

**BYLAWS  
OF THE  
MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE**

**MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE  
BYLAWS  
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# MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE

## BYLAWS

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### Article 1. GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

#### 1.1 APPLICATION OF NCAA LEGISLATION

The Missouri Valley Conference (MVC), as a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), is bound by NCAA rules and regulations for regular-season and postseason competition unless Conference rules are more restrictive. Further, these rules and regulations govern all intercollegiate athletic activities sponsored by Conference member institutions and their respective student-athletes and teams.

1.1.1 **New Legislation.** New legislation shall not be applied retroactively, except that currently enrolled student-athletes shall receive the benefit of any new rules and regulations that work to their advantage.

#### 1.2 NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT PROGRAM

The Missouri Valley Conference annually subscribes to the voluntary National Letter of Intent program of the Collegiate Commissioners Association. Any prospective student-athlete who signs a Letter of Intent shall be bound by the regulations in effect at the time of such signing. All Conference member institutions shall adhere to the regulations and procedures of the program. (See MVC Bylaw 6.1.2 for additional information.)

### Article 2. GOVERNANCE OF THE CONFERENCE

#### 2.1 CONFERENCE COMMITTEES' AUTHORITY

The Joint Committee (see MVC Constitution 4.5) shall be the operating body for the administration of the Missouri Valley Conference, under the delegated authority of the Presidents Council (see MVC Constitution 4.2). Any Conference committee may propose actions by the Conference, and such proposals shall immediately be referred to the appropriate body for recommendations. Joint Committee recommendations which require amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws must be ratified by the Presidents Council as proposed, or referred back to the Joint Committee. It is recognized the Presidents Council bears the ultimate responsibility for governance of the Conference.

#### 2.2 STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing committees have been established to assume specific responsibilities and perform particular duties with regard to Conference operations. Legislation concerning standing committee membership, terms of office, voting representation and reporting lines can be found in MVC Constitution 4.8. The following committees shall function as standing

committees of the Conference:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Committee | Gender Equity & Ethnic Diversity Committee |
| Championships Committee                    | Legislative Review Committee               |
| Conference Relations Committee             | Long-Range Planning Committee              |
| Constitution and Bylaws Committee          | Marketing & Media Committee                |
| Finance Committee                          | Officiating Committee                      |
|  | Student-Athlete Advisory Committee         |

2.2.1 **Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Committee.** This committee receives information provided by the Commissioner relative to alleged violations of the rules and regulations of the Conference and the NCAA by member institutions. Additionally, the Compliance Committee shall serve as the body of review to ensure compliance with all criteria for sports sponsorship. Accordingly, the committee will determine whether or not violations have occurred and will recommend action to be taken.

2.2.2.1 The committee is composed of three (3) Faculty Athletics Representatives and two (2) athletics administrators.

2.2.2.1.1 In the event the institution of a member of the Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Committee is involved in an eligibility issue or alleged violation, the member shall be removed from the committee with respect to the case in question, and the remaining members of the committee shall appoint an interim member for that case only.

2.2.2.2 The committee reports to the Joint Committee.

2.2.2.3 Annually, this committee will request data from institutional athletics departments.

2.2.2 **Championships Committee.** This committee is responsible for the direct supervision of the Conference postseason men's and women's basketball tournaments, as well as all other Conference championships.

2.2.1.1 The committee is composed of five (5) athletics administrators (e.g., Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator and/or Women's Program Representative), with at least one (1) member a Senior Woman Administrator.

2.2.1.2 The committee reports to the Athletics Administration Committee. (See MVC Constitution 4.8.4 for general standing committee voting lines requirements.)

2.2.3 **Conference Relations Committee.** This Committee shall advise the Conference and the Commissioner on matters related to internal relations and communication, awards programs and related projects.

2.2.3.1 The committee is composed of two (2) Faculty Athletics Representatives and three (3) athletics administrators with at least one Senior Woman Administrator.

2.2.3.2 The committee reports to the Joint Committee.

2.2.4 **Constitution and Bylaws Committee.** This committee is responsible for studying and updating the Constitution and Bylaws. Upon request of a Faculty Athletics Representative, the committee shall prepare wording of the proposed measure and present it, together with any recommendations the committee may care to make.

2.2.4.1 The committee is composed of three (3) Faculty Athletics Representatives and one (1) athletics administrator.

2.2.4.2 The committee reports to the Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee.

2.2.5 **Finance Committee.** This committee is responsible for reporting to the Joint Committee its recommendations for an annual Conference operating budget, with a statement of the assessments necessary to meet the budget. Additionally, the committee advises the Commissioner and the Joint Committee on the status, maintenance and investment of reserves in Conference financial accounts.

2.2.5.1 The committee is composed of two (2) Faculty Athletics Representatives, one (1) Director of Athletics and one (1) Senior Woman Administrator.

2.2.5.2 The committee reports to the Joint Committee.

2.2.5.3 The committee shall report annually to the Joint Committee on the audit of Conference financial accounts.

2.2.5.4 The committee shall meet with the Executive Committee to recommend salary increases for the Commissioner and Conference office staff to the Joint Committee.

2.2.6 **Gender Equity & Ethnic Diversity Committee.** This committee is responsible for studying gender equity & ethnic diversity issues within the Conference and making recommendations regarding these issues.

2.2.6.1 The committee is composed of two (2) Faculty Athletics

Representatives, two (2) Directors of Athletics, and two (2) Senior Woman Administrators.

2.2.6.2 The committee reports to the Presidents Council and the Joint Committee.

2.2.7 **Legislative Review Committee.** This committee is responsible for reviewing proposed NCAA legislation and developing recommended conference positions.

2.2.7.1 The committee is composed of the MVC representatives to the NCAA Management Council and Cabinets, chair of the MVC Compliance Committee, chair of the Faculty Representatives, and a representative of the MVC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

2.2.7.2 The committee reports to the Joint Committee and seeks input from the Presidents Council on a semi-annual basis.

2.2.8 **Long-Range Planning Committee.** This committee shall identify and examine trends and problems, recommend goals and suggest courses of action to take in pursuing its long-range goals.

2.2.8.1 The committee is composed of two (2) Faculty Athletics Representatives, two (2) Directors of Athletics and two (2) Senior Woman Administrators.

2.2.8.2 The committee reports to the Joint Committee.

2.2.9 **Marketing & Media Committee.** This committee advises the Conference on matters related to Conference media rights, policies and operations.

2.2.9.1 The committee is composed of five (5) athletics administrators (i.e., Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator and/or Women's Program Representative), with at least one (1) member a Senior Woman Administrator and at least one (1) member a Director of Athletics.

2.2.9.2 The committee reports to the Athletics Administration Committee.

2.2.10 **Officiating Committee.** This committee advises the Conference on matters related to officiating policies and procedures.

2.2.10.1 The committee is composed of five (5) athletics administrators (i.e., Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator and/or Women's Program Representative) and consultants as deemed necessary by the Chair on a sport by sport basis. The consultants may include the coach of the Conference President's institution, the Coordinator of Officials, and an officials' representative.

2.2.10.2 The committee reports to the Athletics Administration Committee.

**2.2.11 Sportsmanship Committee. This committee advises the Conference on matters related to sportsmanship.**

**2.2.11.1 The committee is composed of four (4) athletics administrators (i.e., Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator and/or Women's Program Representative), with at least one (1) member a Senior Woman Administrator and at least one (1) member a Director of Athletics, and one (1) Faculty Athletics Representative.**

**2.2.11.2 The committee reports to the Joint Committee.**

2.2.12 **Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.** This committee provides a forum for student-athletes to express ideas, concerns and opinions relating to NCAA and Conference legislation and other issues affecting Conference-wide aspects of student-athlete welfare.

2.2.12.1 The committee is composed of two (2) student-athletes from each institution, one male and one female, and two (2) ex-officio members, the Conference representative to the NCAA SAAC and the chair of the Conference Relations Committee.

2.2.12.2 The committee serves in an advisory capacity and reports to the Joint Committee.

**2.3 RECOGNITION OF SERVICES**

The Chief Executive Officers, Faculty Athletics Representatives and athletics administrators (i.e., Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator and/or Women's Program Representative) shall receive a Conference watch after serving in the Conference for five (5) years. Furthermore, the Conference Relations Committee may select other individuals to receive a watch, as circumstances warrant.

**Article 3. ADMINISTRATION OF THE CONFERENCE**

**3.1 COMMISSIONER**

The Conference shall employ an officer known as the "Commissioner."

**3.1.1 Terms of Employment.** The Commissioner is appointed according to terms of employment set by the Presidents Council. The Commissioner shall be employed on a 12-month contract unless otherwise provided by agreement, with tenure in office continuing for a period such as the Presidents Council may determine. At the Spring meeting one (1) year in advance of the expiration of the Commissioner's contract, the Joint Committee shall evaluate and determine whether or not the contract shall be recommended for renewal to the Presidents Council. The Presidents Council has the authority to approve and to renew the employment of the Commissioner.

**3.1.2 Responsibilities of the Commissioner.** The responsibilities of the Commissioner include, but are not limited to:

3.1.2.1 To serve as chief administrative officer of the Conference.

3.1.2.2 To serve as the principal enforcement officer of Conference rules, regulations and agreements.

3.1.2.3 To serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Conference.

3.1.2.4 To serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee, the Joint Committee, the Athletics Administration Committee, and of all standing and ad hoc committees and coaches' committees, unless otherwise specified.

3.1.2.5 To promote the general welfare of the Conference at all times, studying the problems of the Conference and offering advice and guidance to the members in the solution of those problems.

