

**Central States Football League**  
**By Laws and Constitution**  
**(Updated April 13, 2011)**

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**Section 1      ATHLETIC YEAR**

The athletic year shall be considered as beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Section 2      ORGANIZED FOOTBALL TRAINING**

Organized football training shall not begin before August 1 and three (3) weeks before the first scheduled game, or one (1) week before the first day of official classes for the fall semester, whichever is first.

**Section 3      SPRING TRAINING**

- A. Spring football will be permitted by this Conference. The NAIA 24-week rule will be in effect and for a maximum of fifteen (15) sessions. Practice sessions may begin at any time after the start of the second semester.
- B. There will be no advertised game or games where admission is charged in spring football. There will be no spring football scrimmages or games in football with any other school, institution, or organization.
- C. This does not prohibit intra-squad scrimmages in football.

**Section 4      OFFICIAL RULES**

All Conference football games must be played under the NCAA & NAIA football rules.

**Section 5      ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAMPIONSHIP**

- A. In order for a team to be eligible for the football championship, they must play all Conference teams.
- B. To be named the Conference's Champion in football for playoff purposes, a team must meet the NAIA criteria for playoff selection. If a team with the best Conference record does not meet those criteria, the team with the next best Conference record will be designated Conference Champion for playoff purposes.
- C. To break ties for play-off purposes, the following rules will apply:
  - a. In case of a two-way tie, the team that won the Conference contest between the two will advance.
  - b. In case of more than a two-way tie, the following procedures will apply:
    - 1. The team with the best Conference won/lost record in games played among the tied teams will advance.
    - 2. In the event of the tie still existing among three (3) or more teams, you will look at the won/lost record against the balance of the Conference. Example: Look at how all three did against the 4<sup>th</sup> place team, if they all had beaten #4, then go to #5 team, etc.
    - 3. If a winner still is not determined, the team with the highest win percentages against NAIA teams will advance.
    - 4. As a last resort, a coin toss will be used to determine the Champion.

## Section 6 FOOTBALL SCHEDULING

Football Schedules will be made up two (2) years in advance by the Coaches and Athletic Directors of the Conference at the annual Spring Meeting. They may all be worked out in advance, but voted on at the Spring Meeting. If it can not be accomplished in this manner, the Conference Commissioner will have the final vote. Coaches must keep the last seven (7) weeks open for Conference play when possible.

## Section 7 UNIFORMS

The home team shall wear dark jerseys in intercollegiate competition, and the visiting team shall wear light jerseys.

## Section 8 COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

- A. The Conference will only honor passes that have a NAIA card.
- B. Member institutions shall honor these passes.
- C. Conference institutions may not exchange complimentary tickets. (No pass policy)

## Section 9 AWARDS

- A. Conference Coach of the Year will be selected by a vote from all Coaches.
- B. Coaches will vote on a separate award for “Outstanding Conference Coach of the Year” at the end of the season.
- C. Conference Sports Information Director will conduct balloting for the following Conference Awards:

Conference All-Conference Honors will be structured to mirror Jason Dannelly’s College Fanz Sports Network NAIA Coaches All-American Team from Victory Sports Network (<http://www.victorysportsnetwork.com/AllAmerican-08.pdf>). Positions will be listed as: **Offense:** 5 Offensive Linemen, 3 Receivers, 3 Running Backs, 1 Tight End, 1 Quarterback, 1 Athlete; **Defense:** 4 Defensive Linemen, 4 Linebackers, 4 Defensive Backs; **Special Teams:** 1 Kicker, 1 Kick Returner, 1 Punter, 1 Punt Returner.

- D. Individual certificates will be given for All Conference, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All Conference and Honorable Mentions. Honorable Mention players will receive a certificate.
- E. A team plaque will be given to “Conference Champions” and an individual plaque to the “Conference Coach of the Year”, the “Offensive Player of the Year” and the “Defensive Player of the Year”.
- F. No coach can vote for him/herself or any of their team members.
- G. A Freshman must have completed twelve (12) hours and maintain a cumulative grade point average of a 3.0 at that institution before being eligible for Academic All-Conference honors.

**Section 10      SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR**

Conference Sports Information Director will be employed by the Conference Commissioner and is subject to annual review at the Annual Meeting.

**Section 11      FOOTBALL RATER**

The athletic directors and/or football coaches will elect a Football Rater at the Annual Meeting for the upcoming season. In case of a tie, the Conference Commissioner will cast the tie-breaking vote.

