all other)	$25

	Non-Commercial:	$100/sport (non-exclusive)	$250/match/station (live or delayed)		
WRESTLING	Commercial:	$150/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$75
	Non-Commercial:	$100/sport (non-exclusive)	$300/day (live or delayed) + $100 per		$50

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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The membership has authorized the National Administrative Council to initiate operational policies for conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) and national competition, national statistical services, national awards and event management (Article IV, Section E, Item 1 of the NAIA Bylaws).

In carrying out its duties as charged by the membership of the Association, the National Administrative Council, with the approval of the National Coordinating Committee (Article IV, Section G of the NAIA Bylaws), has established the following policies.

I — ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The composition of the council and terms of its members are governed by NAIA Constitution Article VIII, and restated here for quick reference.

A. Council Composition

The National Administrative Council consists of 32–40 members. The council shall include one member for each conference and one representative from the Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) per 10 members of the CAC. Each conference shall elect its representative for the term.

Additional appointments to the council shall include the president and vice-president of the NAIA Athletic Directors Association (ADA), the chair and vice-chair of the NAIA Conference Commissioners Association (CCA) and the presidents of NAIA-SIDA and the NAIA-Athletic Trainers Association.

The council may also include at-large members. Annually, the composition of the council shall be reviewed and at-large members may be named as is necessary to ensure all standards are met. The following minimums will be reviewed in selection of at-large members:

- Minimum of 10 Athletic Directors must be on the council.
- Minimum of 10 Conference Commissioners must be on the council.
- Minimum of three women must be on the council.
- Minimum of three men must be on the council.
- Aim to have no more than one-third of members rotate off the council in a given year. If this situation does occur, the Executive Committee may grant term extensions as needed to ensure appropriate consistency within the council.

B. Chair and Vice-Chair

The council shall elect a chair and vice-chair of the council**.** The chair and vice-chair shall also serve on the NAC Executive Committee. In consideration of members for election to these two positions, one position must be an athletic director and one must be a conference commissioner, SID or athletic trainer.

C. Terms

Each elected conference representative and at-large member shall be elected for a two-year term. Appointed members shall serve a term consistent with the term of appointment with the ADA, CCA, NAIA-SIDA or NAIA-ATA.

The council chair and vice-chair shall serve terms of two years.

Individuals may not serve more than two consecutive terms, excluding the chair and vice-chair. If a member has served for two terms, they can be elected to the chair or vice-chair position to continue service while serving as an officer.

Terms shall start on June 1 of each year and shall continue until May 31.

Should an elected member leave their position of employment, the conference shall elect a new member to complete the term. In such instances, the term shall be equal to the time remaining on the original member's term. In such cases, if the newly elected member assumes the seat on the council prior to January 1 of the second year of the term, the newly elected member shall be considered to have served one term. If assuming the seat

after January 1 of the second year of the term, the newly elected member shall be considered a fill-in and still eligible for two consecutive terms on the council.

D. Expectations

Members of the council are the only members who may attend NAC meetings or serve as NAC representatives in other capacities for the association.

In the event a member is unable to attend a meeting and wishes to have a substitute from the conference or group the member represents sit in on an NAC meeting or task force call, the request must be submitted in writing to the NAIA NAC liaison and then approved by the NAC executive committee. In no instance will a substitute be allowed to vote at the meeting.

Attendance at NAIA Convention meeting and NACDA meeting must be in person. No members shall be allowed to connect to listen via conference call or vote via conference call.

E. Committee Assignments

Each NAC member shall be assigned to one of four committees. The purview of each committee is as follows:

1. Rules, Awards and Statistics: Set policies and procedures pertaining to NAIA sport rules, awards and statistics.
2. Championship Competition: Set policies and procedures pertaining to national championships.
3. Ratings and Postseason Selection: Set policies and procedures pertaining to ratings and postseason selection models of all sports.
4. Experience and Enhancement: Set policies and procedures pertaining to national championship branding, contest management, conduct in competition, and student-athlete experience, opportunities and development outside of competition.

A chair shall be assigned to each of the four committees. The committee chair shall be a member of the executive committee. In addition, each committee shall elect a vice-chair.

F. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall set the agenda for full council meetings, make committee assignments, and serve as the communication link between committees and the full council.

Meetings of the full council shall be conducted at the NAIA annual convention and at the NACDA annual convention.

The Executive Committee shall conduct a monthly conference call in the 10 months in which there is not a meeting of the full council. Between meetings of the full council, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to act on behalf of the NAC in any manner that is within the council's authority.

The Executive Committee shall include the elected council chair and vice-chair, along with the chairs of the four committees.

G. Council Voting

Voting at full NAC meetings and task force calls shall be tallied with a simple majority passing the considered motion. For any votes to be considered official, a quorum of 50% of the council current members (not including the chair) is needed. The chair shall be exempt from voting- but shall be asked to vote to break any ties.

Voting at the committee level shall also be tallied with each member of the committee having a single vote. The chair will be exempt from voting unless needed to break any ties. Committee votes shall be disclosed to the full NAC body to communicate the committee's stance and discussion on each motion.

Voting during Executive Committee calls shall be tallied by each member having one vote in a simple majority. The chair will be exempt from voting unless needed to break any ties. For any votes to be considered official, a quorum of three voters (excluding the chair) is needed.

Individuals are expected to recuse themselves from voting on a particular issue if they have prior knowledge or previous involvement in the situation to the extent they cannot be unbiased, or there is likely to be a presumption that the individual has a bias. The Executive Committee is also authorized to initiate a member's recusal, if necessary.

II — NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND INVITATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The NAIA organizes and conducts 28 national championships, 13 for men, 13 for women, and two co-ed, in the following sports:

Baseball	Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field
Men's Basketball (Division I And II)	Men's and Women's Soccer
Women's Basketball (Division I And II)	Softball
Men's and Women's Cross Country	Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving
Football	Men's and Women's Tennis
Men's and Women's Golf	Women's and Men's Volleyball
Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field	Men's Wrestling
Competitive Cheer	Competitive Dance
Men's and Women's Bowling	

The NAIA organizes and conducts national invitationals in the following sports: Men's Lacrosse, Women's Lacrosse, & Women's Wrestling.

The basic aim of the national competition structure is to provide quality events through clearly established qualification procedures based upon democratic principles, and in most cases, by direct competition.

Qualification guidelines, procedures and policies, as well as the format for each event, are based on the recommendations of the coaches associations in each sport, subject to the approval of the National Administrative Council. The competing institutions are charged with the responsibility of verifying that all of their competing students are eligible under all NAIA standards.

Each coaches association has structured a sports handbook listing the qualifying standards and entry procedures for postseason competition for the particular sport. The coaches' manuals are compiled each year by the National Office and are available on the NAIA website at **www.NAIA.org**.

III — EVENT MANAGEMENT

It is a policy of the NAIA for every institution to demonstrate a commitment to conduct in competition consistent with the NAIA's core values for character-driven athletics. The following standards shall be enforced:

1. After every contest, teams and coaches will stay on the playing surface and shake hands with opponents.
2. Before every contest, team captains and coaches will shake hands with officials.
3. Profanity is unacceptable in NAIA competition.
    a. PA announcement must be made before the invocation/national anthem or player introductions.
    b. PA announcement must be made to give a warning for profanity/vulgarity when deemed appropriate by the event manager.
4. Support groups (e.g. bands, cheerleaders, etc.) must be placed as far away from the opponent's bench as possible.
5. Making personal attacks regarding physical characteristics of a player, coach or official is unacceptable and must be addressed by the crowd control manager.
6. Every institution must assign a person who is solely responsible for crowd control at contests in basketball, football, soccer and other sports as deemed necessary.

IV — CONDUCT IN COMPETITION

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by a game official consistent with the playing rules in that sport. A suspension is required by NAIA Bylaws (Article VI, Section B, Item 7) as an additional consequence related to ejections in conjunction with competition.

Ejections are not subject to appeal. Some sport rules allow protests through an official process outlined in each sport rule book.

Suspensions resulting from Article VI, Section B, Item 7 caused by an ejection which are greater than the sport-specific rule may be appealed starting with the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions). An institution must submit an appeal to its conference/CAC within 72 hours of the completion of the contest. The conference/CAC will submit a recommendation to the NAIA National Office within 72 hours of receiving the appeal from the institution. The National Conduct and Ethics Committee is responsible for all appeals related to suspensions due to ejections of a coach and/or student-athlete.

Once an appeal with appropriate signatures has been submitted to the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions), the student-athlete/coach may continue to participate through the appeal process. If the appeal is not approved, then the student-athlete/coach must sit out of the next scheduled contest(s).

A player or coach serving a game suspension shall be restricted to the designated spectator areas and prohibited from any communication or contact, direct or indirect, with the team, coaches, bench personnel and/or game officials from the start of game to its completion, including any overtime periods. While the suspended coach or player is allowed on the field and in the bench area during pregame activities, the suspended player may not be dressed in their game uniform, and they may not take part in any warm-up activities.

Ejection reports must be completed by the NAIA game official ejecting a student-athlete or coach and the athletics director of the ejected student-athlete or coach. The form must be submitted to the NAIA within 48 hours after the completion of the contest. (**www.NAIA.org/ejections**)

V — CONFERENCE / CONTINENTAL ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (CAC) (FORMERLY THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS) / UNAFFILIATED QUALIFYING PROCEDURES

The following policies are in effect to formulate conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/ unaffiliated grouping qualifying tournament plans in the sports of men's and women's soccer, men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's golf, men's and women's lacrosse, softball and baseball. Specific policies, unique to each sport, will also apply as stated in the respective sports manuals.

A. Conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping qualifying tournament plans must be approved by the conference/CAC commissioner and be submitted to the NAIA Department of Championships by the following deadlines:

   September 1 — Volleyball, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country
   November 1 — Men's and women's basketball, men's and women's bowling, and men's wrestling
   February 1 — Softball, baseball, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's golf, men's volleyball, men's and women's lacrosse

B. Only those institutions having declared their intent to participate in championship events for the above listed sports are eligible to participate in the national qualifying tournaments in the respective sports.

C. All member institutions in good standing must have the opportunity to qualify for postseason play. National qualifying tournament policies may not create undue hardship on a member institution financially, philosophically or with regard to affiliated conference requirements.

D. Institutions must play the following minimum number of contests against accredited, upper-level two-year, degree-granting institutions in the United States and/or Canada to be eligible for NAIA postseason competition.

Sport	Minimum Contests
Baseball	16 games
Beach Volleyball	TBD
Competitive Cheer	4 competitions
Competitive Dance	4 competitions
Football	8 games
Men's Basketball	18 games
Men's Bowling	5 matches (2 vs. NAIA Varsity opponent
Men's Cross Country	4 meets (At-Large Only) (must score in each)
Men's Golf	N/A
Men's Indoor Track & Field	N/A
Men's Lacrosse	7 matches (vs. NAIA Varsity opponent)
Men's Outdoor Track & Field	N/A
Men's Soccer	10 matches
Men's Swimming & Diving	N/A
Men's Tennis	N/A
Men's Volleyball	12 matches

Men's Wrestling	N/A
Softball	16 games
Women's Basketball	18 games
Women's Bowling	5 matches (2 vs. NAIA Varsity opponent
Women's Cross Country	4 meets (At-Large Only) (must score in each)
Women's Flag Football	N/A
Women's Golf	N/A
Women's Indoor Track & Field	N/A
Women's Lacrosse	7 matches (vs. NAIA Varsity opponent)
Women's Outdoor Track & Field	N/A
Women's Soccer	10 matches
Women's Swimming & Diving	N/A
Women's Tennis	N/A
Women's Volleyball	16 matches
Women's Wrestling	N/A

In postseason qualifying competitions for cross country a minimum of five runners must start and complete the competition. For the sport of golf a minimum of four golfers must start and finish the postseason qualifying competition.