3.1.2.6 To conduct, through the press, radio, television, periodicals, meetings, and the general service of this office, an on-going educational program looking toward the development of scholarship, sportsmanship and understanding of the values of competitive athletics, and to

exert all reasonable effort to acquaint the public with the ethics and high ideals which motivate the Conference in its conduct of intercollegiate athletics.

- 3.1.2.7 To interpret and enforce NCAA and Conference rules and regulations, as well as to interpret and rule upon Eligibility Regulations and Directors' Agreement, sending copies of the Commissioner's interpretations and rulings to the Faculty Athletics Representatives and Athletics Administrators.
- 3.1.2.8 To act as the liaison between the Conference and representatives of the media, taking responsibility for the administration of Conference policies involving television, radio and related programs.
- 3.1.2.9 To schedule and supervise all Conference championships.
- 3.1.2.10 To represent the Conference in external affairs, maintaining a liaison with, and assuming a leadership role in, organizations which promote the continued growth and development of men's and women's athletics.
- 3.1.2.11 To have signature authority, on behalf of the Conference, to execute any contracts as might be necessary in the conduct of business affairs.
- 3.1.2.12 To perform such duties as the Presidents Council, Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee, the Athletics Administration Committee or the Joint Committee may direct.
- 3.1.2.13 To exercise all powers necessary for the effective performance of the Commissioner's duties.

**3.1.3 Administrative Duties.** The administrative duties of the Commissioner include, but are not limited to:

- 3.1.3.1 To issue the call for meetings and, in concert with the Executive Committee, to call special meetings of the President's Council, Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee, the Athletics Administration Committee and the

Joint Committee.

- 3.1.3.2 To provide for the keeping of the minutes of the Presidents Council, Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee, the Athletics Administration Committee and the Joint Committee.
  - 3.1.3.3 To maintain and distribute historical and statistical records to Conference members for all Conference athletic competition.
  - 3.1.3.4 To train, select and assign the game officials for basketball and such other intercollegiate sports as may be ordered by the Athletics Administration Committee.
  - 3.1.3.5 To maintain a compilation of precedents and interpretations of NCAA and Conference rules and regulations.
  - 3.1.3.6 To assist the Conference coaches' committees with the preparation of regular season schedules.
  - 3.1.3.7 To arrange for the meetings of the Presidents Council, Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee, Joint Committee, Athletics Administration Committee, and for such meetings of the coaches or other employees of the athletics administration as may be authorized by the Athletics Administrators, and to be responsible for the distribution of all minutes setting forth actions by any of these groups.
  - 3.1.3.8 To prepare and to distribute the reporting forms required by Conference rules and regulations.
  - 3.1.3.9 To prepare the annual budget of the Conference Office and related fiscal data at the direction of the Finance Committee.
  - 3.1.3.10 To employ and to supervise the functions of all staff.
  - 3.1.3.11 To annually evaluate staff with input from the membership.
  - 3.1.3.12 To report at least once a year to the Presidents Council concerning Conference matters.
- 3.1.4 **Performance Appraisal.** The Commissioner shall be evaluated annually by the Presidents Council. The Commissioner's evaluation form shall be mailed to Joint Committee members in mid-March so that the results of the evaluation can be reviewed at the spring meetings.
- 3.1.5 **Acting Commissioner.** In case of vacancy prior to the expiration of the



term of office of the Commissioner, a special meeting of the Presidents Council shall be called within four (4) calendar weeks to consider the appointment of an acting Commissioner.

**3.2 STAFF SUPPORT**

The Conference may employ assistants to be chosen by the Commissioner with the approval of the Joint Committee.

**3.3 MEETINGS**

**3.3.1 Regular Meetings.** Two (2) regular meetings shall be held each year.

The Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee, the Athletics Administration Committee and the Joint Committee will meet at each regular meeting.

**3.3.1.1 Fall Meeting**

The fall meeting is held in St. Louis, Missouri. The date of the fall meeting will be established no later than the annual spring meeting.

**3.3.1.2 Spring Meeting**

The spring meeting will be held in May or early June. The date and site will be established no later than the annual fall meeting.

**3.3.1.3 Expenses**

Expenses for Presidents, Faculty Athletics Representatives and athletics administrators traveling to regularly scheduled meetings and meetings involving the total membership called by the President or Commissioner shall be borne by the institutions.

**3.3.2 Faculty Athletics Representatives Meeting.** An additional Faculty Athletics Representatives meeting may be held annually. The Commissioner will call for such a meeting no less than thirty (30) days before its commencement at the request of the Faculty Athletics Representatives.

**3.3.3 Presidents Council Meeting.** The Presidents Council shall meet during the month of June in St. Louis.

**3.3.4 Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Joint Committee may be held at the call of the President, the Commissioner or three (3) or more institutions. A special meeting of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee or the Athletics Administration Committee may be called if three (3) or more members request a meeting.

3.3.4.1 **Expenses.** Travel expenses to special Conference meetings called by the President or Commissioner shall be borne by the Conference. Reimbursement is limited to round-trip, coach-fare transportation. All expenses for food and lodging for institutional representatives shall be borne by the institutions themselves.

3.3.5 **Agendas.** All items for consideration in regular or special meetings shall be submitted by members of the Conference to the Commissioner for inclusion on the agenda for such meetings. The Commissioner shall have the responsibility for preparing and distributing the agenda 10 days before the meeting and may place additional items on the agenda.

3.3.6 **Minutes.** The minutes of all meetings shall be recorded and permanently retained in the Conference Office. The Commissioner shall distribute copies of all minutes to the President, Faculty Athletics Representative, and Athletics Administrators (i.e., Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator and/or Women's Program Representative) of each member institution.

3.3.7 **Procedure at Meetings.** Meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, unless otherwise specified.

### **3.4 FINANCES**

3.4.1 **Administration of Conference Funds.** Conference funds shall be administered by the Commissioner of the Conference, under the supervision of the Finance Committee. Funds allocated for the general operation of the Conference Office shall be derived from member institution assessments and other designated revenues.

3.4.2 **Annual Operating Budget.** The Commissioner shall submit to the Finance Committee, no later than the annual meeting of the Conference at the site of the NCAA Convention, a tentative Conference Office operating budget for the subsequent fiscal year. At the annual spring meeting of the Conference, the Finance Committee shall recommend to the Joint Committee an expenditures budget for the subsequent fiscal year, beginning July 1. Approval of the budget by a majority vote of the Joint Committee, and subsequently by the Presidents Council, shall constitute the Commissioner's authority to make expenditures in accordance with the budget for the fiscal year specified.

3.4.2.1 Recommendations for salary increases for the Conference Office staff are made by the Commissioner to the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee for their consideration. Final approval is the responsibility of the Joint Committee.

- 3.4.3 **Assessments.** At the annual spring meeting, the Finance Committee shall recommend to the Joint Committee that member institutions may be assessed an amount to allow the Commissioner to meet budgeted expenditures and to enable the General Revenue Fund to reach such a level as required by Conference policy. The Commissioner shall request member institutions to pay the assessments by November 1 of each year, if an assessment is deemed necessary by the Finance Committee and approved by the Joint Committee. An institution's assessment can be deducted from the year-end distribution, if desired. Failure to make timely payment of the Conference assessment shall result in the administration of a one (1) percent (1%) penalty per month until payment is made.
- 3.4.4 **Reserve Fund.** The Reserve Fund is defined as current assets less current liabilities or "net current assets."
- 3.4.5 **Required Reserve.** At the end of each fiscal year, the reserve fund less the anticipated distribution to Conference member institutions for that fiscal year must be equal to or greater than 75% of the total approved budgeted operating expenses for the subsequent fiscal year.

If the reserve fund is not at its required level, the Conference member institutions are required to share equally in providing the funds necessary to restore the reserve fund to its required level.

#### **Article 4. ELIGIBILITY**

##### **4.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY**

Eligibility requirements for student-athletes of member institutions shall conform to NCAA rules and regulations. Student-athlete eligibility and participation rules for regular-season and Conference championships shall be the rules and regulations of the NCAA, as set forth in Bylaw 14, in the NCAA Manual.

- 4.1.1 **Student-Athlete Eligibility Certification.** Conference institutions shall submit to the Commissioner, each academic year, and not later than one (1) week prior to its first competitive event in a given sport, an MVC Eligibility Report Form of those student-athletes eligible to practice and/or compete under the rules of the Conference. A supplementary MVC Eligibility Report Form shall be filed when the playing season extends into a second semester or term. Such a MVC Eligibility Report Form shall show the names of any individuals who are to be dropped from the preceding certification of eligibility, together with names of any individuals who are to be added as being certified eligible.
- 4.1.2 **Falsification or Omission of Information.** Student-athletes or prospective student-athletes, who upon inquiry by the Commissioner, intentionally falsify or deliberately fail to provide complete and accurate information to the best of their knowledge shall forfeit their eligibility for

intercollegiate athletics as may be prescribed by the Conference.

**4.2 INTRA-CONFERENCE TRANSFER**

A student-athlete who has accepted or received an athletic scholarship award at a member institution of the MVC or who has participated in any intercollegiate contest as a member of that institution's team, shall be allowed to transfer to another member institution of the MVC with the following stipulations:

**4.2.1 Participation in Student-Athlete's Sport.** The student-athlete may not participate in the particular sport for a two (2)-year period from the official date of transfer.

**4.2.2 Participation in Any Sport.** The student-athlete may not participate in any other MVC sport for a one (1)-year period from the official date of transfer.

**4.2.3 4-2-4 Transfer.** The intra-conference transfer rule shall apply to a student-athlete who transfers from a Conference member institution to a two-year college and then to a certifying Conference member institution.