**Section 12      ANNUAL MEETING**

- A. The location and date of the annual meeting will be set by a majority vote by every institution at the annual meeting. The meeting will move North and South each year.
- B. A meeting will be conducted by the Coaches for selection of All Conference on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday after the completion of the season. The meeting will be held at the site of the team still in the NAIA play-offs, or if no teams are remaining in the play-offs it will be held at a central location. This is a mandatory meeting for all Coaches.

**Section 13      MARCHING BANDS**

It will be up to the two individual institutions to work out the marching band's performances prior to the starting of the game and at half time. The NCAA and NAIA rules will apply. If mutual agreement cannot be reached, the Conference Commissioner will make the final decision.

**Section 14      HALF TIME CLOCK**

Half time clocks will be 20 minutes as provided by the NCAA Rules. However, at homecomings and etc., there are circumstances when five or ten additional minutes may be added. The host institution must provide in writing, 72 hours prior to the game day, notice of the change to the visiting Coach and the Conference Commissioner. These times must be approved by both Athletic Directors.

**Section 15      GAME ADMINISTRATION**

The Conference will follow NCAA and NAIA rules.

**Section 16      LETTER OF INTENT**

Each school can use the Letter of Intent that must be filed with the Conference Office.

**Section 17 VIDEO RULES (Game Tape)**

- A. The Conference will use the Game Tape Exchange program.
- B. A roster (2 deep) of each team member including their uniform number and upload intercut must be sent by email to the Conference member institution by 6:00 Sunday to the Coach.
- C. Show two views (end zone-tight and sideline wide)
- D. All uploads will be conducted by 6:00 PM on Sunday.
- E. Each team will be able to see all games, 13 days prior to contest date.

**Section 18 TRAVELING SQUAD**

The travel squads will be in accordance with the NAIA rule. There is no limit at home games, for Conference games only.

**Section 19 MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Conference is open to any NAIA institution that is in good standing with the NAIA and received a majority approval by the current Conference membership in good standing with the Conference and the NAIA. Applications must be made in writing to the Conference Commissioner prior to the Annual Meeting.

**Section 20 DUES AND BUDGET**

- A. The annual dues are \$2,800.00 per year and must be paid in full prior to August 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year. This amount will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting.
- B. The Conference Commissioner will submit a budget at the Annual Meeting.

**Section 21 STARTING TIME**

All Conference games will be set on Saturday between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Time changes may be made by mutual agreement of both teams that is approved by the Athletic Directors of each team.

**Section 22 GAME OFFICIALS**

- A. A seven (7) person officiating crew will be used by the Conference. All officials will be paid \$160.00 per game (no mileage). The Commissioner's office will assign and approve all game officials for all Conference football games.
- B. The Conference will pay all officials assigned to work out of the Conference office. Each school will get an invoice for the total cost of officials and payment should be sent to the Conference office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of August.
- C. Game fee can be changed by a majority vote at the Annual Meeting.

**Section 23 COMMISSIONER**

The Presidents of the member institutions will hire the Conference Commissioner. The Conference Commissioner will be reviewed annually and voted on at the Annual Meeting by the Presidents or designated representative. Only the institutions in good standing in the Conference will be eligible to vote. Each institution will have one vote.

**Section 24 TRANSFER RULE**

The Conference will have a one (1) year waiting period if a student athlete wishes to transfer within the Conference to play football. Under unusual circumstances, the student athlete may request a hardship waiver to the Conference.

If a player transfers within the Conference, he is ineligible to participate for one year). President's Exception is possible if an appeal is made because of extenuating circumstances or serious problems. Both schools must submit information including releases from both schools (including signatures from both Coach and AD from each school) and the student must submit a letter of request and information as well. In the event a request is made and agreed upon by both institutions, the executive committee will make the final decision.

The penalty for a transfer within the Conference without approval and the student playing in a game, all games the player played in will be forfeited.

**Section 25 PROVISIONAL MEMBER STATUS**

New members to the league will enter as provisional members for a one year period. Provisional members cannot compete for the Conference Championship, but student players of the provisional team will be eligible to compete for All-American honors, Player of the Week awards and All-Conference awards. Provisional members must have eligibility and statistics reports reported on time. Dues payments must be paid and provisional school members must be present at Conference meetings.

**Section 26 ABSENCES OF COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE AT MEETINGS**

In the event that someone cannot attend their designated committee function, they are to contact the commissioner immediately. An individual can be selected to represent the school and have a vote.

**Section 27 CHANGING OF RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Any portion of these rules and regulations can be changed at the Annual Meeting by a majority vote of the membership in good standing with the Conference. A written notice to all member institutions and the Conference Commissioner must be given 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting of any changes to the bylaws.