The following guidelines are to be used in the development of tournament plans:

Consideration may be given to any one or combination of the following criteria in selecting teams for the conference, CAC and unaffiliated grouping qualifying championship events:

i. An approved rating system;
ii. Regular season overall won-loss record;
iii. Overall won-loss record against NAIA teams within the conference; and/or
iv. Any system approved by the conference/CAC commissioner and the NAIA Department of Championships.

E. Affiliated conferences/CAC/unaffiliated groupings which determine a champion without conducting a championship event must certify that the representative complies with all tournament policies.

F. When a national qualifying tournament is conducted and a team champion is determined and subsequently fails to honor the Declaration of Intent to Participate and/or is declared ineligible for the next round of the national championship, it is the prerogative of the appropriate Executive Committee to identify its affiliated conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping representative.

G. When the distance between participating institutions exceeds 750 miles, a play-in competition should be established.

It is recommended that conferences, CAC and unaffiliated groupings limit the number of at-large berths for any playoff to the smallest number necessary to round out tournaments.

It is recommended that selection criteria for all playoffs be established (e.g. .500 won-loss record, rankings, national norms and/or head-to-head competition).

H. Exceptions to the above policies may be requested by submitting a written request and rationale from the appropriate Executive Committee to the NAIA 30 days prior to the deadline for tournament plans. The NAIA Department of Championships shall submit the appeals and rationale along with their recommendation to the National Administrative Council or their duly appointed committee for a decision. The representative requesting the exception shall not participate in the decision.

I. The National Administrative Council will review these policies annually with the NAIA Department of Championships and revise policies when applicable.

VI — CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION

It is the policy of the NAIA that each member institution shall have the opportunity to qualify for the national championship event in each sport through fair and equitable competition. Qualification to national competition shall exist via the following methods:

1. Meeting established qualification standards;
2. Affiliated conference, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions), unaffiliated grouping competition; or
3. At-large selection.

A. Affiliated Conferences/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions):
To qualify its champion automatically to national competition, an affiliated conference must meet the following criteria:

1. Have a minimum of six, or multiples of six, institutions organized through one of the following formats:
   a. A single conference having a minimum of six, or multiples of six, institutions which sponsor a sport and have declared their intent to participate in NAIA postseason competition in the same division in that sport;
   b. Two or more affiliated conferences, individually having fewer than six member institutions which sponsor a sport and have declared their intent to participate in NAIA postseason competition, agreeing to collectively declare a unified champion.
   c. One affiliated conference, having six or more member institutions which sponsor a sport and have declared their intent to participate in NAIA postseason competition, one or more affiliated conferences, individually having fewer than six member institutions which sponsor a sport and have declared their intent to participate in NAIA postseason competition, agreeing to collectively declare a unified champion.
2. Declare a champion by regular season play or postseason competition as determined by the conference(s).
3. All members of an affiliated conference who declare their intent to participate in that sport must qualify through the conference championship playoff plan.

B. Unaffiliated Grouping
To qualify its champion automatically to national competition, the unaffiliated groupings must meet the following criteria:

1. Declare a champion by regular season play or postseason competition as determined by a third party administrator appointed by the NAIA National Administrative Council.

It is the policy of the National Administrative Council that should an affiliated conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)

approved qualifying group drop below the minimum number of six sponsored teams, leaving five teams remaining, the conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping must contest its postseason qualifying event as scheduled.

For unaffiliated groupings of five or fewer, as established by the National Administrative Council, the grouping will receive an automatic berth for its highest rated team as long as the team is rated in the top 25 on the national poll used for selection.

VII — QUALIFICATION MODELS AND DEFINITIONS

Baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer, softball, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's bowling, and men's wrestling will qualify for the national championship event via the following method:

Affiliated conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) champions will qualify automatically to the national competition. Institutions that are not a part of an approved affiliated conference or CAC format will be grouped into an unaffiliated grouping. The unaffiliated grouping champion will qualify automatically for the national competition. At-large selections for the national tournament will be based upon existing coaches association policies as approved by the National Administrative Council.

The Association of Independent Institutions shall be treated as an NAIA Conference for the purpose of qualification plans. Standing agreements in place prior to June 2016 shall be grandfathered in and not subject to this policy.

Men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's outdoor track and field, men's and women's swimming and diving, women's wrestling, competitive cheer and competitive dance will qualify for the national championship event by meeting all existing qualification standards/criteria as established annually by each sports' coaches association.

A football conference certified by the NAIA shall be eligible to qualify its champion to the championship series provided:

1. Six or more active members in good standing sponsor intercollegiate football;
2. Six or more active members in good standing have declared their intent to participate in the NAIA championship program;
3. The conference members must play an intra-conference round robin schedule if consisting of less than 10 members and conference members of 10 or greater must play at least seven intra-conference games, and have a written charter/constitution on file with the NAIA Department of Championships;
4. The conference is certified by the NAIA prior to May 1 each year by filing a conference certification form with the NAIA Department of Championships;
5. The conference certifies its method of determining its champion in case of ties. Only one institution per conference will be recognized as qualifying for the conference championship team berth; and
6. The championship team is rated among the top twenty in the final rating.

Independent institutions (those not recognized by the NAIA as a member of a certified football conference) sponsoring football shall qualify for the championship series by:

1. Being a member in good standing and sponsoring the sport of football;
2. Declaring their intent to participate in the NAIA football program; and
3. Being ranked in the top 20 in the final rating.

The highest ranked independent (provided it is ranked in the top 20) shall automatically qualify for the football championship series.

The complete qualification plan for each sport shall be published annually in the specific coaches handbook and posted on the NAIA web site.

VIII — TOURNAMENT SELECTION APPEALS PROCESS

If there is misapplication of NAIA policy or procedure regarding national tournament selection, an institution may appeal to the NAIA National Office.

Criteria for filing an appeal:

1. A written appeal citing the specific NAIA policies and/or procedures that have been misapplied must be submitted to the NAIA Department of Championships within 24 hours (or noon Central time of the next business day, if the end of the 24-hour period falls on a non-business day) from the time the tournament field has been released.
2. Once an appeal has been submitted, a response will be provided within 24 hours from receipt of appeal.
3. Appeals must be submitted and signed by the athletics director and chief executive officer of the institution.

NOTE: The National Administrative Council sport liaison will be on the selection conference call to listen to the discussion of tournament selection. The liaison will report any concerns to the NAIA National Office immediately following the conclusion of the conference call.

The ratings oversight committee for each sport will review ratings to prevent any ratings process violations or unethical use of the ratings process.

IX — MIXED TEAM COMPETITION

A. When competition in a sport is separated by gender, a mixed team is an intercollegiate team on which at least one individual of each gender participates.
   i. Mixed teams are considered as a men's team for sponsorship and postseason qualification purposes. If a mixed team qualifies as a team for postseason competition, a woman must participate in the men's postseason tournament with her team.
   ii. Where individuals as well as teams may qualify, a woman competing on a mixed team may be eligible for the women's championship only if the institution does not sponsor a women's team and if she does not qualify for the men's team competition. In such cases, if the woman qualifies as an individual for postseason competition, she will participate in women's postseason play. If there is no women's national championship, she can compete in the men's national championship.

B. When competition in a sport is not separated by gender:
   i. All teams and competitors compete in gender neutral competition;
   ii. Applicable roster and gender limits shall be determined by sport rules; and
   iii. The following sports recognized by the NAIA do not separate competition by gender:
      1) Competitive cheer
      2) Competitive dance

X — ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The use of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco products is not permitted by participants, coaches, cheerleaders, trainers, game administrators, or officials in the playing areas during all NAIA-sanctioned competition and practices for such competition. The institution's coaching staff,

event games committee, sport manager or host site coordinator (as applicable) shall enforce this policy through the following steps:

1. On the first offense, the individual(s) and entire team shall receive an official warning.
2. A second offense will cause expulsion from the practice, game, tournament or event.

Member institutions are strongly encouraged to adopt this policy for all regular season practice and competition.

XI — CHEERLEADING ACTIVITIES AT NAIA-SPONSORED EVENTS

The following policy shall apply regarding "sideline" cheerleading and other non-competitive support activities at NAIA-sponsored events (conference, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions), unaffiliated grouping or national).

1. Pyramids higher than two and a half persons in height are prohibited. Pyramid height is measured by body lengths. A shoulder stand is defined as two persons in height, a chair or shoulder sit is defined as one and a half persons high.
2. No external force shall be used by cheerleaders to propel the body (e.g. trampoline, springboard, clasped hands, etc.).
3. Cheerleaders will adhere to the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Advisors (AACCA) recommendations and safety guidelines for collegiate cheerleading. To obtain a copy of the college safety rules, go to www.aacca.org.

This regulation affects only postseason or approved special events and not regular season competition. Each institution is responsible for the determination of cheerleading activities on its campus during the regular season.

Conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) commissioners will have the responsibility of seeing that these regulations are enforced at conference and independent events. The head cheerleader and the sponsor will be required to sign a statement acknowledging abidance of these regulations at all NAIA-sponsored events. Violation of these regulations will lead to immediate dismissal of the cheerleading squad from the facility. They may return as fans with the purchase of a ticket.

One cheerleading squad (in uniform) from a participating institution, not to exceed 14 persons (one sponsor, one mascot and a maximum of 12 cheerleaders) shall be admitted free of charge to all conference, independent, unaffiliated grouping and national championships.

This regulation is not intended in any way to diminish the importance of cheerleading nor to discourage the involvement of cheerleading within the membership, but rather to ensure that adequate safety standards are applied at NAIA-sponsored events.

XII — FORFEITS

A. Each member institution in a forfeited game shall enter the results of the contest in its records in the same manner as the NAIA to prevent confusion in national ranking of team and coaching records. See Article XXV of the National Administrative Council policy for application of recording statistics.

B. If a forfeit is declared while a game is in progress, all statistics are voided unless the game has reached a "reasonable point of conclusion" (i.e., three quarters completed in football, 30 minutes in basketball, five innings in baseball, five innings in softball, 70 minutes in soccer), in which case all statistics shall count and be reflected in the records. The team's won-loss record and coach's record shall include the forfeit, but if the statistics are voided, all averages in future ranking shall be computed without inclusion of the forfeited game.

C. If a game is interrupted and the officials do not declare a winner or loser in such a contest, the status shall be "no contest." Statistics shall not be counted, nor shall either team's won-loss record or coaches record be changed.

D. If institutions have agreed to and signed a written contract for a game(s) and one institution fails to abide by that contract, a forfeit shall be awarded to the offended institution provided the following conditions are met. The Declaration of Intent to Participate serves as a contract for all postseason competition.

The NAIA National Office must be notified in writing should an institution officially drop a sport during a season. Contracted contests that are dropped after August 10 for fall sports, October 10 for winter sports, and January 10 for spring sports are subject to the awarding of forfeits.

1. The athletics director or faculty athletics representative of the offended institution must submit to the NAIA National Office a written request for the forfeit. The request must be submitted within 10 days of the forfeit in question or prior to the start of postseason competition, whichever is earlier. Electronic submission is required.
2. A copy of the contract or bracket assignments for postseason play must accompany the written request for the forfeit.

> **EXCEPTION:** Weather conditions and/or other acts of God which threaten the safety of an institution's representatives may be evaluated for their impact. Such conditions may or may not be grounds to deny a request for a forfeit.

E. Women's Soccer Only – If a team forfeits 15 percent or more games in a season then it is automatically ineligible for postseason competition.

F. Once an institution announces discontinuance of a sport, it must notify all institutions remaining on the schedule as well as its conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) commissioner (as appropriate), eligibility chair and the NAIA National Office.

XIII — HOUSING OF TEAMS/INDIVIDUALS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

All participating teams and individuals in an NAIA national championship event must stay at the designated headquarters hotel or assigned properties on the approved host-site list of participating hotels for the duration of the championship in order to be eligible for the event and any available reimbursement funds. The duration consists of all activities from pre-tournament functions to the championship contest.

XIV — PARTICIPATION IN FUNCTIONS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

All participating teams and individuals competing in a national championship or national invitational, including opening rounds, must attend all functions including: Parade of Champions, coaches meetings, opening round celebrations, student athlete experience events, teaming up for character events, and Champions of Character® nominations. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a $1,500 fine to the institution.