**4.2.4 Waiver of Intra-Conference Transfer Rule.** Extenuating circumstances may warrant consideration of a waiver of the intra-conference transfer rule. Such circumstances might include:

**4.2.4.1** A student-athlete who is not receiving athletically related aid at one (1) institution but who can transfer to another institution and receive athletically related aid.

**4.2.4.2** A student-athlete whose athletically related financial aid is eliminated at one (1) institution and who wishes to attend another Conference member institution and receive athletically related financial aid.

**4.2.5 Waiver Procedure.** The following procedures shall be employed by member institutions' Directors of Athletics regarding student-athlete intra-conference transfer requests:

**4.2.5.1** All NCAA rules regarding transfer remain in force (i.e. permission to contact, one-year exception restrictions).

**4.2.5.2** If a student-athlete wishes to pursue an intra-conference transfer, the Director of Athletics, or designee, at the initial institution must inform the student-athlete in writing of the condition or transfer including application or waiver of MVC and/or NCAA transfer rules and, if the intra-conference transfer is not supported, whether the initial institution wishes to have enforced a 2-year or 1-year residency requirement. A copy of the written notice shall be provided to the Conference Office.

4.2.6 **Appeal Process.** If a student-athlete is denied permission to transfer within the league, the first step in the appeal process shall be an institutional hearing per NCAA rules. If the appeal is denied by the institution, the student-athlete may appeal to the Conference.

4.2.6.1 **Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee's Role.** The Commissioner shall convene the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee to review and approve or deny the request for waiver of the intra-Conference transfer rule. In cases where a member of the AEC Committee is a representative of either institution involved in the student-athlete's transfer, the member shall be replaced by an appropriate representative of an institution not involved, at the discretion of the remaining members of the AEC Committee. The decision of the AEC Committee may be appealed to the Joint Committee.

4.2.6.2 **Joint Committee's Role.** An appeal of the decision of the AEC Committee shall be considered by the Joint Committee. The decision of the Joint Committee shall be final.

#### 4.3 **HARDSHIP WAIVERS**

In accordance with NCAA rules, a Conference member may petition for a waiver by utilizing the "Hardship Request Form" (Appendix I). The completed form, along with formal documentation from a physician of the circumstances, must be sent by or through the Faculty Representative to the Conference Office for consideration by the Commissioner and/or the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee. It is recommended the waiver be requested prior to the next season of competition.

#### 4.4 **RULINGS OF THE COMMISSIONER**

Rulings with respect to eligibility shall be submitted by the Commissioner to the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee, with reference to precedents and supportive reasoning, for approval or disapproval as governing precedent. Such review by the AEC Committee shall be reported in the annual report of the AEC Committee for final approval by the Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee.

#### 4.5 **ELIGIBILITY APPEALS**

A Faculty Athletics Representative may appeal an eligibility ruling of the Commissioner to the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee.

4.5.1 **Procedure.** The procedure for eligibility appeals is as follows:

4.5.1.1 The appeal must be made in writing and mailed via certified

mail, return receipt requested, within five (5) working days of the Commissioner's ruling. Each member of the AEC Committee shall receive a written copy of the Faculty Athletics Representative's appeal, as well as a written report of the Commissioner's ruling, in the same mailing.

- 4.5.1.2 Each Committee member shall submit a written report to the Chair within five (5) working days following receipt of the Faculty Athletics Representative's written appeal and the Commissioner's ruling.
- 4.5.1.3 Upon receipt of the written reports of each Committee member, the Chair shall adopt a written report with majority approval of the Committee members for submission to the Commissioner with the findings and recommendations.
- 4.5.1.4 A copy of the written report shall be mailed to each Faculty Athletics Representative in addition to the student-athlete in question and shall be considered approved by each Faculty Athletics Representative (excluding the Faculty Athletics Representative filing the appeal) unless a written objection by certified mail, return receipt requested, is received by the Commissioner within five (5) working days of receipt of the report.
- 4.5.1.5 Unless the institution requests an in-person appeal or the student-athlete whose eligibility is in question requests a hearing, the Committee report prepared by the Chair and approved by the Faculty Athletics Representatives is final and the institution and/or student-athlete is considered to have exhausted all remedies.

4.5.2 **In-Person Appeal.** Institutions requesting in-person eligibility appeals shall be required to pay the expenses of the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee.

4.5.3 **Hearing Procedures.** The student-athlete whose eligibility is in question shall receive by certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy of the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee Report and therein be informed of the right to a hearing, if so desired, to present evidence supporting the student-athlete's side of the rules in question. The student-athlete may appear in person or be represented to present testimony, affidavits or any other type of evidence deemed relevant and important. The procedure for such a hearing is as follows:

- 4.5.3.1 The student-athlete must notify the Commissioner by certified

mail, return receipt requested, within five (5) working days following receipt of the approved Committee Report that hearing is desired. (The written report shall clearly indicate that the student-athlete has a right to a hearing.)

4.5.3.2 When the Commissioner receives notification by the student-athlete that a hearing is desired, a hearing will be scheduled by the Commissioner within five (5) working days at a site to be determined by the Commissioner. Such a hearing shall represent the final step in the appeal process, and no other appeals shall be considered.

4.5.3.3 A student-athlete is considered eligible until the hearing and written recommendations and finding by the Commissioner and/or AEC Committee (as set forth above) are determined, and a written report stating the causes of ineligibility is furnished the student-athlete. Said ineligibility takes effect upon the deliverance of the written report to the student-athlete by certified mail, return receipt requested.

4.5.4 **Standard Penalty for Competing While Ineligible.** A member institution shall declare a student-athlete ineligible for the same number of contests in which the student-athlete competed while ineligible under the rules of the NCAA or Conference. Such penalty shall take effect in the first season in which the student-athlete becomes eligible following the ineligible competition. The institution may appeal to the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee for a reduction of the penalty. Further, the institution may appeal the decision of the AEC Committee to the Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee. The Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee's decision shall be final and binding upon the institution.

4.5.4.1 **Forfeiture of Contest.** Athletics events in which an ineligible athlete participates shall be forfeited by the institution using the ineligible competitor. Exceptions may be permitted upon appeal to the Joint Committee.

## **Article 5. RECRUITING**

The Conference rules and regulations regarding the recruitment of prospective student-athletes shall be the rules and regulations of the NCAA, as set forth in Bylaw 13 in the NCAA Manual. Official interpretations shall be circulated to the athletics administrators (i.e., Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator and/or Women's Program Representative) and head coaches of member institutions. Such interpretations shall take effect immediately.

## Article 6. FINANCIAL AID TO STUDENT-ATHLETES

### 6.1 ATHLETICALLY RELATED AID

Financial aid offered to student-athletes by member institutions shall conform to rules and regulations of the NCAA, as set forth in Bylaw 15 in the NCAA Manual.

6.1.1 **Basic Cost of Education Specification.** Each member institution shall file with the Commissioner, for examination by all member institutions, a statement stipulating the basic costs of attending that institution for a period of one (1) year, and for a summer session, namely, the cost of board, room, books, and tuition and/or fees.

6.1.2 **National Letter of Intent Program.** Member institutions shall subscribe to the National Letter of Intent Program and abide by its rules and regulations. Any student-athlete who signs a National Letter of Intent is bound by all its penalty provisions, as described in the National Letter of Intent.

6.1.2.1 If a student-athlete, parent or legal guardian, and the Director of Athletics mutually agree to a release from a signed National Letter of Intent, such release will be properly executed by filing a Release Agreement form with the Conference, and the student-athlete is bound by all provisions of the Release Agreement as required by the Letter.

6.1.3 **Awarding Procedures.** Procedures for awarding financial aid to student-athletes shall conform to NCAA rules and regulations as follows:

6.1.3.1 Any athletic grant-in-aid on behalf of a member institution shall be made only on a standardized form which shall provide for an endorsement by an officer for the awarding agency and by Athletic Director or designated representative of an institution.

6.1.3.2 An exact copy of each grant shall be filed with the Commissioner.

6.1.4 **Reporting Procedure.** A member institution's Director of Athletics shall compile, on a form approved by the NCAA, a list of the squad members in each sport on the first day of outside competition and shall indicate the kinds and amounts of financial aid each individual is receiving. A copy of the form shall be available for inspection by an authorized representative of another member institution and the NCAA. A supplementary form may be filed to add names of persons not initially on the squad or to indicate a change of status. A student-athlete's name must be on the official institutional form to qualify the student to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition.



## Article 7. CONFERENCE SPORTS ADMINISTRATION

### 7.1 RECOGNIZED SPORTS

The Constitution, Bylaws and other legislation enacted by the Conference for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics, unless otherwise specified herein, shall apply to all sports recognized by the Conference and considered by member institutions to be varsity intercollegiate sports and used by the institution to satisfy the membership requirements of the NCAA.

7.1.1 **Definition.** To be recognized the sport must be officially accorded varsity status by the institution's Chief Executive Officer or committee responsible for intercollegiate athletics policy and administered by the department of intercollegiate athletics. Further, the eligibility of student-athletes must be reviewed, and these athletes must be certified as participants and receive the institution's official varsity awards.

### 7.2 PLAYING RULES

The playing rules of the NCAA shall be followed in all sports for which such rules are published, except as they may be modified by the Athletics Administration Committee.

7.2.1 **Coaches' Proposals.** Proposals for rules interpretations and modifications recommended by the Conference coaches shall be subject to the approval of the Athletics Administration Committee.

7.2.1.1 Coaches for each Conference championship sport shall meet annually to review rules and procedures and to submit recommendations in writing to the Conference Office for review by the Athletics Administration Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

7.2.2 **Student-Athlete Eligibility Certification.** An NCAA eligibility form must be submitted by each member institution to the Commissioner in order for participating student-athletes to represent their institutions in Conference competition.