XV — NON-RECOGNITION OF MAJOR LEVEL FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL

A. Institutions which are classified as NCAA Division I in men's and women's basketball shall not be eligible for participation in NAIA championship events, statistical services or the NAIA awards program in that sport. In that the NAIA does not recognize basketball for those

institutions holding NCAA Division I status, eligibility adherence and certification will not be required for the sport of basketball for those institutions.

B. Institutions which are classified as NCAA Division IA and/or IAA in football shall not be eligible for participation in the NAIA football championship program, statistical services or the NAIA awards program in football. In that the NAIA does not recognize football for those institutions holding Division IA and or IAA status, eligibility adherence and certification will not be required for the sport of football for those institutions.

XVI — OFFICIAL ACTION ON COACHES ASSOCIATION PROPOSALS

Each coaches association shall conduct an annual business meeting. Action on proposals from any business meeting must be by a mail ballot or by vote at the sport's annual meeting conducted among member institutions which sponsor the sport. NAIA Coaches Associations must have a quorum (at least 50% of eligible voters) in order for a sport motion to be heard by the National Administrative Council.

XVII — OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES GOVERNING MEN'S PROGRAMS

Baseball	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) with NAIA Baseball Coaches Association modifications. These rules shall be applied to all contests (preseason, regular season and postseason) when both institutions are members of the NAIA. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com.**
Basketball	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's and Women's Basketball Rules. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com.**
Bowling	Official United States Bowling Congress Rules. To view, go to: **www.bowl.com**
Cross Country	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Track and Field/Cross Country Rules with NAIA Cross Country Coaches Association approved modifications. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com.**
Football	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Football Rules. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com.**
Golf	The Rules of Golf by United States Golf Association (USGA) with NAIA Golf Coaches Association approved modifications. To obtain rules, contact: USGA, P.O. Box 200, Far Hills, NJ 07931
Lacrosse	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's Lacrosse Rules. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com.**
Soccer	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's Soccer Rules with NAIA Soccer Coaches Association approved modifications. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com**.
Swimming and Diving	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Swimming Rules with NAIA Swimming and Diving Coaches Association approved modifications. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com**.
Tennis	Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Rules. To obtain rules, contact: ITA, 33 State Road, Suite J, Princeton, NJ 08540
Track and Field	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Track and Field/Cross Country Rules with NAIA Track and Field Coaches Association approved

	modifications. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com**.
Volleyball	Official USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Rules
Wrestling	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Wrestling Rules with NAIA Wrestling Coaches Association approved modifications. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com**.

NOTE: Requests for exceptions to the NCAA playing rules for field and court sponsorship/commercial logo placements must be approved by the National Administrative Council Executive Committee.

XVIII — OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES GOVERNING WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

Basketball	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's and Women's Basketball Rules. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com**.
Bowling	Official United States Bowling Congress Rules. To view, go to: **www.bowl.com**
Competitive Cheer	NAIA Competitive Cheer and Dance Rule Book. To view, go to: **www.NAIA.org/ccd**.
Competitive Dance	NAIA Competitive Cheer and Dance Rule Book. To view, go to: **www.NAIA.org/ccd**.
Cross Country	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Track and Field/Cross Country Rules with NAIA Cross Country Coaches Association approved modifications. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com**.
Golf	The Rules of Golf by United States Golf Association (USGA) with NAIA Golf Coaches Association approved modifications. To obtain rules, contact: USGA, P.O. Box 200, Far Hills, NJ 07931
Lacrosse	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Lacrosse Rules. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com**.
Soccer	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Soccer Rules with NAIA Soccer Coaches Association approved modifications. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com**.
Softball	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Softball Rules with NAIA Softball Coaches Association approved modifications. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com**.
Swimming and Diving	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Swimming Rules with NAIA Swimming and Diving Coaches Association approved modifications. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com**.
Tennis	Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Rules. To obtain rules, contact: ITA, 33 State Road, Suite J, Princeton, NJ 08540
Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Track and Field/Cross Country Rules with NAIA Track and Field Coaches Association approved modifications. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com**.

Volleyball	Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Volleyball Rules with NAIA Volleyball Coaches Association approved modifications. To view or purchase rules, go to: **www.ncaapublications.com**.
Wrestling	For official rules, please visit: **https://docs.google.com/document/d/1inRnmemk2tbJYd6QgWgTOM1cCZ_5B9t_0pOpuusKVg0/edit**

NOTE: Requests for exceptions to the NCAA playing rules for field and court sponsorship/commercial logo placements must be approved by the National Administrative Council Executive Committee.

XIX — SPECIAL EVENTS

Any preseason or postseason contest, special event, all-star game or tournament involving member institutions that wish to identify with the NAIA as a special event must meet the following requirements and submit the Special Events form to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer:

1. All participating institutions must be members in good standing of the NAIA.
2. To protect the amateur standing of all athletes involved, all awards must be approved by the NAIA.
3. All financial obligations and transactions shall be under the jurisdiction of the host institution and/or sponsoring organization(s). All-star contests will not require expenditure of funds by institutions represented by their athletes. The event will pay for all expenses for all athletes, coaches and support personnel.
4. The sponsor(s) must file the following with the NAIA National Office seven days prior to the event, or lose the NAIA sanctions:
   a. Proof of general commercial liability insurance for the event at a minimum of $1,000,000 per occurrence naming the NAIA as an additional insured party and including participating legal liability; and
   b. A rights fee of $2,500 shall be paid to the NAIA.
5. Requests for approval of special events during a given academic year must be submitted to the NAIA National Office prior to October 1. Upon receiving the application the NAIA will submit the application to the National Administrative Council for review. A list of proposed sponsors must be supplied at the time of application to ensure that they do not conflict with any national corporate partners.
6. The NAIA will provide the following services, which are to be utilized in connection with the event and its publicity:
   a. NAIA logos, for required use in game programs, and other promotional materials;
   b. Message from NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer for required use in game programs; and
   c. Digital files for a one-page promotion of the NAIA purpose and history for required use in game programs.
7. As a special event, the NAIA is only approving the event for its membership and is not, through implication or action, assuming financial or legal responsibility for the event.
8. Approved special events will be listed in appropriate NAIA publications and will carry the Association's official endorsement.

9. Approved special events will not be applied against the frequency of play limits for teams or individual participants.
10. Corporations with business interests beyond the local area of the special event site shall not be solicited for financial support without the prior written approval of the NAIA. Further, no businesses or corporations shall be identified without prior written approval of the NAIA.
11. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products of any form shall not be advertised, sold, disbursed or brought onto the site of the special event.

XX — FOOTBALL SPECIAL EVENTS

Any preseason or postseason contest, special event, all-star game or tournament involving member institutions that wish to identify with the NAIA as a special event must meet the following requirements and submit the Football Special Events form to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer. The NAIA may require additional information at any time concerning the request for a special event (e.g. financial obligations, institutional expenses, awards presentation process, goals/objectives, expected or actual attendance figures, etc.).

1. All participating institutions must be members in good standing with the NAIA.
2. No team may accept an invitation to a postseason bowl game until the 16 teams have been selected to the NAIA FCS. No team may play in a postseason and preseason special event in the same year. Teams qualifying for the FCS may not accept an invitation to another postseason event.
3. To protect the amateur standing of all athletes involved, all awards must be approved by the NAIA.
4. All financial obligations and transactions shall be under the jurisdiction of the host institution and/or sponsoring organization(s). All-star contests will not require expenditure of funds by institutions represented by their athletes. The event host will pay for all expenses for all athletes, coaches and support personnel. All financial responsibilities will be handled directly by the host institution or sponsoring organization with no direct billing to any participating institution other than the host. Expenses include: travel, housing and meals for athletes, coaches and support personnel of the participating institutions while traveling to and from the special event site. The official travel party to a football special event shall not exceed 70 people.
5. The sponsor(s) must provide the following to the NAIA National Office 30 days prior to the event:
   a. Proof of general commercial liability insurance for the event at a minimum of $1,000,000 per occurrence naming the NAIA as an additional insured party and including participating legal liability; and
   b. A rights fee of $2,500 shall be paid to the NAIA. NAIA representatives will attend the football special event.
6. For approval of football special events, complete and submit the Football Special Events form to the NAIA National Office a minimum of one year prior to the first event. The National Administrative Council will review the application and approve or deny the request within 60 days of being submitted. The following information should be submitted at the time of application/request: list of proposed sponsors to ensure there is not a conflict with NAIA national corporate partners; business plan; means/criteria of

invitation for participating institutions; and any other materials deemed necessary by the applicant.

7. All institutions being considered must be approved by the NAIA before invitations are extended.
8. An institution may not accept invitations to a football special event in consecutive years. A one year/competitive season waiting period between football special events must be met prior to accepting an invitation to participate in another football special event. The NAIA football national championship series is excluded from this waiting period.
9. The NAIA will provide the following services which are to be utilized in connection with the event and its publicity:
    a. NAIA logos, for required use in game programs, and other promotional materials;
    b. Message from NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer for required use in game programs;
    c. Digital files for a one-page promotion of the NAIA purpose and history for required use in game programs; and
    d. Digital files of advertisements for NAIA corporate partners, as deemed necessary by the NAIA Marketing Department.
10. As a special event, the NAIA is only approving the event for its membership and is not, through implication or action, assuming any financial or legal responsibility for the event.
11. Approved special events will be listed in appropriate NAIA publications and will carry the Association's official endorsement. The NAIA will place endorsed football event information on the NAIA web site prior to the start of the football season. Other services requested by the host/sponsor may be considered (e.g. web links, fact sheets, press releases, etc.), but must be submitted at least three weeks prior to the desired posting date.
12. Approved special events will not be applied against the frequency of play limits for teams or individual participants.
13. Corporations with business interests beyond the local area of the special event site shall not be solicited for financial support without the prior written approval of the NAIA. Further, no businesses or corporations shall be identified without prior written approval of the NAIA.
14. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products of any form shall not be advertised, sold, disbursed or brought onto the site of the special event.

XXI — SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

The NAIA is dedicated to promoting and preserving the integrity of athletics for the benefit and welfare of student-athletes. Consistent with that goal, the NAIA is concerned about and resolved to support definitive actions designed to assist student-athletes striving to cope with escalating substance abuse problems in our society. These substance abuses center on drugs, alcohol, tobacco and smokeless tobacco.

Substance abuse is a major societal problem which demands the attention of all segments of society, in particular the education community. The magnitude of the problem compels this Association to accept the responsibility to provide leadership in educating student-athletes who may be using or may be under pressure to use these substances.

While maintaining institutional autonomy and individual institutional control, the NAIA is committed to establishing and monitoring requirements which will have a positive impact upon the substance abuse problem as it relates to athletics and, more specifically, to student-athletes. Through this national policy on substance abuse, the NAIA desires to communicate a concise message to student-athletes and to other concerned segments of society. The NAIA is committed to facing the issue of substance abuse among student-athletes in a positive, forceful, and straightforward manner. We are determined to bring all available educational resources to bear upon the issue in a caring yet definitive mode. Therefore, member institutions will be required to undertake the following actions:

1. Each institution will develop a philosophy statement which expresses the institution's position on substance abuse as it relates to student-athletes, describes the institution's substance abuse education program and delineates the institution's program for evaluating the effectiveness of the education program. Student-athletes should receive a copy of the philosophy statement prior to signing a letter of intent, or prior to participation for those not contracted before enrollment.
2. Each institution will establish a substance abuse education program requiring active involvement of all participating athletes. Institutional programs should be coordinated by the health services department or the counseling department and should utilize all available resources both on and off campus.
3. Each institution will institute an evaluation program for student-athlete participation and the expectations of the college or university for each athlete's standard of behavior.
4. Each institution will develop a statement of philosophy on student-athlete participation and the expectations of the college or university for each athlete's standard of behavior.
5. Each institution will file an annual report describing results of the substance abuse education and evaluation program prior to September 1 each fall. Official institutional reports will be confidential. The official report form will be prepared by the NAIA National Office staff in cooperation with the Athletics Trainers Association.
6. NAIA National Office staff shall review institution's reports and, in cooperation with the Athletics Trainers Association, make recommendations for consideration by the Council of Presidents and the National Administrative Council.
7. Institutions shall have their intercollegiate athletics programs declared ineligible for postseason competition until the NAIA Substance Abuse Certificate of Compliance form is on file with the NAIA National Office.

XXII — SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY ON POSTSEASON COMPETITION

Any NAIA student suspended for substance abuse by a national or international sports governing body, or by any amateur sports governing body, shall not be allowed to participate in any NAIA conference, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions), unaffiliated grouping or national championship during the imposed period of suspension.

XXIII — SUNDAY PLAY

A. The NAIA shall provide a Sunday Competition Declaration form with the annual Declaration of Intent to Participate certificate, to provide institutions an opportunity to declare their policy on Sunday play.

B. As a matter of policy, NAIA conference, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions), unaffiliated grouping and national championship competition will not be scheduled on Sunday.

C. If weather-related or other emergency situations develop, or if the competitive requirements necessitate a more expeditious completion of the event, Sunday competition may be permitted provided that the competing institutions are agreeable and advance approval is obtained from the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer prior to the beginning of play.

D. An institution which has a policy against Sunday competition must inform the tournament/meet director and the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer prior to the beginning of the meet or tournament in order for its team or one of its student-athletes to be excused from competing on Sunday in conference, CAC, unaffiliated grouping or national championship play. The institution's policy and request on this matter shall be communicated in written form over the signature of the institution's chief executive officer.

E. If a participating institution has a policy against Sunday competition, the tournament or meet schedule shall be adjusted, by the tournament director in consultation with the NAIA National Office sport manager, to accommodate that institution. Such adjustment shall not require the institution's team or an individual competitor to compete prior to the time originally scheduled.

F. At individual championships, an athlete is expected to compete according to her/his institutional policy regarding Sunday competition (e.g. if the institution has no policy against Sunday competition, the athlete is expected to compete on Sunday if required by the schedule).

G. If a conference, CAC, unaffiliated grouping contest or national tournament competition is rescheduled for Sunday, it may not begin prior to 12 p.m. (noon) local time.

XXIV — VIDEO POLICY FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION

For all regular season NAIA play, written consent of athletics directors or their designee from both participating institutions must be obtained prior to a third party videotaping an event. No exceptions will be granted to this policy.

The NAIA allows the use of video cameras at all NAIA conference, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions), unaffiliated grouping and national events unless prohibited by host sites or contracts.

> **EXCEPTION**: The third party videotaping restriction is waived for the sport of wrestling.

All NAIA Championship Opening Round Hosts are required to produce a live video stream production for all games of all teams during the national championship tournament round.

XXV — NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE

A. General Policies

1. A weekly national statistics report available on the Dakstats website shall be produced for member institutions that are eligible for postseason in the sports of football, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball. A national statistical report is available for member institutions sponsoring competitive cheer and/or competitive dance at the following links: **www.naia.org/cheer** and **www.naia.org/dance**.

2. Reporting statistics shall be coordinated under directions provided by the NAIA. It is the responsibility of each institution/conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) to facilitate this process on its own behalf.
3. For all sports, should a member institution be on suspension in a sport, be a first-year or associate member, or elect not to participate in NAIA championship events because of participation in or declaration to another championship event, the institution shall waive its right to be included in the NAIA awards programs, statistical programs, national ratings and publications contests for those sports during that season. Although a first-year, associate or suspended member is not eligible for awards program, ratings and publication contests, the institution is still required to report statistics, similar to any other member.
4. Should a member fail to file complete and accurate statistical information on any athlete and/or team for two consecutive weeks or a total of four weeks during the national statistical reporting period for the sports of football, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball, the institution shall be penalized in the following manner (violation accumulation is sport specific):
    a. The first violation will be a warning.
    b. The second violation will be a $500 fine.
    c. The third violation will be a $1,000 fine and a loss of postseason awards for the applicable athlete(s) and/or team.
    d. The fourth violation will be a $1,000 fine and such further penalties will be at the discretion of the council.

    Fines will be due within 30 days of notification.
5. Institutions failing to report statistics and/or results any two consecutive weeks or a total of four weeks during the reporting period will not be eligible for the national statistical reports or ratings for the remainder of the season.
6. The national per-game ranking shall be based on the number of games an individual actually plays; however, to be ranked, a student-athlete must appear in 75 percent of the team's games. If a player is in the lineup for only one play, the player shall be charged with a game played whether or not the player touches the ball.

    > **EXCEPTION**: If a player appears in a football game only to hold the ball on point-after-touchdown kick attempts, that player shall not be statistically considered for that contest; however, if that player becomes statistically involved (i.e. successfully runs, passes or kicks following an aborted kick attempt), the player shall be statistically identified with that game.
7. Ranking minimums shall be determined by the NAIA National Office to assure a valid comparative basis. The minimums shall be based on the normal participation or performance levels of the field in a given category.
8. Statistical records set by an institution during the time of suspension by the NAIA shall not be carried in statistical releases or in the NAIA Championship History and Records. However, statistical records set by an individual may be counted toward a total four-year record. Should penalty of suspension be limited to a given sport(s) in a particular program, only such sport(s) as stipulated in the suspension shall be affected.

9. The individual statistics of any student-athlete declared ineligible by a member institution, conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) or the NAIA for any remaining portion of a season shall not be included in the national statistical ranking from the date the student-athlete became ineligible.
10. Team statistics in any completed contest which later is termed a forfeit due to administrative action will stand. The actual results of the contest as well as the coach's record will be changed to reflect the forfeit.
11. When an ineligible student participates, all of the ineligible student's statistics shall be deleted from the records. Individual statistics earned by eligible students shall stand. All team and individual statistics for the offending opponents shall remain intact and unaffected. In the case of team/individual student-athlete forfeitures at NAIA national championships, honors and placings will be vacated by the offending team/athlete and final results will not be adjusted.
12. For games to be considered countable (i.e. included in statistics, won-loss records, and coaching records), all of the following must be true:
    a. The institution must be accredited by one of the nationally recognized accrediting bodies in the U.S., or hold membership in the NAIA, Universities Canada, Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association, Canadian U Sports or the National Christian College Athletic Association.
    b. The institution must be a four-year (or upper-level two-year) degree-granting institution; and
    c. The team must be a varsity program.
13. NAIA member institutions found delinquent in filing eligibility certificates, or failing to file NAIA Declaration of Intent to Participate certificates, shall be denied NAIA statistical and awards programs in the year affected.
14. The host institution is responsible for recording official statistics, for all participating teams, for those sports in which a weekly national statistical report is conducted. This includes all contests for a tournament, classic, tri-match, or any multi-team event of the like that an institution hosts, regardless of the venue or if the host institution is competing. Those sports include men's and women's volleyball, football, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's basketball, competitive cheer, competitive dance, softball, and baseball. The home team of a tournament, classic, tri-match or any multi-team event must provide statistical services for all games, regardless of the venue. Only in the event of a single opponent contest may a team declare that statistics will not be provided. In this case, the home team must notify the opposing team (or teams) at least 72 hours prior to the contest if official statistics will not be provided. The opposing team can file an appeal if it feels an error was made in the official statistics up to 72 hours after the conclusion of the contest. The appeal must be filed with the home team within 72 hours after the contest and both teams must change the statistics. Both schools are required to report their official statistics to the national statistical service within the post-event 72-hour window. The method of submission is by use of the official statistical software of the NAIA and/or submission to the National Coaches Association software.

B. Football Statistics

1. All games (i.e. regular season, NAIA football championship series, and NAIA-sanctioned pre and postseason bowl games) shall be included in official individual and team statistics.
2. The national individual punt return and kickoff return champions shall be determined by average per return with a minimum number of returns required per game.
3. The national individual punting champion shall be determined by the average yards per punt with a minimum number of punts per game.
4. Only up-to-date statistics will be accepted.

C. Basketball Statistics

1. All games (regular season and postseason) shall be included in the official statistics.
2. The national individual and team field goal percentage and three-point field goal percentage champions shall be determined by percentage with a minimum number of field goals made required per game.
3. The national individual and team free throw percentage champion shall be determined by percentage with a minimum of free throws made required per game.
4. The national team rebounding champion shall be determined by rebound margin.

D. Women's Volleyball Statistics

1. All games (regular and postseason) shall be included in the official statistics.
2. Games played during the spring shall not be included in a team's won-loss record and statistics.

E. Men's Soccer Statistics

1. All games (regular and postseason) shall be included in the official statistics.
2. Games played during the spring shall not be included in a team's won-loss record and statistics.

F. Baseball Statistics

1. All regular and postseason games against countable opponents shall be included in the official statistics for the academic year.

> **EXCEPTION**: A maximum of 12 countable games played during the fall (August 1st – December 31st) shall be included in a team's won-loss record and statistics. Any contest against a countable opponent in excess of this limit must meet the definition of an exhibition or scrimmage.

2. Official statistics and history for the national championship opening round will be separate from the official statistics and history of the NAIA World Series.

G. Softball Statistics

1. All games (regular and postseason) shall be included in the official statistics.
2. A maximum of six dates played during the fall may be included in a team's won-loss record and statistics.

H. Women's Soccer Statistics

1. All games (regular and postseason) shall be included in the official statistics.
2. Games played during the spring shall not be included in a team's won-loss record and statistics.

I. Men's Lacrosse Statistics

1. All games (regular and postseason) shall be included in the official statistics.

J. Women's Lacrosse Statistics

1. All games (regular and postseason) shall be included in the official statistics.

K. Men's Volleyball Statistics
   1. All games (regular and postseason) shall be included in the official statistics.

L. Competitive Cheer Statistics
   1. All games (regular and postseason) shall be included in the official statistics.

M. Competitive Dance Statistics
   1. All games (regular and postseason) shall be included in the official statistics.

N. Career Records
   1. A student-athlete's statistics shall be counted toward career records if the student-athlete's institution was eligible to participate in the NAIA statistics program during a majority of the student-athlete's career.
   2. Career won-loss records and overall winning percentage by coaches shall not be affected by an institution's declaration of intent to participate. When compiling coaching records, only records as a head coach at upper-level two-year or four-year institutions and games against upper-level two-year or four-year institutions are to be included. High school and/or junior college level games do not count. In career coaching records, there is a minimum of 10 years the head coach is required to be at an NAIA institution if carrying over any non-NAIA wins/losses. The carry-over of wins/losses from non-NAIA schools must meet the requirements above in this policy pertaining to upper-level two-year and four-year institutions.
   3. In the event that an institution designates co-head coaches, the won-loss records of both coaches for each season they are co-head shall be denoted by an asterisk and footnote, indicating the record, year and names of the co-head coaches.

XXVI – AWARDS

A. Hall of Fame Award	M. Larry Lady Officiating Award
B. Player of the Week Awards	N. Dr. Leroy Walker Champions of Character Award
C. All-America Awards	O. A.O. Duer Scholarship Award
D. NAIA-Daktronics Scholar-Athlete Program	P. Emil S. Liston Award
E. National Coach of the Year	Q. Clarence "Ike" Pearson Award
F. All-Tournament/Outstanding Athlete Award	R. Al Ortolani Student Athletic Trainer Scholarship
G. NAIA-National Sports Foundation All That's Right in Sport Award	S. Athletic Trainer of the Year Award
H. NAIA Coach of Character Award	T. Distinguished Alumnus Award
I. Champions of Character® Team Award	U. Awards of Merit
J. Athletics Director of the Year	V. Approved Individual Awards
K. Charles Morris Administrator of the Year	W. Gary Spitler Award
L. Wally Schwartz Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year Award	X. Sports Information Director of the Year

A. Hall of Fame
   1. Since it was founded in 1952, the NAIA Hall of Fame Award has been the highest honor presented by the Association. Nominees must be persons of outstanding quality, high moral character, fine leadership quality and must be held in high esteem by their colleagues, coaches and athletes. The number of recipients on an annual basis is a maximum of four inductees allowed per sport, but no more than three in any given category within that sport.