7.2.3 **Student-Athlete Medical Fitness Determination.** The final determination of whether an athlete is medically able to participate or compete shall be that of a physician, and that decision shall determine whether the athlete may practice or compete.

### 7.3 UNSPORTSLIKE CONDUCT

It shall be the responsibility of each member institution to ensure that all individuals employed by or directly associated with the athletics program of that institution, including its student-athletes, conduct themselves in a sportslike manner when representing their university, especially at intercollegiate athletic contests.

- 7.3.1 **Specific Acts.** Acts of unsportslike conduct shall include but not be limited to the following:
  - 7.3.1.1 Striking or physically abusing an official, opposing coach or player.
  - 7.3.1.2 Intentionally inciting participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
  - 7.3.1.3 Using obscene gestures, profane or unduly provocative language or action toward officials, opponents or spectators.
  - 7.3.1.4 Engaging in negative recruiting by making unduly derogatory statements about another university's personnel or athletic programs to a prospective student-athlete, parent, high school coach or other persons interested in the prospective student-athlete.
  - 7.3.1.5 Being publicly and unduly critical, in the opinion of the Commissioner, of the Conference and its personnel or another member institution or its personnel.
  - 7.3.1.6 Acting in an unsportslike manner not specifically proscribed.
- 7.3.2 **Penalties.** Unsportslike conduct shall subject the individual to disciplinary action. The member institution with which the offending individual is associated may also be subject to disciplinary action if it is found that institution's policies, actions or failure to act substantially contributed to the individual's misconduct. Further, such conduct shall render the individual and possibly the institution subject to private or public reprimand or suspension from additional contest(s) as the Commissioner deems appropriate in the event of flagrant violation or an additional offense.
- 7.3.3 **Penalty Procedure.** Whenever the Commissioner concludes, after a reasonable investigation, that unsportslike conduct has occurred, the Commissioner shall impose such penalty, as deemed appropriate, by first giving notice to the individual or institution. Taking the circumstances into consideration, the Commissioner will then allow the involved institution a reasonable amount of time to take action of its own. Institution action may be adopted as Conference action.
- 7.3.4 **Appeals Process.** An individual who or institution which feels that the penalty is inappropriate, either because the violation did not occur or because the penalty is excessive, may appeal to the Executive Committee by informing the Commissioner of the desire to appeal within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the penalty imposed by the

Commissioner.

7.3.5 **Appeals Hearings.** The Executive Committee shall conduct a prompt hearing affording the individual or institution the opportunity to be heard.

The Executive Committee may reaffirm, set aside, reduce or increase the penalty as it deems appropriate, giving the individual or institution written notice of its decision and its reasons. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final and not subject to further appeal.

7.3.5.1 Should the athletic department staff member(s) or student-athlete(s) involved be affiliated with one (1) of the three (3) institutions represented on the Executive Committee, or should a member of the Executive Committee be unavailable, a replacement shall be appointed by the President of the Conference. If the President's institution is involved, the Past-President shall make the replacement appointment.

7.3.6 **Public Criticism of Officials.** Comments made in any public forum by Missouri Valley Conference coaching staff members, or any athletics staff members, which are critical of any game official's performance, character, appearance or abilities (whether the officials are assigned by Missouri Valley Conference or another Conference) will result in automatic suspension of a minimum of one (1) game by the Conference. Following the report of such an occurrence, the Commissioner will investigate the incident, provide for a hearing with the offending individual and render a judgment regarding the matter. The suspension will be served at the next available scheduled contest (excluding exhibition games) and the duration of the suspension shall be at the discretion of the Commissioner.

#### 7.4 PRACTICE AND PLAYING-SEASON SCHEDULES

NCAA regulations shall govern Conference institutions in the scheduling of practice periods and games. (See NCAA Bylaw 17 in the NCAA Manual.)

7.4.1 **Regulated Regular-Season Competition.** Participation in Conference-regulated, regular-season competition is mandatory for member institutions sponsoring a varsity team in a given sport. (See MVC Bylaw 7.1.1 for definition of recognized sports.)

#### 7.5 COACHES

The numbers and utilization of coaches shall be governed by the NCAA rules. (See NCAA Bylaw 11 in the NCAA Manual.)

7.5.1 **Coaches' Committees.** The head coaches of each sport constitute a coaches' committee.

7.5.2.1 **Officers.** The Chair of each coaches' committee shall be the

head coach from the institution of the Conference's President. In cases where a sport is not sponsored by the institution of the President or Vice President, the chair shall rotate to the next institution, alphabetically, and that head coach shall hold the position until normal rotation is again established.

- 7.5.2.2 **Meetings.** Regular meetings shall be held annually. Minutes of all coaches' committee meetings shall be made available promptly to the Athletics Administration Committee, and all actions are subject to their approval.

## **7.6 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Conference will sponsor championships in any sport in which half or more member institutions sponsor an NCAA Division I varsity team.

- 7.6.1 **Institutional Team Eligibility.** Conference championships are limited to individuals and varsity teams identified by the member institution as meeting NCAA Division I eligibility and sports sponsorship requirements.

- 7.6.1.1 A member institution which is ineligible for the NCAA championship in a sport where the championship is determined by a postseason tournament or meet may not participate in the Conference championship for that sport.

- 7.6.2 **Mandatory Participation.** If a member institution sponsors a sport for which the Conference conducts a championship or regular season competition, the member institution must participate. Institutions must compete with a least the minimum number of athletes the NCAA requires to count as an event. A waiver of this policy, due to extenuating circumstances or in cases where participation may cause extreme hardship for student-athletes due to final exams, may be requested by an institution through an appeal by the Faculty Athletics Representative to the Compliance Committee. This committee shall have the authority to waive mandatory participation in a given championship. All non-participation must be approved in advance.

- 7.6.3 **Management.** Championship meets of the Conference shall be managed by Championship Committees which include the athletics administrator, a coaches' representative and a representative of the Commissioner's Office.

- 7.6.4 **Sites.** Member institutions shall be assigned as championship sites, facilities permitting, as defined by sports procedures, upon recommendation by the Commissioner and upon approval of the Athletics Administration Committee.

- 7.6.5 **Financial Regulations.** Conference championships shall be conducted

in accordance with financial regulations approved by the Athletics Administration Committee.

- 7.6.6 **Non-Championship Champion.** When a Conference championship is not held in a team sport recognized for Conference competition, a Conference champion may be designated on the basis of the best percentage of games won and lost in competition with other member schools; tie games are to be counted as half-game won and half-game lost for purposes of such competition.

## **7.7 INSTITUTIONAL ATHLETICS CONTRACTS**

All athletic contracts entered into by institutions of the Conference shall contain clauses making them binding only insofar as they are not in conflict with existing or future legislation: by state legislatures, by member institutions' governing boards or by the Conference.

- 7.7.1 **Logos/Trademarks.** The Conference shall have the right to utilize any and all institutional marks (logos, school nicknames, abbreviations, etc.) of its members and affiliates. This includes any and all media (TV, radio, publications, merchandise, logo CD-Rom, etc.)

All institutional marks used, beginning with each academic year (defined as August of each year), shall be approved by an institution's licensing/marketing contact. This approval process shall take place in August – before an academic year begins. An approved logo shall be considered an 'approved' logo until the Conference is notified of any changes to an institutional mark. If no changes are made to an institutional mark, the Conference need not go through an annual approval process.

The Conference shall have the rights to use school marks in conjunction with any championship event, whether the marks are used in conjunction with other participating members or in a dual usage (conference logo and a single institutional mark).

For non-championship specific use, the Conference shall have the right to use school marks in conjunction with other members. However, any dual usage (conference logo and a single institutional mark) on items used for general public sale must be approved by an institution's licensing/marketing contact. This approval process must be done in a timely fashion.

Any royalties earned through LRG (Licensing Resource Group), CLC (Collegiate Licensing Company), any other licensing agency or through self-promotion, for any conference paraphernalia will be paid to the Conference Office in full. Merchandise profits are part of the Conference's general fund, which is distributed to membership.

Institutional use of conference marks used for paraphernalia produced for

general public sale, must meet prior approval of the Conference Office. Companies producing the paraphernalia must be licensed with the institution in question. The Conference shall not charge a royalty of the institution, however, non-LRG licensed companies might be charged a nominal fee for use of the Conference mark.

## 7.8 TELEVISION POLICIES

Conference policies relative to the televising of the Missouri Valley Conference championships or of regular season competition involving member institutions shall be under the jurisdiction of the Joint Committee. Such policies as may be adopted by the Joint Committee shall be considered as regulations guiding the conduct of Conference television operations.

- 7.8.1 **Marketing & Media Committee.** The Marketing & Media Committee shall be a standing committee of the Conference, having ongoing responsibility for the research, investigation and study of any and all television policy and operational matters. Recommendations from the Marketing & Media Committee will be placed on the next regular business meeting agenda for consideration by the Athletics Administration Committee. (See MVC Bylaw 2.2.9 for additional information regarding the committee.)
- 7.8.2 **Conference Television Contract.** The Conference may employ a television syndicator. In that event, the contract with the syndicator will be legally binding with regard to the rights and responsibilities of the syndicator, the Missouri Valley Conference and its member institutions. Conference members will not enter into agreements that conflict with the contractual rights of the syndicator and/or existing Conference policies without the approval of the Commissioner.
- 7.8.3 **Negotiation of Conference Television Contract.** The Commissioner or the Conference Office shall handle all negotiations with television entities or third parties for the Conference's television package, including all regional and national network telecasts, and all regional and national cable telecasts. The Commissioner is empowered to negotiate said contracts, subject to approval of the Joint Committee.
- 7.8.4 **Conference Television Rights.**
- 7.8.4.1 **Ownership Rights.** The Conference owns the television rights to all regular-season contests, including home competition versus non-conference teams, and MVC championship competition in all Conference-sponsored sports.
- 7.8.4.2 **Selection of Men's Basketball Games for Conference Television Package.** Each institution shall submit to the Conference Office its entire schedule of basketball games, including any in-season tournament contests and non-conference games, to be considered for inclusion in the Conference's television package. The Conference has the

television rights to all said men's/women's basketball games until October 1 of that season.