2. The Hall of Fame consists of a division for each sport currently or formerly sponsored by the Association and a division for general meritorious service to the NAIA. Each sport division is divided into three categories: athlete, coach and meritorious service.
   a. Athlete — To qualify in this category, a nominee must have graduated from an accredited, four-year, degree-granting institution. At least two years of the nominee's intercollegiate athletic competition must have been as a student at an NAIA/Association for Intercollegiate for Women member institution. The nominee must have attained national recognition in the nominated sport. A student-athlete is not eligible for nomination until five years after completion of intercollegiate eligibility.
   b. Coach — To qualify in this category, a nominee must have upheld the ideals and philosophies of the NAIA while striving to serve the best interests of intercollegiate athletics. While winning is the key factor, the person's effect upon student-athletes and fellow coaches is also a very important consideration. To be eligible, a person must have coached a minimum of 15 years in the sport in which recognition is being considered. At least 10 years of the nominee's coaching experience at the college level must have been at an NAIA/Association for Intercollegiate for Women institution. The coach must have made significant contributions to the NAIA at the district, conference, regional, and/or national level, and have achieved national recognition in the sport.
   c. Meritorious Service — These persons must have, over a period of years, exhibited a dedication and loyalty to intercollegiate athletics, and/or a particular sport, in keeping with the NAIA's philosophy. Their work must have made a concrete contribution to the welfare of intercollegiate athletics and to the Association. National championship honorary coaches who have served for 20 years can be considered.
3. The following support material must be completed and incorporated into the nominee's packet when the original nomination is submitted:
   a. Completed nomination form. Nominations may be submitted by past or present member institutions, the various NAIA coaches associations, any recognized national committee or any of the certified affiliated conferences.
   b. A recent photograph; and
   c. Letters of recommendation in support of the nominee
      For the coach and athlete category the following recommendations are required from:
      i.. The current or former president or chancellor/provost of the institution;
      ii. The current or former athletics director at the institution; and
      iii. One individual from competing institutions (current or former) who know the nominee.

      For the meritorious service category, the following recommendations are required:
      i. Letters of recommendation as outlined in for the coach and athlete category above (provided nominee is associated with a former or current member institution); or
      ii. Four letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the nominee stating her/his significant contributions to the NAIA.

   NOTE: All letters of recommendation must include a signature and must be submitted on letterhead of the institution or media outlet (when applicable). A letter from an individual can only count toward one category.

4. NAIA Hall of Fame nominations are received at the NAIA National Office at any time; however, a June 15 deadline date has been established for the processing of nominations and for maximum involvement of the inductees at the various championships or appropriate sites.

   The deadline for materials for all sports and general meritorious service is June 15. All nominations and all necessary supporting materials are due at the NAIA National Office by the deadline. Nominations received after the deadline will be kept on file until the next year.
   1) A conference call will be held in July to decide all championship sports, plus general meritorious service.
   2) All packets must be mailed to the NAIA National Office and marked NAIA Hall of Fame.
   3) The Hall of Fame liaison may contact the institution or coaches association chair for further support materials if the packet is not complete.
   4) The Hall of Fame liaison will then notify the conference commissioner and coaches association Executive Committee to request approval of a candidate.
   5) The ballot is reviewed by the Hall of Fame and Honors Committee which must have a quorum of six members in attendance to conduct business. A minimum of six votes is required for election.
   6) The NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer will notify those nominees elected to the Hall of Fame. Notification will include the date and place of the presentation of the award.
   7) Hall of Fame candidates nominated and not elected to the Hall of Fame will be considered for a second time if additional information is provided. If not elected in a two-year period, the candidate cannot be considered for one year, at which time new nominating forms and all supporting data must then be re-submitted.
   9) A candidate may only be considered a total of four times.
   10) The award consists of a personalized Hall of Fame certificate, indicating sport and category of election, matted and framed. The institution represented by the athlete, coach or administrator receives a duplicate of the certificate for display on campus. Winners also receive a lifetime membership card that entitles them to admission to all NAIA events.

B. Player of the Week Awards

The NAIA National Player of the Week is selected from a pool of conference players of the week, beginning with the first awarding in the first week of the season, for the following sports: men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's cross country, football, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's basketball, wrestling, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's outdoor track and field, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, baseball and softball. Sports information director representatives from each conference nominate players for the national award and a voting panel comprising sports information directors from various conferences vote using SIDHelp.

In the specific sport in which the institution is part of an unaffiliated grouping, the player from that institution that is nominated by a school sports information director representative will automatically be a national nominee. In indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, wrestling, and swimming and diving, the player from that institution who is nominated by a school sports information director representative will automatically be a national nominee.

Voting criteria that may be used:

1) Statistics/results;
2) Team success;
3) Various records (school, conference, national) broken;
4) Level of competition; and
5) Comments from the specific nomination form.

C. All-America Awards

1. All-America awards are annually bestowed on the most outstanding athletes in the various sports in which the program is active.
2. The All-America selection committee of each coaches association recommends criteria, procedures for selection and the implementation of the All-America program in their sport to the National Administrative Council.
3. More detailed information on current selection procedures, including deadlines and support materials necessary, may be obtained in the coaches handbook for each sport. Following is a brief description of the number of athletes selected in the sport.
    a. Baseball: Two teams of 17 each (position specific); honorable mention listing of 34 (not position-specific).
    b. Basketball: Three teams of 10 for both the men's and women's program; honorable mention listing.
    c. Competitive cheer: One team for cheer (number varies on athletes meeting criteria); one honorable mention team for each division (number varies on athletes meeting criteria).
    d. Competitive dance: One team for dance (number varies on athletes meeting criteria); one honorable mention team for each division (number varies on athletes meeting criteria).
    e. Cross country: The top 30 finishers at both the men's and women's national championship.
    f. Football: One team (NAIA-AFCA All-American Team) of 25 players (11 offense, 11 defense, 3 specialists).
    g. Golf: Two teams of 15 each; honorable mention listing of 15.
    h. Indoor track and field: Top six individuals in each event and the individuals on each of the top six relay teams at the national championships for both the men's and women's program.
    i. Outdoor track and field: Top six individuals in each event and the individual on each of the top six relay teams at the national championships for both the men's and women's program.
    j. Soccer: Three teams of 11 in both the men's and women's program; varying number of honorable mention.
    k. Softball: Two teams of 20 each; honorable mention listing.
    l. Swimming and diving: Top three individuals in each event and the individuals on each of the top three relay teams at the national championships for both the men's and women's program.
    m. Tennis: Two teams of 16 each; varying number of honorable mention.
    n. Women's Volleyball: Three teams of 14 each; varying number of honorable mention players.
    o. Men's Wrestling: Top eight individuals in each weight class at the national championships.
    p. Women's Lacrosse: Two teams of 15 each; varying number of honorable mention players.

q. Men's Lacrosse: Two teams of 13 each.
r. Men's Volleyball: 10 All-American Players.
s. Women's Wrestling: Top 8 selected (top 6 All-Americans, remaining two honorable mentions)
t. Men's and Women's Bowling: Top Ten Selected (five first team and five second team)

4. Printed certificates listing the individual members on the first, second and third team, when applicable, will be sent to represented institutions for distribution in the following manner: one to the student-athlete and one to the institution.
5. Each sport section of the NAIA Championship History and Records lists by institution those student-athletes named first, second or third team All-America in those sports where selection is not based on finish at a national championship.

D. Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete Program
1. Scholar-Athlete awards are given annually to outstanding student-athletes in the various sports in which the program is active and their respective teams are eligible for NAIA postseason competition. The Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete programs recognize excellence in the classroom by NAIA-member student-athletes.
2. The Scholar-Athlete selection committee of each coaches association may recommend national criteria, procedures for selection and implementation of the Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete program to the National Administrative Council.
3. The following criteria shall be applied by all coaches associations:
    a. There shall be no minimum or maximum number selected;
    b. Nominee must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of the original nomination deadline;
    c. Nominee must be a junior or above in academic standing at the time of the deadline;
    d. Nominee must have been in attendance at nominating institution one full year at the time of the original deadline;
    e. Nominee must appear on the eligibility certificate for the sport in which nominated;
    f. Nominee must be nominated for the award; and
    g. Nomination must be submitted online prior to the deadline to be eligible for national press release/website, certificate and honors database.
    h. Nomination deadlines for each sport will be at the end of the academic year.
4. Nominations are submitted through SIDHelp only.
5. Printed certificates listing all of the scholar-athletes in a particular sport are sent to the represented institutions for distribution in the following manner: one to the student-athlete and one to the institution.
6. Late nominations will be accepted through June 30 of each year and each individual must meet all requirements by the original nomination deadline. Late nominations will not be listed on the national press release/website, certificate and honors database.

E. National Coach of the Year
1. Coaches associations have an opportunity to identify a national coach of the year for all sports in which a national championship is conducted.
2. Only one individual may be honored for the award.
3. Criteria and method of selection are recommended by the coaches association of that sport to the National Administrative Council.
4. Criteria shall include:
    a. Outstanding coaching record for the year being recognized;

b. Proven high principles and ethics in the performance of the coaching profession;
c. A high degree of respect and goodwill achieved among her/his peers; and
d. A demonstrated devotion to NAIA principles and philosophies.

5. More detailed information on current selection procedures, including deadlines and support materials necessary, may be obtained in the coaches manual for each sport. Following is a brief description of the selection procedures for each sport:
   a. Baseball: Voted on by the Past President's Committee and current NAIA-BCA officers from a national ballot listing conference coaches of the year and national championship coaches.
   b. Basketball: Men's coach selected by the All-America Committee. Women's selection is coach of the national championship team.
   c. Competitive cheer: One cheer coach, voted on by those coaches attending the national championship.
   d. Competitive dance: One dance coach, voted on by those coaches attending the national championship.
   e. Cross country: Voted on by those coaches attending the national championships.
   f. Football: All coaches who are members of the AFCA are eligible and vote through the AFCA website.
   g. Golf: For men, the coach will be selected by the MGCA officers. The women's selection is the coach of the national championship team.
   h. Indoor track and field: Voted on by those coaches attending the national championships.
   i. Outdoor track and field: Voted on by those coaches attending the national championships.
   j. Soccer: Voted on by all coaches from a national ballot listing national championship coaches and conference coaches of the year.
   k. Softball: Voted on by all coaches from a national ballot listing which includes conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) coaches of the year, plus quarterfinalist coaches from the national championship.
   l. Swimming and diving: According to criteria established by the coaches association based on team finish compared with previous years, current year team finish, as well as a vote from coaches participating in the national championships.
   m. Tennis: Coaches of the national championship teams.
   n. Women's Volleyball: Vote of committee from a candidate pool that includes conference coaches of the year and those coaches participating in the national championship.
   o. Men's Wrestling: Voted on by those coaches participating in the national championships.
   p. Women's Lacrosse: Vote of committee by a pool that includes conference coaches of the year and/or coaches participating in the National Invitational.
   q. Men's Lacrosse: Vote of committee by a pool that includes conference coaches of the year and/or coaches participating in the National Invitational.
   r. Men's Volleyball: Selected by a vote of committee.
   s. Men's and Women's Bowling: Selected by vote of all coaches.
   t. Women's wrestling: Selected by coaches at National Invitational.

F. All-Tournament/Outstanding Athlete Award

1. All-Tournament teams are selected at most national championship events when appropriate. Size and makeup of the team is appropriate to the sport involved. The selection is usually by a vote of the media and/or participating coaches and/or tournament committee members present at the event.
2. In addition, an outstanding athlete/performer may be selected. The selection is primarily based on athletic skill and is usually by a vote of the media and/or participating coaches and/or tournament committee members present at the event.
3. Only one individual may be honored for the award.