By October 1 of each year, unless otherwise mutually agreed to in writing, the Conference shall identify the schedule of games to be telecast as part of the Conference television package. Following the selection of regular-season games for the Conference television package, all other games become the property of the individual Conference members for inclusion in institutional productions within the local markets or Area of Dominant Influence. (ADI shall be defined as an exclusive geographic area consisting of commercial stations and satellite stations reported in combination with them which receive a preponderance of total viewing hours in those areas which are adjacent to the home-market stations).

7.8.3.1 **Wildcard Games.** The Conference may establish certain dates for "wildcard" television broadcast of men's and women's basketball games with selection of specific games for broadcast determined during the season.

7.8.4.3 **Institutional Men's /Women's Basketball Television Packages.** Following the selection of games by the Conference for inclusion in the Conference television package, a member institution may produce any remaining regular-season games on its men's/women's basketball schedule for distribution within the local television market, or Area of Dominant Influence (ADI).

7.8.4.3.1 **Syndication of Institutionally Produced Telecasts.** A Conference member institution may not syndicate a regular-season basketball telecast without the express written consent of the Conference.

7.8.4.3.2 **Visiting Team Telecasts Back to Home Market.** A visiting institution may arrange to televise a Conference basketball game, in the event the Conference is not televising the event, back to its local market or ADI without being assessed a rights fee by the home team. Only reasonable operational assessments, such as charges for electricians, telephone line installation or other line installation or other production facilities which may be necessary, may be made. All production expenses for the televising of games will be borne by the visiting institution or its production agency,

unless other arrangements are made in advance.

- 7.8.4.4 **Men's/Women's Basketball Conference Tournament.** The Conference shall have the right to produce and distribute all Conference men's/women's basketball tournament games. The Conference tournament games shall not be subject to a blackout in the ADI of the tournament site unless approved by the Conference. Tournament games that are not selected for airing on the Conference's television package may not be produced for distribution by any member institution's television carrier without express written consent of the Conference.
- 7.8.4.5 **Other Conference Championship Sports.** The Conference has the right to produce and distribute any other championship competition, as may be determined by the Joint Committee. Institutions wishing to produce and distribute telecasts of regular- season competition in other Conference sports must gain approval from the Conference.
- 7.8.4.6 **Disputes Involving Telecast Rights.** Any disputes involving telecast rights and potential conflicts with the Conference television package shall be resolved by the Commissioner.
- 7.8.5 **Responsibility for Clearance of Conference Television Package.** It shall be the responsibility of the Conference to arrange for the clearance or distribution of regular-season and MVC championship competition that is included in the Conference television package. However, each Conference member institution must be responsible for assisting the Conference in clearance efforts in the respective market, if necessary.
- 7.8.6 **Non-Conference Game Contract Requirement Regarding Telecast Rights.** Conference institutions must include a clause in non-conference men's/women's basketball home game contracts which states that "games included in this agreement may be televised only with the express written consent of the Missouri Valley Conference." Exceptions to this non-conference game contract requirement must be approved in advance by the Commissioner.
- 7.8.7 **Television Time-out Policy.** All televised Missouri Valley Conference games shall contain four (4) forced television time-outs per half. The length of television time-outs for games produced for the Conference television package shall be established by the Conference. Television time-outs will be called at the first deadball opportunity after the clock has passed 16:00, 12:00, 8:00 and 4:00 in each half. In the event the



deadball opportunity is a shooting foul, the time-out will be taken only if the player makes a final free throw. The specific television time-out policy for each Conference television package telecast shall be generated by the Conference office and distributed by the host sports information director. (See MVC Bylaw 7.9.3 for the Radio Time-out Policy.)

7.8.8.1 All institutionally-produced televised games (whether the production is by the home or visiting team) shall contain four (4) forced television time-outs per half. The length of the television time-outs shall be 105 seconds in length and will be called at times and in the manner as referenced in Section 7.8.7.

7.8.8 **Starting-Time Delay Option.** There shall be an automatic five-minute delay in the starting time of a basketball game hosted by a Conference member which is to be telecast live by a commercial television station, provided that the television station requests the delay at least 48 hours in advance of game time.

7.8.9 **Schedule Changes.** The Conference shall determine start times for all games which are televised as part of the Conference television package. For games which are institutionally produced for television, the host institution shall control the start time, but a reasonable request to adjust the start time from the visiting institution and/or television station may be considered by the home institution. Start times, however, cannot be changed less than 48 hours before game time. Schedule changes for games televised on local institutional packages must be agreed upon by the Directors of Athletics of competing institutions. When an impasse is reached between Directors of Athletics over scheduling matters related to television, or for any other reason, the Commissioner shall be called upon to resolve the dispute.

7.8.10 **Television Sponsors.** Each Conference institution shall provide the Conference with thirty (30) regular-season men's/women's basketball game tickets at no expense to the Conference and of the best quality possible, by October 15 each year. In addition, each institution shall provide the Conference with one (1) full-page advertisement in its regular-season, printed game program for listing television sponsors for use in negotiations with potential television advertisers. In addition, the Conference shall also receive such Conference men's/women's tournament game tickets as agreed upon in advance of said event and one tournament game program advertisement for listing television advertiser.

7.8.10.1 The Conference must provide each member institution with a list of advertisers receiving the aforementioned tickets and the specific seats assigned to each advertiser.

7.8.11 **Television Revenues.** All gross revenues paid to the Conference through the Conference's syndicator and/or derived from the telecast of national network (CBS, ABC, NBC) games or on national or regional cable (ESPN, Fox Sports Net) and any other additional revenues derived as a result of the Conference's authorized television package and/or marketing shall be subject to the Conference revenue distribution policies.

7.8.12 **Institutional Travel Relief.** The Conference may provide economic relief to any institution when it is necessary to change travel plans in order to accommodate network television. Such relief shall be subtracted from the network television rights fee. The Conference Office will make the final determination as to the relief necessary.

7.8.13 **Videostreaming.** *All men's and women's basketball games plus 25 selected contests per institution for other sports shall be videostreamed via the Internet, subject to existing broadcast contracts.*

## 7.9 RADIO POLICIES

The Athletics Administration Committee shall be empowered to resolve administrative questions regarding radio rights related to Conference intercollegiate athletics competition.

7.9.1 **Visiting Radio Rights.** The host institution shall not grant broadcasting rights to a station from the locale of the visiting team unless that station is approved by the Director of Athletics of the visiting institution.

7.9.2 **Broadcast Facilities.** Each MVC home institution shall be required to provide broadcast facilities which include one (1) telephone line for transmission in the sports of men's and women's basketball, baseball, men's and women's soccer, softball and volleyball.

7.9.3 **Radio Time-out Policy.** For MVC games in which there is commercial radio, there shall be four (4) forced media time-outs per half. The length of the time-outs shall be 105 seconds each, and shall be called at times and in the manner referenced in MVC Bylaw 7.8.7. For games played in MVC arenas involving non-conference visitors, the media time-out policy for non-televised games shall be in effect only if the visiting team agrees to the policy in advance of the game. If there is no radio or television at a conference game, no media timeouts can be taken. Each team is entitled to four full timeouts (75 seconds) and two 30-second timeouts. (See MVC Bylaw 7.8.7 for the Television Time-out Policy.)

## 7.10 DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCE RECEIPTS

Policies related to the distribution of Conference receipts are as follows:

7.10.1 **Distributable Funds.** Distributable funds is defined as net current

assets, as calculated from the audited financial statements, less the "Required Reserve" (see MVC Bylaw 3.4.5) at the end of the fiscal year. This amount may be fully or partially distributed to the Conference member institutions based on liquidity of funds and as determined by the Finance Committee.

7.10.2 **Conference Distribution Formula.** The Conference distribution shall be

based on the following formula:

7.10.2.1 Determine the amount of distributable funds.

7.10.2.2 Allocate all NCAA and NIT tournament revenues to Conference member institutions in accordance with sections 7.10.3 and 7.10.4.

7.10.2.3 Subtract the total allocation of NCAA and NIT tournament revenue from the distributable funds.

7.10.2.4 Determine the total amount of money to be distributed to the Conference member institutions for the fiscal year.

7.10.2.5 Determine the difference between the total amount to be distributed and the amount calculated in Bylaw 7.10.2.3. Allocate the difference equally among all Conference member institutions.

7.10.3 **NCAA Tournament Receipts.** Funds derived from participation by Conference institutions in the NCAA Tournament shall be allocated in accordance with the Conference's revenue-sharing formula, which shall be reviewed annually by the Missouri Valley Conference Presidents Council. The current policy is as follows:

Conference institutions which participate in the NCAA Tournament shall be entitled to 50% of a "unit share" of the NCAA's "basketball pool" distribution for travel to each tournament site, regardless of whether the team plays one or two games at that site in the year of participation. After this portion of the unit share is deducted for the participating team, the remainder of the NCAA's "basketball pool" distribution for that year shall be divided equally among all Conference member institutions. (A "unit share" shall be defined each year as the amount equal to the total NCAA "basketball pool" payout to the Missouri Valley Conference in that given year, divided by the total number of "participation units" the Missouri Valley Conference has earned over the previous six (6)-year period. A participation unit is earned for each game in which a Conference member institution has competed in the NCAA Tournament over the six (6)-year period.)