G. NAIA-National Sports Foundation All That's Right in Sport Award
1. The National Sportsmanship Foundation and the NAIA partner annually to honor one NAIA institution, team or individual for actions in NAIA competition that are clear demonstrations of extraordinary sportsmanship. All Buffalo Funds Five Star Champions of Character Team Award Winners, as well as institutional nominations, are eligible for this special recognition. The recipient (up to two team/institutional representatives) will be provided round-trip transportation to the awards ceremony held in conjunction with the annual NSF Awards Banquet.
2. Annual nomination deadline to the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) is June 15; conference/CAC winners are forwarded to the National Office by July 15. After selection is made by the appropriate committee, the National Office official notifies the winner.

H. NAIA Coach of Character Award

The NAIA Coach of Character Award is an annual award given to a head coach of an NAIA institution. The nominee be clearly outstanding in embracing the five core values of the NAIA Champions of Character initiative, methods of teaching character through sport, and community leadership through volunteering, service or other means. The recipient will be provided round-trip transportation and accommodations to the NAIA National Convention.

I. Champions of Character Team® Award
1. The Champions of Character Team Award sponsored by Buffalo Funds is an annual award given at the end of each sport season. Each sport will award the Champions of Character Team Award to one team on a yearly basis and all NAIA teams are eligible for the team award. Teams must be nominated by their institution.
2. Annual nomination deadline to the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) is June 15; conference winners are forwarded to the National Office by July 15. After selection is made by the appropriate committee, the National Office officially notifies the national winner.
3. Award winners will be selected based upon their documented display of exemplary character and sportsmanship on the field, on campus, and in the community. Specifically, fulfillment of the five core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership will be taken into consideration.

J. Athletics Director of the Year
1. Each affiliated conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) may nominate one athletics administrator based on accomplishments during the previous year. Nominee must be active as an athletics director at a member institution for a minimum of five years. Method of selection is determined by the conference.

2. Conference/CAC nomination is due to the National Office by July 15. After one national recipient is selected by the NAIA-ADA Awards Committee, the National Office officially notifies the winner. Nominations must be accompanied by:
    a. A complete resume; and
    b. A maximum of three letters of recommendation from the following: the candidates' president/chancellor, conference commissioner, and a colleague within the conference.
3. Certificates are provided by the NAIA National Office for the conference/CAC recipients and are paid for by the NAIA-ADA. The national award recipient is provided an appropriate plaque at the NAIA-ADA expense. The recipient will be recognized at the annual awards banquet held in conjunction with the NAIA National Convention.

K. Charles Morris Administrator of the Year Award
1. The award was initiated in memory and honor of past Associate Executive Director Charles Morris. The award will annually recognize a Conference and National Administrator of the Year. The intent is to consider members who are administrators in all phases of NAIA athletic programs (e.g. faculty athletics representatives, eligibility chairs, presidents, commissioners, sports chairs, etc.) on college campuses and/or administrators of our conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) organizations. Athletics directors are not to be considered for this award because they are eligible for the Athletics Director of the Year Award.
2. Annual nomination deadline to the conference/CAC is June 15; conference winners are forwarded to the National Office by July 15. After selection by the National Administrative Council Awards Committee, the National Office officially notifies the national winner.
3. Nomination packet to include:
    a. Nomination form;
    b. Summary of preceding years' conference/CAC, national service honors and achievement;
    c. Summary of preceding years' accomplishments; and
    d. Specific letters of recommendation
        1) President/Chancellor (if affiliated with an institution)
        2) Conference commissioner
        3) Colleagues in the conference or CAC
4. The national award recipient will be presented with a certificate and recognized at an annual function in conjunction with the NAIA National Convention.

L. Wally Schwartz Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year Award
1. The Faculty Athletics Representatives Association initiated the award to honor the late Wally Schwartz, former NAIA vice-president of Legislative Services. The award annually recognizes a conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) and national Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year.
2. Who may qualify:
    a. Nominee must be active as a faculty athletics representative in a member institution or conference/CAC; and
    b. Nominee must have a minimum of five years service as a faculty athletics representative and continue to be associated with their institution and/or conference/CAC

3. Annual nomination deadline to the conference/CAC is June 15; conference winners are forwarded to the National Office by July 15. After selection is made by the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, the National Office officially notifies the national winner.
4. Nomination packet to include:
    a. Summary of previous years' service, honors, achievements and office held at the conference/CAC or national level;
    b. Summary of previous years' accomplishments;
    c. Current photo; and
    d. Specific letters of recommendation
        1) President/chancellor (if affiliated with an institution)
        2) Conference commissioner
        3) Colleagues in the conference/CAC
5. The national award recipient will be presented with a certificate and recognized at an annual function in conjunction with the NAIA National Convention.

M. Larry Lady Officiating Award
1. The Larry Lady Officiating Award is given to an official of any sport recognized by the NAIA and is in honor of Larry Lady, current NAIA supervisor of officials for basketball, baseball and football and long-time NAIA supporter and administrator.
2. Award Criteria:
    a. Must have officiated, judged, started or umpired an NAIA national championship or event at any time during his/her career.
    b. The nominee does not have to be actively officiating at the time of the nomination to be considered.
    c. The nominee must have at least 10 years of collegiate officiating service in the sport of nomination.
3. Nomination packet to include:
    a. The nomination form; and
    b. Three letters of recommendation
        1) One letter must be from a coach of the sport of nomination; and
        2) One letter must be from a Coordinator of Officials in the sport of nomination.
4. Larry Lady Officiating Award candidates nominated and not selected will be considered for a second time. If not elected in a two-year period, the candidate cannot be considered for one year, at which time new nominating material may be submitted from the nominator to the committee. A candidate may only be considered a total of four times.
5. Nominations may be submitted to the NAIA National Office at any time during the year; however, the annual nomination deadline to the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) is June 15; conference winners are forwarded to the National Office by July 15. After selection by the appropriate committee, the National Office officially notifies the national winner.

N. Dr. Leroy Walker Character Award
1. This award was created to honor the late Dr. LeRoy Walker, a former president of the NAIA and president emeritus of the United States Olympic Committee.
2. The nominee must be a representative of an NAIA institution as a current student-athlete with at least a junior academic status at the nominating institution at the time of nomination. The nominee must be outstanding in academic achievement (GPA of 3.0 or higher), campus leadership, community leadership, embracing the five core

character values of the NAIA Champions of Character initiative, athletic achievement and future ambition.
3. Annual nomination deadline to the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) is June 15; conference winners are forwarded to the National Office by July 15. After selection by the appropriate committee, the National Office officially notifies the national winner.
4. The recipient will receive a $1,000 cash award to the institutional scholarship fund of the recipient's choice. Also, the recipient will receive a specially engraved plaque/revere bowl as a permanent memento of the award. The recipient will be provided round-trip transportation and accommodations to the annual NAIA National Convention.

O. A.O. Duer Scholarship Award presented by Daktronics
1. Named in honor of the NAIA's former executive secretary who served the Association for 26 years, this award has been annually presented since 1967 to a male and female junior student-athlete in any sport who has excelled in scholarship, character and citizenship.
2. To be eligible, a student-athlete must have an overall GPA of at least 3.75 (on a 4.00 scale) and must have attained junior standing academically.
3. Nominations are submitted by an institution's faculty athletics representative to the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) by June 15. Conference/CAC forwards one male and one female student-athlete nominee to the National Office by July 15. After selection is made by the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, the National Office officially notifies the national winners.
4. Each affiliated conference/CAC may nominate one student-athlete for consideration by the Awards Committee of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives which selects the national winner.
5. A $1,000 cash award to the one male and one female national winner is presented to the winner's institution and an appropriate award is presented to the honorees.

P. Emil S. Liston Award presented by Daktronics
1. Named in honor of the NAIA's first executive secretary and the prime mover behind the men's basketball tournament, this award has been presented annually since 1950 to one junior men's and women's basketball player who has shown high athletic and scholastic achievement.
2. To be eligible, a student-athlete must have an overall GPA of at least 3.50 (on a 4.00 scale) and must have attained junior standing academically.
3. Nominations are submitted by an institution's faculty athletics representative to the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) by June 15. Conference/CAC forwards one male and one female student-athlete nominee to the National Office by July 15. After selection is made by the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, the National Office officially notifies the national winners.
4. Each affiliated conference/CAC may nominate one student-athlete for consideration by the Awards Committee of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives which selects the national winner.
5. A $1,000 cash award to the one male and one female national winner is presented to the winner's institution and an appropriate award is presented to the honorees.

Q. Clarence "Ike" Pearson Award

1. The award commemorates the life and work of Clarence "Ike" Pearson, who served as the chief of statistical services for the men's basketball tournament for 29 consecutive years prior to his death in November 1976.
2. This award is annually presented to a member of the NAIA Sports Information Directors Association (NAIA-SIDA) who has made outstanding contributions to her/his institution, and to the NAIA at both the affiliated conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) and national level. Special consideration will be given to involvement in the NAIA-SIDA and NAIA championship events.
3. Nominees must be a member of the NAIA-SIDA for five full years.
4. Nominations may be submitted by a chief executive officer, athletics director, conference chair, conference/CAC commissioner/president, conference information director or sports information director. A sports information director also may nominate an NAIA SIDA member from any other affiliated conference or conference.
5. There is no limit on the number of nominations from a conference/CAC
6. Nominees who are not selected in a given year shall continue to be nominees for five succeeding years with updates to their file. Nominations need not be resubmitted. Previous winners of the award are not eligible for nomination again.
7. Annual nomination deadline to the National Office is June 15. After selection by the Ike Pearson Award Committee, the National Office officially notifies the national winner. Nominations must include:
    a. Completed and signed nomination form;
    b. Support letter from the nominee's director of athletics;
    c. Support letter from the nominee's chief executive officer or vice president;
    d. Support letters from the nominee's colleagues and members of the media; and
    e. A copy of the nominee's resume.
8. The Ike Pearson Award Committee consists of past recipients of the award and chaired by the most immediate past winner who is still a member of the NAIA SIDA. The selection committee votes via email ballot.
9. The presentation of the Ike Pearson Award, an engraved plaque, is made at the NAIA-SIDA awards event in conjunction with the annual CoSIDA convention.
10. Previous winners of the award are not eligible for nomination again.

R. Al Ortolani Student Athletic Trainer Scholarship
1. Nominee must have attained junior standing academically at a member institution employing a full-time NATA-certified athletic trainer.
2. The applicant must have worked as a student trainer for a period of at least one year at the college level.
3. The applicant must be enrolled in a program leading to a bachelor's degree.
4. The applicant must have a GPA of 3.00 or above in his/her major field.
5. Annual nomination deadline to the National Office is by July 15. After selection is made by the appropriate committee, the National Office officially notifies the national winner.
6. A scholarship of $500 will be awarded to the winner for his/her senior year.

S. Athletic Trainer of the Year
1. Nominee must be a member in good standing in the NAIA Athletic Trainers Association and the National Athletic Trainers Association as a Certified Athletic Trainer.
2. Nominee is employed current by an NAIA institution as an athletic trainer.

3. Nominee has distinguished themself as a model of the profession of athletic training in personal conduct and professional allied health service to athletes.
4. Nominee is nominated by a Certified Athletic Trainer in good standing in the NAIA-ATA and the NATA, or the nominee's athletics director.
5. Nominee has not received this award in the past three years.
6. Annual nomination deadline to the National Office is by July 15. After selection by the appropriate committee, the National Office officially notifies the national winner.
7. The national award recipient will be presented with a certificate and recognized at an annual function in conjunction with the NAIA National Convention.

T. Distinguished Alumni Award
1. This award is made periodically by the NAIA to former students who have been involved in intercollegiate athletics at member institutions. It is designed to honor individuals who have achieved national or international distinction characterized by universal humanitarian endeavors and civic concern.
2. Nominees must have attained outstanding achievement in their chosen fields, but not necessarily in athletics.
3. Any member institution may submit nominations for the award to the NAIA President/Chief Executive Officer.