7.10.4 **National Invitation Tournament Receipts.** A Conference institution which participates in the preseason or postseason National Invitation

Tournament shall receive 33% of the total revenue distributed to the Conference as a result of revenue earned by that institution. The remaining 67% of the distributed receipts shall be divided equally among the remaining member institutions.

- 7.10.5 **Television Receipts.** All funds generated from the operation of the Conference television package will be first subject to the revenue sharing split contained in the Conference's contract with the syndicator. The net Conference funds generated from rights fees paid for games aired on regional or national cable systems or to an over-the-air network, or from advertising sold on the telecasts, will be distributed in accordance with Conference policies.
- 7.10.6 **Major Network Appearances.** Any funds generated from the appearance of a Conference member institution in a regionally or nationally televised game on a major over-the-air network (ABC, CBS, NBC) will be first subject to the terms of the syndicator's contract. The net Conference funds, generated from major network appearances will be distributed in accordance with Conference policies.

## Article 8. ADMINISTRATION OF CONFERENCE COMPETITION

### 8.1 COMPETITION SITE

Policies related to competition at Conference sites are as follows:

- 8.1.1 **Institutional Control.** Intercollegiate games in which all participating teams represent members of the Conference shall be played on grounds either owned by or, during the conduct of such games, under the immediate control of one (1) or more such institutions. All such intercollegiate games shall be played under college management.
  - 8.1.1.1 The term "game" shall include every type of athletic contest now or hereafter included by competing Conference institutions among intercollegiate sports. The term "grounds" shall include every kind of place suitable for playing any game as defined above.
  - 8.1.1.2 The term "home grounds" shall mean the grounds on which one (1) of the competitors customarily and regularly plays its home games.
- 8.1.2 **Prohibited Items.** Conference institutions shall attempt to discourage spectators from using or bringing into the stadium, buildings or areas of a specifically scheduled event, items which may interfere with the progress of the scheduled event or are a distraction to the patrons. (See individual sports regulations for specific item prohibitions.)

8.1.3 **Lightning Safety.** Conference events shall be conducted using NCAA lightning safety guidelines, at a minimum.

8.2 **SCOUTING**

It shall be permissible for a member institution to pay the costs of exchanging films for scouting purposes in any Conference sport. (See NCAA Bylaw 11)

8.2.1 **All Other Conference Sports.** A member institution shall not pay or permit the payment of expenses incurred by its athletic department staff members or representatives, including professional scouting services, to scout its opponents or individuals who represent its opponents in any sport except volleyball.

8.3 **OFFICIALS**

Approved officials shall be subject to such rules and regulations governing their operations and working conditions as may be set up by the Commissioner from time to time.

8.3.1 **Appointment of Officials.** Officials shall be appointed by the Commissioner from the lists of approved officials. No publicity is to be given to assignments of officials, and names of officials are not to be announced at games. Further, no person shall be retained or approved to act as an official in any game, event or meet if other employment or connections are such that they might affect the efficiency or quality of officiating.

8.3.2 **Officiating Costs.** The fees and rate of expenses for basketball officials shall be established by the Athletics Administration Committee. Officiating costs for all Missouri Valley Conference games shall be shared equally by all Conference members, and institutions should continue to pay all officiating expenses for non-conference games.

8.3.3 **Payment of Officials.** Institutions shall be responsible for paying officials' game fees, per diem and travel expenses, as instructed by the Conference Office. The MVC will supply payment data. The host institution shall be responsible for payment of officials at the site on the day of the competition when possible or by mail within five business days. When paid on site, checks are to be delivered to the officials prior to the game, preferably by the officiating observer.

8.3.3.1 The Conference Office will compute the cost of officials for Conference games during the season and will make adjustments in the distribution to equalize costs for those games in men's and women's basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball.

8.3.4 **Evaluation of Officials.** The Commissioner or a designee is expected to personally observe as many officials in action as possible.

- 8.3.5 **Changes to Officials List.** Additions or deletions from the officials lists are made only by the Commissioner or his designee. In revising these lists and in making game assignments, the Commissioner shall give due consideration to the opinions and ratings of the coaches.

#### 8.4 TICKETS

Conference member institutions may establish ticket policies for all sports contests which they host in on-campus, or institutionally administered facilities in which home games are played.

- 8.4.1 **Regular Season Competition.** Conference institutions may establish the price of admission for all regular season athletic events held under its supervision. All decisions related to ticket pricing for students, faculty, staff or the general public for regular season competition shall be made by each institution.

- 8.4.2 **Visiting Team Ticket Allotment.** Tickets may be allotted to visiting Conference teams as determined for each sport by the Athletic Administration Committee. The awarding of complimentary tickets or admissions for visiting team parties shall conform to NCAA rules and regulations.

- 8.4.2.1 In men's and women's basketball and volleyball, a total of twenty-five (25) complimentary tickets shall be allotted to visiting Conference teams. These seats are to be located immediately behind the visiting team's bench.

- 8.4.2.2 Upon written request made at least two weeks in advance, Directors of Athletics shall be able to request an additional 25 complimentary tickets located elsewhere in the arena.

- 8.4.2.3 Two (2) complimentary tickets and one (1) parking pass shall be provided to each participating official by the host institution.

- 8.4.2.4 In all Conference sports other than men's and women's basketball and volleyball, no complimentary tickets shall be allotted to visiting teams unless mutually agreed to in advance by the Directors of Athletics of competing teams.

- 8.4.3 **Conference Championship Competition.** The Conference Office in conjunction with the host institution (if applicable) shall determine the price of admission for all Missouri Valley Conference championships or tournament competitions.

#### 8.5 Finances.

- 8.5.1 **Travel Party Reimbursement.** If an institution does not staff a televised MVC championship with the sports information director or approved

designated representative, the institution shall be reimbursed for one less person in the team travel party.

## **Article 9. AWARDS**

### **9.1 STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARDS**

Permissible expenses and awards to student-athletes are governed by NCAA legislation. (See NCAA Bylaw 16 in the NCAA Manual.)

**9.1.1 Presidents Council Academic Excellence Award.** The Presidents Council Academic Excellence Award is given annually to recognize the elite academic achievements of graduating senior student-athletes. Nomination forms and plaques are provided by the Conference office each spring. Criteria used to select award recipients are as follows:

- 9.1.1.1 Student-athletes must have achieved a minimum 3.8 cumulative grade-point average.
- 9.1.1.2 Student-athletes must have participated in athletics a minimum of two years including the senior year. However, it is not necessary for student-athlete to be letter winner.
- 9.1.1.3 Student-athletes must be within 18 hours of graduation at the time the award is to be received.

**9.1.2 Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award.** The Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award is given annually to recognize outstanding academic achievement of student-athletes. Nomination forms and certificates are provided by the Conference office each spring. Criteria used to select award recipients are as follows:

- 9.1.2.1 Student-athletes must have achieved a 3.5 grade-point average in each of the previous two semesters.
- 9.1.2.2 Student-athletes must have achieved a minimum 3.2 cumulative grade-point average.
- 9.1.2.3 Student-athletes must have participated in athletics, but not necessarily as a letter winner.
- 9.1.2.4 Freshmen are not eligible.

**9.1.3 Conference Honor Roll.** The Conference Honor Roll is a compilation of all student-athletes who have competed in sports in which the

Conference sponsors a championship and who have attained a specified grade-point average. Nomination forms are provided by the Conference office each semester. The criteria used to select award recipients is as follows:

- 9.1.3.1 Student-athletes must have achieved a minimum semester grade-point average of 3.2.
- 9.1.3.2 Student-athletes must have been members of an athletics team during the term. Participation is not required.
- 9.1.3.3 Student-athletes must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours during the term. (6/95)
- 9.1.4 **Scholar-Athlete Team.** The Conference shall annually recognize outstanding scholar-athletes in each championship sport through the selection of scholar-athlete teams. Nomination and selection procedures shall be determined by the Conference sports information staff in consultation with coaches groups and with approval of the Athletics Administration Committee.
- 9.1.5 **All-Conference Award.** All-Conference selections, team and individual awards shall be recognized as per sports procedures.

**9.2 POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Conference shall award annually two (2), \$10,000 postgraduate scholarships, one (1) each to a male and female scholar-athlete. Recipients must demonstrate outstanding achievements in athletics, scholarship and citizenship.

- 9.2.1 **Eligibility.** To be eligible for a Conference Postgraduate Scholarship the following criteria must be met:
  - 9.2.1.1 The recipients must have achieved a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00.
  - 9.2.1.2 The recipients must have participated with distinction in an MVC championship sport for at least two (2) years at the nominating institution.
  - 9.2.1.3 The recipients must graduate from their institution(s) within 15 months following selection at the spring meetings of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee.
  - 9.2.1.4 The recipients must be accepted for postgraduate studies at an institution of higher learning at the time of receipt of the scholarship.
  - 9.2.1.5 The recipients must have completed eligibility for participation



in intercollegiate athletics in the academic year in which nominated.

9.2.2 **Selection Procedures.** The following procedure shall be employed to select scholarship recipients:

9.2.2.1 The Faculty Athletics Representatives shall submit a complete Missouri Valley Conference Postgraduate Nomination Form for each nominee by the deadline established by the Conference office.

9.2.2.2 The Conference Office shall, in advance of the spring meetings, distribute to the members of the Conference Relations Committee copies of the nomination materials of all nominees to confirm eligibility and to assure completeness of information. (6/94)

9.2.2.3 All properly submitted nominations shall be submitted to the Faculty Athletics Representatives at the spring meetings. (6/94)

9.2.2.4 The award recipients shall be determined by a vote of the Faculty Athletics Representatives, with separate balloting for male and female nominees.

9.2.2.5 To vote, Faculty Athletics Representatives shall rank all nominees in descending order. Point values will be assigned in descending order with the nominee receiving the highest point total being selected as the award recipient. The second alternate shall be the nominee receiving the second highest point total. In case of a tie for first (or first alternate), the lowest point getter shall be dropped and the above process repeated until ties are broken. (6/94)

9.2.2.6 Should the recipient, for any reason, be unable to accept the award, the stipend shall be presented to the first alternate. In the event that the first alternate is unable to accept the stipend, it shall be presented to the second alternate.

9.2.3 **Award Conditions.** In addition to the stated eligibility requirements, the following conditions of the award shall be observed:

9.2.3.1 Each award recipient shall enroll in graduate school within 18 months of selection. (6/94)

9.2.3.2 The award will be deposited with the graduate institution upon receipt of certification from the institution.

9.2.4 **Notification and Publicity Procedures.** The following procedures are

employed to notify the recipient and publicize the selection.

9.2.4.1 Immediately following the selection of the award recipients, the Conference Office, at the direction of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Committee, will notify the award winners by letter.

9.2.4.2 The information sent to each award recipient will include a copy of the "Missouri Valley Conference Post-graduate Policy and Procedures."

9.2.4.3 The Conference Office will, in cooperation with the Sports Information Director of each recipient's institution, issue news releases to the appropriate news media.

9.3 **ALL-SPORTS AWARDS.** The Conference All-Sports Award is based on a school's average finish in each of the sponsored championships by the league. Teams are awarded one point for first, two for second, three for third, etc. and the total accumulated points are divided by the number of sports in which a particular school competes. Finishes in baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball are based on regular-season competition. All other sports are determined by finish at the championship tournament or championship meet.

9.4 **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD.** The Conference Academic Excellence Award is based on the average student-athlete grade point average for the academic year. The GPA calculations cover the prior academic year (i.e. average of fall and spring GPAs) and are calculated for all student-athletes in MVC-sponsored sports who compete, practice or receive athletic aid during that period. Interpretations regarding GPA calculations shall be handled by the Conference Relations Committee.

## 9.5 **SPECIAL AWARDS**

9.5.1 **Most Courageous Award.** When warranted, the Conference will present a "Most Courageous Award" to a past or present student-athlete, coach or university administrator who demonstrates unusual courage in the face of personal illness, adversity or tragedy and whose behavior reflects honor on the institution or the Conference. Individuals receiving the award might also have performed heroic feats or otherwise inspired others. The award shall be presented once each year when warranted.

9.5.1.1 The Conference shall issue a call for nominations annually.

9.5.1.2 The Conference Relations Committee shall consider all nominations and supporting materials and recommend award recipient(s) to the Joint Committee for approval.

9.5.1.3 Recognition of the recipient(s) shall be made by the Conference at

an appropriate time.

9.5.2 **Dr. Charlotte West Award.** The Conference will present the Dr. Charlotte West Award annually to one female student-athlete and one male student-athlete who have completed intercollegiate eligibility in their primary sport, to recognize outstanding achievement in academics, athletics, service, and leadership.

9.5.2.1 The Conference shall issue a call for nominations annually.

9.5.2.2 The Faculty Representatives shall establish selection criteria, consider all nominations and supporting materials and select the award recipient(s).

9.5.3 **John Sanders Memorial Spirit of the Valley Award.** The Conference will present a Spirit of the Valley Award to honor a student-athlete, coach or staff member who exemplifies the spirit of former assistant commissioner John Sanders. Award criteria include, but are not limited to, dedication to and passion for the Conference, strong work ethic and sense of humor. The award will be presented once each year when warranted.

9.5.3.1 The Conference shall issue a call for nominations annually.

9.5.3.2 The Conference Relations Committee shall consider all nominations and supporting materials and recommend award recipient(s) to the Joint Committee for approval.

9.5.3.3 Recognition shall be tailored as appropriate to the recipient.

## 10. COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

In accordance with Missouri Valley Conference Operating Principles (MVC Constitution 2.2.2), the Conference is bound to operate by the rules and regulations of the NCAA. Further, the Conditions and Obligations of Membership (MVC Constitution, Article 3) mandates that member institutions, with Conference assistance, administer their programs in compliance with Conference and NCAA rules and regulations.

### 10.1 CONFERENCE RULES INTERPRETATIONS

Questions regarding interpretation of Conference rules and regulations shall be answered as follows:

10.1.1 **Requests.** The Commissioner, or designated substitute, shall serve as the official interpreter of Conference rules and regulations.

10.1.2 **Reports.** The Commissioner shall send the official Conference interpretation to the Joint Committee members of the institution involved (i.e. Faculty Athletics Representative, Director of Athletics,

and Senior Woman Administrator). Further, the Commissioner shall report on all official interpretations at each Conference regular meeting and shall periodically circulate any interpretation of general concern to the membership.

- 10.1.3 **Review.** Requests for the Joint Committee to review an official Conference interpretation shall be made only by a member institution's Chief Executive Officer, Faculty Athletics Chief Representative, Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator, Compliance Coordinator or designated substitute(s) for the Executive Officer and/or the Director of Athletics, as specified in writing to the NCAA. Requests shall be made to the Commissioner within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Commissioner's interpretation. The Joint Committee shall overrule or modify the Commissioner's interpretation only by a majority vote. Representatives of an involved institution are ineligible to vote or participate in the review.

## 10.2 NCAA RULE INTERPRETATIONS

- 10.2.1 **Requests.** The Commissioner, or designated substitute, shall receive requests for NCAA rule interpretations and convey the requests to the NCAA.
- 10.2.2 **Reports.** The Commissioner shall periodically circulate any NCAA interpretation of general concern to the membership to the Joint Committee.

## Article 11. ENFORCEMENT

### 11.1 GENERAL GOALS OF COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

It shall be the Conference's policy to maintain maximum compliance with Conference and NCAA rules and regulations, both in spirit and letter. To that end, and to foster intra-Conference harmony, enforcement of rules and regulations demands cooperation between member institutions and between institutions and the Conference staff. Moreover, the guiding principle of this relationship shall be the enhancement of the intercollegiate athletic programs of the members of the Conference.

### 11.2 REPORT OF VIOLATIONS

Violations of Conference rules, regulations, or agreements by another member institution shall be reported to the Conference following the procedure outlined in MVC Bylaw 11.2.1.2. Violations of NCAA rules and regulations shall be reported to the Conference following MVC Bylaw 11.2.2.1.

#### 11.2.1 Violations of Conference Rules.

- 11.2.1.1 **Formal Complaints.** Formal complaints of alleged

violations of Conference rules of eligibility, regulations, or Director's Agreements by another member institution or its personnel shall be made to the Commissioner, detailed in writing, and endorsed by the Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator, or the Faculty Athletics Representative of the complaining institution.

11.2.1.2 **Duty to Report Violations to Conference.** Any institution that is aware that its actions are in violation of a Conference rule or regulation shall report such violation to the Conference. Reports shall be submitted in writing to the Commissioner, detail the compliance or eligibility violation, contain a summary of the information on which the report is based, and state what corrective actions the institution has taken or plans to take to remedy the situation.

11.2.2 **Violations of NCAA Rules.** Any institution that is aware that its actions are in violation of an NCAA rule or regulation shall report such violation to the Conference within 30 days of resolution at the institutional level.

11.2.2.1 **Report of Violations to Conference.** Reports shall be submitted in writing to the Conference, detail the compliance or eligibility violation, contain a summary of the information on which the report is based, and state what corrective actions the institution has taken or plans to take to remedy the situation. The report shall be conveyed to the NCAA for approval.

11.2.3 **Report of Violations to Membership.** The Commissioner shall be responsible for reporting violations of NCAA rules to Conference members.

11.2.3.1 **Secondary Violations.** The Commissioner shall periodically report in writing to the membership summaries of NCAA secondary violations processed through the Conference Office.

11.2.3.2 **Major Violations.** The Commissioner shall notify the Presidents Council and Joint Committee the results of an NCAA investigation of a major violation(s) and any resulting penalties prior to public announcement by the NCAA, Conference, or involved institution.

11.3 **Disclosure.** Members of the Conference shall not make public any information or rumors regarding alleged violations of Conference or NCAA rules and regulations at any time. Members of Conference athletic staffs shall communicate such information only to their respective Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator, or Faculty Athletics Representative,

who will report it to the Commissioner.

11.4 **Statue of Limitations.** Investigation of alleged violations shall be limited to those which occurred less than four years before the Commissioner's request for a report, except for allegations involving the eligibility of a current student-athlete or in a case in which information is developed to indicate a pattern of violations on the part of the institution or individual involved, which began before but continued into the four-year period.

11.5 **Initial Investigation; Major and Secondary Violations.** The Commissioner shall serve as the principal compliance and enforcement officer for the Conference. As such, whenever receipt of information by the Commissioner warrants Conference actions, the Commissioner shall request that the alleged offending institution submit a report on the matter, as described in MVC Bylaws 11.2.1.2 and 11.2.2.1, or to update a previously submitted report. After consideration of the report, the Commissioner shall close the case if no reasonable cause exists to believe that a NCAA or Conference rule or regulation was violated. If reasonable cause does exist, the Commissioner shall then determine whether the violation in question is major or secondary in nature as defined in the NCAA Manual.

11.5.1 **Major Violations.** Violations of NCAA rules and regulations that are major in nature shall be reported to the NCAA for further investigation.