U. Awards of Merit
1. Awards of Merit are presented by the Association to those persons who have served the NAIA and/or intercollegiate athletics in an exemplary fashion.
2. Examples of persons qualifying for the Award of Merit are: members of advisory committees who render outstanding service; conference chair, conference eligibility chair, conference information directors or coaches association presidents who performed their duties with distinction and skill; and others whose service to the NAIA is exceptional.

V. Approved Individual Awards
1. Individual awards based on athletic, scholastic or service recognition, may be recommended to the Hall of Fame and Honors Committee by member institutions, coaches associations, conferences, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) or standing committees for review.
2. All awards associated with the NAIA must be reviewed by the Hall of Fame and Honors Committee and approved by the National Administrative Council.
3. Only approved NAIA awards may be distributed at all national championship events.

W. Gary Spitler Award
1. Any person who submits four or more entries in the NAIA-SIDA Publications Awards Contests will be eligible, provided they meet the criteria set forth for the Publications Contest.
2. Minimum entry of four publications into NAIA-SIDA Publications Contest required.
3. Points are awarded based on the rank of each guide in its respective contest using a one to 10 scale. Scale is to be used for each contest regardless of number of places awarded.
4. The top four scores are used to calculate total score for award.
5. One point is awarded for any of the top four contests that also received Best Cover in respective category.
6. In the event of a tie after compiling the top four scores, the next highest entry will be used. If still tied, the sixth entries are considered and the procedure will continue until

entries have run out. If still tied, the publications chair will break the tie with input from the publications contest committee.

X. Sports Information Director of the Year
   1. This award is presented annually to a full- or part-time sports information director or a part-time coach/sports information director, who represents an institution or conference, and who has made key contributions to their institution, their conference or the association during a single academic year.
   2. Nominations may be submitted by an institution or conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions).
   3. Completed nomination form, current photo and at least one, but no more than three, support letters from the conference/CAC commissioner or the nominee's institution must be submitted.
   4. Annual nomination deadline to the conference/CAC is June 15; conference winners are forwarded to the National Office by July 15. After selection is made by the appropriate committee, the National Office officially notifies the national winner.
   5. The national award recipient will be presented with a certificate and recognized at an annual function in conjunction with the NAIA-SIDA meeting and the NAIA National Convention.

XXVII — EMERGING SPORTS

A. Definitions
   1. Emerging Sport: Any sport in which:
      a. 15 or more active NAIA member institutions declare intent to sponsor as a varsity intercollegiate sport (as defined by NAIA bylaws).
   2. NAIA Invitational Sport: A sport recognized by the NAIA in which:
      a. 25 or more institutions declare intent to participate in postseason competition;
      b. The National Administrative Council has approved the sport's request for Invitational Sport status; and
      c. The sport does not meet the requirements for NAIA championship competition.
   3. NAIA Championship Sport: A sport recognized by the NAIA in which:
      a. 40 or more institutions declare intent to participate in postseason competition;
      b. The National Administrative Council has approved the sport's request for Championship Sport status; and
      c. The sport meets the requirements for NAIA championship competition.

B. Conditions for Establishing a Sport
   1. Emerging Sport:
      a. Fifteen (15) or more institutions sponsor the varsity intercollegiate sport (as defined by NAIA bylaws) and have declared intent to participate in NAIA postseason. The institution's Declaration of Intent to Participate certificate shall serve as an institution's official designation of sponsorship.
      b. An Emerging Sport shall establish a coaches association to develop policies and procedures for the emerging sport.

   2. Invitational Sport:
      a. To attain invitational sport status:
         1) Twenty-five (25) or more institutions must sponsor the varsity intercollegiate sport (as defined by NAIA bylaws) and have declared intent to participate in NAIA postseason. The institution's Declaration of Intent to

Participate certificate shall serve as an institution's official designation of sponsorship; and

2) The coaches association must submit the Request for NAIA Invitational Sport Status Form by May 1st and receive approval from the National Administrative Council.

b. In the first full academic year following the point at which a sport attains Invitational Sport status:
   1) The National Administrative Council will propose appropriate legislative changes to be voted on at the NAIA National Convention; and
   2) All institutions sponsoring an invitational sport must participate in a mandatory webinar hosted by the National Office on NAIA regulations.
c. Beginning with the second full academic year following the point at which a sport attains Invitational Sport status, the following shall apply:
   1) Institutions competing in invitational sports are subject to the Constitution, Bylaws and policies of the association. Students participating in an NAIA Invitational Sport must receive an eligible determination from the NAIA Eligibility Center and be properly certified as eligible prior to any intercollegiate competition;
   2) The NAIA will sponsor national invitational competition for the sport. The National Administrative Council must approve policies, procedures and qualification plans for all invitational events;
   3) Should an institution that declares an intent to participate in NAIA postseason un-declare after September 1st of the current academic year, the institution will be fined $2,500. The institution will also be placed on suspension the following academic year and may not compete in NAIA postseason competition in the sport; and
   4) The National Administrative Council will evaluate the first invitational competition and recommend changes for a second invitational year.
d. A sport shall remain an Invitational Sport until:
   1) At least two invitationals have occurred; and
   2) The National Administrative Council approves Championship Sport status.
e. If a sport is not approved for Championship Sport status following the second invitational, the National Administrative Council will continue to provide feedback and the sport will retain its invitational status until approved.
f. An Invitational Sport shall remain in good standing provided a minimum of 25 institutions honor their declaration of intent to participate in NAIA postseason. If fewer than 25 institutions honor their declaration of intent to participate in NAIA postseason in a given year, the sport will be considered at-risk the following academic year. If the sport does not return to good standing and remains at-risk for a second consecutive year, the sport will automatically return to Emerging Sport status. The sport will not be permitted to request Invitational Sport status for the remainder of the current academic year or the subsequent academic year.

3. Championship Sport:
   a. To attain Championship Sport status:
      1) Forty (40) or more institutions must sponsor the varsity intercollegiate sport (as defined by NAIA bylaws) and have declared intent to participate in NAIA postseason. The institution's Declaration of Intent to Participate certificate shall serve as an institution's official designation of sponsorship.
      2) The National Administrative Council has approved the sport for championship sport status.

b. In the first full academic year following the point at which a sport attains Championship Sport status, the NAIA will sponsor national championship competition for the sport. The National Administrative Council must approve policies, procedures and qualification plans for all championship events.
c. Institutions competing in Championship Sports are subject to the Constitution, Bylaws and policies of the association. Students participating in an NAIA Championship Sport must receive an eligible determination from the NAIA Eligibility Center and be properly certified as eligible prior to any intercollegiate competition.
d. A Championship Sport shall remain in good standing provided a minimum of 40 institutions honor their declaration of intent to participate in NAIA postseason. If fewer than 40 institutions honor their declaration of intent to participate in NAIA postseason in a given year, the sport will be considered at-risk the following academic year. If the sport does not return to good standing and remains at-risk for a second consecutive year, the sport will automatically return to Invitational Sport status.

COUNCIL OF FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVES

The membership has authorized the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives to initiate policies for evaluation and implementation of academic standards (Article IV, Section F, Item 1 of the NAIA Bylaws).

In carrying out its duties as charged by the membership of the Association, the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, with the approval of the National Coordinating Committee (Article IV, Section D of the NAIA Bylaws), has established the following policies.

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I — CRITERIA FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE

The Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives appoints the members of the National Eligibility Committee. (See Article VIII, Section C, Item 7a of the NAIA Bylaws.)

1. The term of a member shall be five years; a member may serve two consecutive terms. The term shall begin at the conclusion of the annual meeting during which the member is appointed.
    a. Members appointed to fill the vacancies of uncompleted terms shall fulfill the remainder of the term and may be re-appointed for two additional full terms.
2. The chair of the National Eligibility Committee shall be elected to a two-year term by its members at the annual meeting in even numbered years. There shall be no limit on the consecutive terms that a member may serve as chair.
3. Nominees for the National Eligibility Committee shall:
    a. Be a regular member of the faculty or administration of a member institution, but not assigned as a coach or athletics administrator;
    b. Have previous experience that would prepare a nominee for the duties of the committee, such as service as an affiliated conference/A.I.I. eligibility chair or its equivalent; or as a member of the National Eligibility Committee, Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, Conduct and Ethics Committee or National Coordinating Committee;
    c. Have institutional support and be willing to donate time weekly to the business of the National Eligibility Committee; and
    d. Not be a current member of the National Coordinating Committee.
4. Selection of the committee will take geographic location and gender into consideration to maintain a balance on the committee.

5. When a vacancy arises, a slate of candidates shall be determined by the National Eligibility Committee from nominations solicited from members of the CFAR, acting affiliated conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) eligibility chairs and conference faculty athletics representatives.

   A ballot of at least two, but no more than three candidates, will be submitted to the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives for its consideration.

II — ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVES

Council members shall be elected from the faculty athletics representatives present at the convention, rather than through mail ballot. It is important that council members be in attendance at council meetings to properly represent their constituents.

III — DETERMINATIONS FROM THE NAIA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

1. General — In accordance with NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section B, Item 18 and Article V, Section C, all first-time NAIA student-athletes must receive a determination of "eligible" from the NAIA Eligibility Center prior to representing their institution in competition against competitors not directly identified with the institution.
2. Reactivation — Reactivation is the process that institutions and students use to have the NAIA Eligibility Center provide an updated eligibility determination. An institution must reactivate a student when the student registered with the NAIA Eligibility Center in a previous term, and the student's educational and/or athletic experience matches a scenario from the NAIA Eligibility Center Situation Analysis for which a student must be reactivated for an updated determination.
3. Request for reviews of an eligibility determination — An NAIA member institution (faculty athletics representative, director of athletics, or athletics compliance administrator) may submit a request for a review of a determination by the NAIA Eligibility Center no more than 45 calendar days after the determination is posted to the student's PlayNAIA profile. The appropriate party(s) must complete the request for review form found on play.mynaia.org. The institution's written request must clearly and concisely specify:
   a. The specific eligibility criteria in question;
   b. The institution's rationale explaining why it believes a different determination is warranted; and
   c. Factual evidence to support the institution's recommendation.
4. Formal appeal of an eligibility determination — An NAIA member institution (faculty athletics representative, director of athletics, or athletics compliance administrator) may submit a request for a formal appeal of a determination by the NAIA Eligibility Center no more than 45 calendar days after the determination is posted to the student's PlayNAIA profile (or 30 calendar days after completion of a request for review noted above). Formal appeals must be based upon demonstrable evidence of:
   a. Misapplication of NAIA rules;
   b. The decision having been reached in a capricious or arbitrary manner; or
   c. Bias or discrimination in the decision.

   All requests for appeals must be submitted by the certifying institution's faculty athletics representative, director of athletics, or athletics compliance administrator. The appropriate party(s) must complete the request for appeal form found on play.mynaia.org and clearly and concisely state the reasons for the appeal and include all relevant supporting documentation and information. The NAIA Competitive Experience Committee is responsible for review of formal appeals related to the application of the evaluative criteria for determining a student's competitive experience. The National Eligibility Committee is responsible for the review of formal appeals related to all other eligibility criteria.
5. Exceptions
   a. Invitational Sports

Beginning in a sport's second year as an invitational sport, and thereafter, student-athletes must receive a determination of "eligible" from the NAIA Eligibility Center prior to representing an NAIA institution in an intercollegiate contest in that sport.

A student shall be exempt from the requirement of registering with the NAIA Eligibility Center and may represent an NAIA institution in competition without receiving an "eligible" determination from the NAIA Eligibility Center provided:

1) The student's eligibility for participation was certified under the applicable eligibility rules governing the sport in its first year as a recognized invitational sport;
2) The student represented an NAIA institution in an intercollegiate contest in the applicable sport's first year as a recognized invitational sport;
3) The student's institution sponsored the applicable sport as a varsity intercollegiate sport as defined by NAIA bylaws and submitted a declaration of intent noting the sport's varsity status; and
4) The student is properly certified as meeting all other NAIA eligibility requirements listed in NAIA Bylaws Article V.