11.5.2 **Secondary and Conference Violations.** Violations of NCAA rules and regulations that are secondary in nature or violations of Conference rules and regulations shall be dealt with by the Conference in one of the following manners. The Commissioner shall:

- (1) Turn the matter over to the NCAA;
- (2) Consult the NCAA or review Conference precedent and then inform the institution that its actions are sufficient, and pending NCAA approval, close the case;
- (3) Consult the NCAA or review Conference precedent and then inform the institution that additional corrective actions or penalties are necessary; or
- (4) Conduct further investigations into the matter.

In the third instance, the institution may accept and implement the Conference recommendation and the Commissioner shall then consider the matter closed. Alternatively, the institution may elect to keep the matter open and appeal in writing to the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee. The institution may present additional information regarding mitigating factors to support its position. A decision by a majority of the

Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee, with representatives of the involved institution ineligible to vote or participate, shall be final, unless appealed to the Joint Committee per MVC Bylaw 11.7

11.6 **Investigations and Hearings.** The Commissioner shall call for a hearing to adjudicate an issue whenever a question of whether a violation occurred is not resolved or is not resolvable through the filing of reports. The extent of the inquiry shall be limited to reasonable inquiries necessary to substantiate the veracity of the information contained in the report or to gather specific information not contained in the report. Refusing to cooperate, deliberately concealing facts, providing misleading facts, or otherwise hampering the investigation shall be punishable as unethical behavior. Additionally, all institutions and its personnel have an obligation to furnish any information requested by the Commissioner.

11.6.1 **Notice of Allegations and Hearing.** The notice shall set forth in writing (1) all appropriate allegations, (2) the evidence which caused the Commissioner to believe that a violation may have occurred, in sufficient detail to allow the party or parties to conduct their own investigation into the matter, and (3) a statement of the party's or parties' opportunity to appear personally before the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee, accompanied by legal counsel if desired, to orally present its argument and address disputed issues. The notice shall be sent by certified mail or delivered in person to the institution's Chief Executive Officer and all other parties named in the allegations.

11.6.2 **Institutional Response to Charges.** After receipt of the notice, within thirty (30) days, the institution shall prepare a written response and submit it, along with any other supportive documentation, to the Commissioner. The institution's written response shall state the specific points of dispute with the allegations contained in the notice and, if desired, request a hearing before the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee. Failure to request a hearing in the written response shall constitute a waiver of the right to appear. The Commissioner shall set a date for the hearing and forward the institution's response to the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee.

11.6.3 **Hearings.** The Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee shall only consider written materials submitted fifteen (15) days before the hearing date.

11.6.3.1 **Composition and Voting.** It shall be the responsibility of the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee to determine, by a majority vote, whether or not the alleged violation occurred and to decide the penalty(s) and corrective action(s) to be taken by a majority vote.

Representatives of the involved institution(s) are

ineligible to vote or participate. In the event that less than three (3) members of the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee are eligible to vote, the necessary number of members shall be appointed by the Commissioner to fill the vacancy or vacancies to bring the total number of eligible voting members to three (3).

11.6.3.2 **Format and General Guidelines.** The exact procedure to be followed in the conduct of the hearing will be determined by the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee. The Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee shall be permitted to invite any additional persons to appear at the hearing in an effort to fairly resolve the matter. In order to provide the maximum degree of continuity and consistency, the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee may request representatives of the Conference Office to advise it regarding any penalty format and to provide data about penalties assessed in similar cases. Also, institutional representatives may be requested to provide additional information to the Committee relating to possible penalties.

11.6.3.3 **Announcements.** The Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee, without prior public announcement, shall present its decision in a written report to the involved institution's Joint Committee members within five (5) working days after the close of the hearings. The report shall include a statement of the reasons for the decision and the evidence relied on. The Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee, at its own discretion, may notify the institution of its recommendation orally prior to the written notification.

11.6.4 **Hearing of Noncontroversial Cases.** If the Commissioner determines that there has been a violation not of a serious nature, he/she may privately reprimand and censure the appropriate party(s) without a hearing. Also, the Commissioner, or designated substitute, may elect to hear those cases deemed to be of routine nature. Notice of the charges and the opportunity to be heard is to be provided to the party(s) by MVC Bylaw 11.6.1. If after a hearing, or failure of an institution to appear for a hearing, the Commissioner concludes there has been a violation, he/she is empowered to impose any penalty(s) per MVC Bylaw 11.9.

11.7 **Appeals.** Notwithstanding appeals provided for elsewhere in the Constitution or Bylaws, findings of fact, penalties, or both by the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee and recommendation by the



Commissioner under MVC Bylaw 11.5.2(3) may be appealed to the Joint Committee. This includes penalties that effect the eligibility status of a student-athlete or team and forfeitures of contests.

An ineligible student-athlete shall have the right to appeal to the Joint Committee. In instances where the student-athlete's eligibility status makes time of the essence, the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee shall hear the institution's appeal and the decision shall be final.

**11.7.1 Notice to Commissioner.** The institution shall have the right to give notice of appeal of any appealable decision to the Commissioner within thirty (30) days after receipt of the decision. The notice may include any written material in support of its position to the Joint Committee. Upon appeal by the institution, the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee shall submit an expanded report to the Joint Committee and to the appealing institution.

**11.7.2 Voting Procedures.** An appeal is not a rehearing of the case before the Joint Committee; therefore, the findings of fact from any in-person hearing before either the Commissioner or Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee shall receive deference from the Joint Committee. The institution shall be permitted, if it desires, to orally present its case before the Joint Committee. A vote of two-thirds of the Joint Committee shall overturn the appealed decision. Representatives of the involved institution(s) are ineligible to vote or participate in the appeal. The President's Council shall ratify all final enforcement decisions made by the Commissioner, the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee, or Joint Committee at its regularly scheduled meetings by a majority vote. Representatives of the involved institution(s) are ineligible to vote or participate in the ratification process.

**11.8 Reopening Case.** A case may be reopened by the Joint Committee upon discovery of new evidence or prejudicial error by a majority vote. Representatives of the involved institution(s) are ineligible to vote or participate in the decision of whether to reopen the case.

**11.9 Penalties.** In the interest of consistency and fairness, before any penalty is decided upon, the imposing body shall compare its proposed penalty with penalties assessed in similar cases. As a guiding principle, the Conference penalty shall be broad and severe if the violation or violations reflect a general disregard for the governing rules and specific and limited if the violation or violations are specific and isolated in nature. In determining the degree of the penalty, the number of formal complaints filed against an institution on the matter and the number of previous Conference or NCAA violations shall be a contributing factor. Self-disclosure shall be considered a mitigating factor.

**11.9.1 Standard Penalty for Competing while Ineligible.** A member institution shall declare a student-athlete ineligible for the same

number of contests in which the student-athlete competed while ineligible under the rules of the NCAA or Conference. Such penalty shall take effect in the first opportunity in which the student-athlete becomes eligible following the ineligible competition. Exceptions may be permitted upon appeal to the Joint Committee.

- 11.9.2 **Menu of Penalties.** The following disciplinary measures, singly or in combination, may be imposed against an institution, its personnel, or student-athlete for violations of Conference or NCAA rules and regulations.
- 11.9.2.1 The offending institution or staff member may be reprimanded by the Commissioner and warned against repetition of the offense.
  - 11.9.2.2 Prohibition of the guilty staff member from contacting any prospective student-athlete for a period to be determined by the Conference; the same penalty may be imposed upon any staff members of the sport involved.
  - 11.9.2.3 Prohibition of an institution from scheduling games with other Conference members in the sport in which the violation occurred and/or vacating its place in the Conference standings for that sport.
  - 11.9.2.4 Prohibition of an institution from competing in postseason competition, including but not limited to participation in NCAA championship events.
  - 11.9.2.5 Prohibition of other Conference institutions from scheduling contests with the offending institution.
  - 11.9.2.6 Prohibition of an institution from sharing in the revenue distribution of which it would otherwise receive for a period to be determined by the Conference.
  - 11.9.2.7 Declaration of a student-athlete as ineligible for competition for a period to be determined by the Conference.
  - 11.9.2.8 Denial of eligibility for financial aid, practice or competition in athletics until the student-athlete has made full disclosure to the institution or the Conference of all relevant facts, concerning academic qualifications, including high school records and qualification test data.
  - 11.9.2.9 Prohibition of an institution from appearing on any

Conference or NCAA controlled television program or series.

- 11.9.2.10 Denial of an institution of specific privileges associated with or stemming from Conference membership.
- 11.9.2.11 Reduction in the number of initial, additional, or overall financial grants-in-aid awarded by the offending institution in a specific sport for a period to be determined by the Conference.
- 11.9.2.12 Requirement that an institution show cause as to why a penalty or additional penalties should not be levied against an institution if appropriate action is not taken against athletic department personnel, institutional employees, student-athletes, or representatives of the institution's athletic interests.
- 11.9.2.13 Exclusion of an institution from competing for the Conference championship in an individual or team sport.
- 11.9.2.14 Prohibition of an institution from competing for the Conference championship in a sport in which it is ineligible to compete for the NCAA championship.
- 11.9.2.15 Imposition of a financial penalty on institution in the amount recommended by the Academic/Eligibility/Compliance Committee and approved by the Joint Committee.
- 11.9.2.16 Denial of awards or other athletically related recognition.
- 11.9.2.17 Any appropriate penalty not herein mentioned.

**11.10 Public Announcement.** When deemed appropriate, public announcements of final reprimands or penalties shall be made by the Commissioner. At the discretion of the deciding body, the institution may be orally informed of the decision prior to the formal release of the written report.