An NAIA member institution may choose to forego this exception and request any student(s) participating in an invitational sport receive an evaluation from the NAIA Eligibility Center. Any such decision must be confirmed by the institution's athletics director and faculty athletics representative in writing to the NAIA Eligibility Center and the institution's conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) eligibility chair, and articulate which student(s) are to receive a determination from the NAIA Eligibility Center and in which sport(s). Should a member institution request an eligibility determination(s), the student(s) must receive an eligible determination from the NAIA Eligibility Center prior to representing the NAIA institution in an intercollegiate contest in the particular sport for which a determination was requested.

b. New NAIA Members
A student shall be exempt from the requirement of registering with the NAIA eligibility center and may represent an NAIA institution in competition without receiving an "eligible" determination from the NAIA Eligibility Center provided:

1) The student's eligibility for participation was certified under the eligibility rules of the intercollegiate athletics association in which the institution previously held membership;
2) The student represented the new NAIA member institution in an intercollegiate contest;
3) The student's institution sponsored the applicable sport as a varsity intercollegiate sport as defined by NAIA bylaws; and
4) The student is properly certified as meeting all other NAIA eligibility requirements listed in NAIA Bylaws Article V.

A new member institution may choose to forego this exception and request any student(s) receive an evaluation from the NAIA Eligibility Center. Any such decision must be confirmed by the institution's athletics director and faculty athletics representative in writing to the NAIA Eligibility Center and the institution's conference/A.I.I. eligibility chair, and articulate which student(s) are to receive a determination from the NAIA Eligibility Center and in which sport(s). Should a new member institution request an eligibility determination(s), the student(s) must receive an eligible determination from the NAIA Eligibility Center prior to representing the NAIA institution in an intercollegiate contest in the particular sport for which a determination was requested.

c. NAIA Participation prior to Fall 2011 — A student shall be exempt from the requirement of registering with the NAIA eligibility center and may represent an NAIA institution in competition without receiving an "eligible" determination from the NAIA

Eligibility Center if the student represented an NAIA member institution in an intercollegiate competition prior to the Fall 2011 academic term.

IV — EVALUATING EXCEPTIONAL RULES BASED ON LEARNING DISABILITIES

A student-athlete who fails to meet NAIA eligibility requirements may request an exceptional ruling to a standard rule based on the limitation of the major life activity of learning if the student qualified, or continues to qualify, for either or both of the following:

a. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and/or
b. A 504 plan under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In considering an exceptional ruling for a student with a learning disability, the committee should take into account a number of factors, including but not limited to:

1. The extent to which the student's failure to meet any eligibility criterion is attributable to the student's disability.
2. The student's overall academic record related to the student's high school preparation and performance, which includes the grades earned by the student; the likelihood that courses the student has taken will prepare him/her to successfully complete a planned course of study at a particular college or university; as well as the student's SAT/ACT scores, both overall composite scores and scores in specific subject areas. Demonstrated areas of improved performance through high school are significant factors in assessing a student's readiness and motivation for being a successful student-athlete.
3. Standardized test scores should be weighed to reflect the student's ability, rather than his or her disability. Although the nonstandard administration of an SAT/ACT is intended to accommodate for a particular student's learning disability, there are certain disabilities (particularly decoding disabilities) that may make achieving the necessary test score — even under a nonstandard administration — more difficult.

   Moreover, the committee shall not place undue emphasis on a student's low test scores when evidence is presented elsewhere in a student's overall academic record that suggests preparedness for freshman year as a student-athlete. Conversely, the committee shall not place undue emphasis on a student's adequate test score when evidence is presented elsewhere in the student's overall academic record that suggests a lack of preparedness.

   Finally, the committee also shall not place undue emphasis on a particular subscore when the subscore is within the student's area of disability. For example, if a student has a reading disability, the committee will not place undue emphasis on the English subscore of the ACT/SAT.
4. The assessments of school principals, guidance counselors, school psychologists and teachers as to whether a student with a learning disability is likely to succeed academically in college while participating in athletics, including any objective evidence of whether participating in athletics assists or hinders the student's academic performance.
5. Written or oral comments by the student that may reflect the level of knowledge that the student acquired in high school and may be helpful in predicting his/her preparedness to succeed in college.
6. The accommodations for students with learning disabilities actually used by the student while in high school.
7. The accommodations the member institution commits to provide for the particular student, and the extent to which the accommodations address the student's demonstrated areas of weakness and reflect the individual student's needs.

NOTE: This policy in no way restricts or prohibits any student-athlete from requesting an exceptional ruling to a standard rule under Article V, Section L of the NAIA Bylaws.

V — HOME SCHOOL WAIVER

1. A prospective student-athlete who completes a home schooling program conducted in accordance with the laws of the student's state of residence may request a home school waiver from the NAIA Home School Committee if the student fails to achieve the test scores listed in NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section C, Item 2, Note 2.
2. A student under consideration for a home school waiver must be properly registered with the NAIA Eligibility Center and have all high school transcripts, a course schedule for the student's first term of identification and all standardized test scores (ACT and/or SAT) properly submitted to the NAIA Eligibility Center.
3. In considering a home school waiver, the Home School Committee should take into account a number of factors, including but not limited to:
    a. Evidence that at home education was conducted in accordance with state laws (a signed written statement from the home school administrator verifying compliance with state education regulations and/or state compulsory attendance statutes).
    b. A home school transcript that includes course titles, course grades, signature of home school administrator, the ninth grade start date and the graduation date.
    c. An official transcript from any other high school, college or nontraditional program attended. The official copy must be sent directly to the NAIA Eligibility Center from the issuing institution.
    d. Scores from any official sitting for the SAT or ACT, including subscores. All standardized test scores must be sent directly to the NAIA Eligibility Center from the testing service.
    e. Supplemental evidence of academic achievement from scores on alternative and/or state standardized tests (e.g., New York State Regents Exam, California Achievement Test). Supplemental test scores may be evaluated in conjunction with, but shall not replace, the ACT and/or SAT.
    f. Evidence of a student's academic preparedness submitted by unrelated third parties.

    NOTE: This policy in no way restricts or prohibits an institution from requesting an exceptional ruling to a standard rule under Article V, Section L of the Bylaws.

VI — NON-COLLEGIATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. The NAIA Eligibility Center shall, for purposes of NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section B, Item 19 and Article V, Section C, Item 2, evaluate whether an institution is a non-collegiate postsecondary educational school based on all of the following requirements:
    a. The institution offers academic coursework equivalent to or above high school grade 12 curriculum in three or more subjects (math, science, social science, language, art, music, etc.) excluding physical education/sports and standardized testing preparation courses;
    b. Students admitted to the institution must have earned a secondary school diploma; and
    c. Academic coursework must be administered directly on campus or through an officially designated academic partner (locally or online).
2. Academic accreditation (or lack thereof) may be taken into consideration for the prep school and/or officially designated academic partner.
3. Confirmation that academic standards have been met shall be made available by the prep school via its public website or official printed materials.

COUNCIL FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

The membership has authorized the Council for Student-Athletes to initiate operational policies for the Champions of Character® program and conduct research and education that will benefit the health, safety and development of NAIA student-athletes (Article IV, Section G of the NAIA Bylaws).

In carrying out its duties as charged by the membership of the Association, the Council for Student-Athletes, with the approval of the National Coordinating Committee (Article IV, Section D of the NAIA Bylaws), has established the following policies.

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I — COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Per Article IX, Section C of the NAIA Constitution, the Council for Student-Athletes shall consist of:

A. One representative from the Council of Presidents;
B. One representative from the Conference Commissioners Association;
C. One representative from the Athletic Directors Association;
D. Two representatives from the Athletic Trainers Association;
E. One representative from the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives;
F. One representative from the Sports Information Directors Association;
G. Four members of NAIA coaches associations;
H. The four elected officers of the Association of Student-Athletes;
I. One member of the Champions of Character Advisory Committee;
J. Seven at-large representatives from the Association of Student-Athletes; and
K. Two at-large positions designated for females and/or minorities.

Per Article VIII, Section A of the NAIA Constitution, the members of the Council for Student-Athletes must be qualified by experience or title and be committed to engaging in ongoing research, education and collaboration that will benefit the health, safety and development of the student-athlete. The members of the constituency groups that comprise the council shall determine whether a nominee is qualified to represent the group.

II — ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Vacancies shall be filled by holding a regular election or by appointment by the appropriate council. Should the vacancy be filled by appointment, the appointee(s) shall serve for the remainder of the term, at which time the nomination/election process outlined in Article VIII of the Constitution shall apply.

Council terms begin on July 1st and run through June 30th of the applicable year in which the member's term end.

Terms for officers from the Association of Student-Athletes (ASA) shall coincide with the individual's term as an officer of the ASA. At-large representatives from the ASA shall serve one-year terms, and individuals may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The initial council selection shall be staggered in order to ensure adequate council retention each year.

Representatives from NAIA coaches associations shall serve a single two-year term, and four different sports (two men's sports and two women's sports) shall be represented at all times.

Women's Sport Rotation	Years	Men's Sport Rotation	Years
Basketball	2015-16	Soccer	2015-16
Cross Country	2015-16 / 2016-17	Swimming & Diving	2015-16 / 2016-17
Golf	2016-17 / 2017-18	Tennis	2016-17 / 2017-18
Soccer	2017-18 / 2018-19	Track & Field	2017-18 / 2018-19
Softball	2018-19 / 2019-20	Wrestling	2018-19 / 2019-20
Swimming & Diving	2019-20 / 2020-21	Baseball	2019-20 / 2020-21
Tennis	2020-21 / 2021-22	Basketball	2020-21 / 2021-22
Track & Field	2021-22 / 2022-23	Cross Country	2021-22 / 2022-23
Volleyball	2022-23 / 2023-24	Football	2022-23 / 2023-24
		Golf	2023-24 / 2024-25

III – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of the NAIA Council for Student-Athletes is to engage in ongoing research, education and collaboration that will benefit the health, safety and development of the student-athlete.

Through incorporation of the ideals of Champions of Character©, the Council will be committed to ensuring NAIA student-athletes train and compete in a safe and healthy environment. The outcomes could include the development and delivery of services, programming, rules recommendations assist NAIA student-athletes achieve success.

The CSA supervises associations and committees which deal with issues of student-athlete health, safety and development. The council reviews and acts on all recommendations from those committees within its area of responsibility. The roles and responsibilities of each council member includes:

1. Initiating operational policies for the Champions of Character program, and conducting research and education that will benefit the health, safety and development of NAIA student-athletes.

2. Providing administrative supervision of the Champions of Character Advisory Committee, Athletic Trainers Association, Association of Student-Athletes and those committees assigned to it which deal with issues of student-athlete health, safety and development.

3. Reviewing and acting on all recommendations from those committees within its area of responsibility.

4. Conducting nominations and elections in accordance with the Constitution when openings on the Council arise.

IV – TRANSGENDER AND NON-BINARY STUDENT-ATHLETE COMPETITION

The NAIA does not regulate transgender or non-binary student-athlete participation in sex-separated sports during the regular season. A transgender or non-binary student-athlete may participate in sex-separated NAIA approved postseason under the following conditions:

1. Any transgender or non-binary student-athlete who is not taking hormone treatment related to gender transition may participate in sex-separated sports activities or mixed team competition in accordance with his or her assigned birth gender.
2. Any transgender student-athlete taking medically prescribed hormone treatment related to gender transition may participate in sex-separated competition under the following conditions:
    a. A male-to-female (MTF) transgender student-athlete who is taking medically prescribed hormone treatment related to gender transition may participate on a men's team at any time, but must complete one year of hormone treatment related to gender transition before competing on a women's team.
    b. A female-to-male (FTM) transgender student-athlete who is taking medically prescribed testosterone related to gender transition may not participate on a women's team after beginning hormone treatment. Should the student-athlete be selected for drug testing at a national championship and test positive for a banned hormone substance, the student-athlete would be required to submit a medical exemption request to the NAIA National Drug Testing and Education Committee.