ECAC Bylaws

EASTERN COLLEGE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE, INC.
BYLAWS

FOREWORD

In order that the reader may better understand the relationship between the ECAC Bylaws and the NCAA Regulations, this background material is offered for consideration.

The ECAC and the NCAA are both athletic associations whose members are collegiate institutions. They are separate and distinct organizations, each with its own Constitution, Bylaws and operating procedures. However, the ECAC, as a Conference, is an allied member of the NCAA, and its individual members are also active members of the NCAA.

Although the ECAC and the NCAA are separate organizations, they have similar purposes. As a result, the rules of eligibility enacted by both organizations are essentially the same.

ECAC eligibility rules are contained in the Bylaws. The rules and regulations of the NCAA constitute a base for ECAC eligibility requirements. There may be some instances, however, when an eligibility rule adopted by the ECAC will be more restrictive than that of the NCAA, but in no case may an ECAC eligibility rule be less restrictive than the NCAA. Therefore, member colleges of the ECAC must abide by all eligibility rules set forth in both the ECAC and NCAA manuals for both regular and postseason, men’s and women’s intercollegiate athletics competition. Wherever ECAC eligibility rules and regulations are exactly the same as those of the NCAA, they have been included in this manual by reference only under Article Three of the Bylaws and are not reprinted herein. However, any ECAC eligibility rule which is more restrictive than that of the NCAA will be included, and so noted, as part of Section I of Article Three of the Bylaws.

The ECAC assumes no responsibility for the mistaken violation of any NCAA regulation by any member who relies solely on this manual for the discharge of its responsibilities as an NCAA member. However, the office of the commissioner will, as always, be ready and willing to lend whatever help it can to members in need of assistance.
Article One
PURPOSE

The purpose of these Bylaws shall be to regulate intercollegiate athletics competition as engaged in by Eastern College Athletic Conference, Inc. (ECAC or the Conference as the context dictates) member institutions and by the representatives of those institutions in such a manner as to preserve the amateur spirit of that competition as defined in the Constitution of the ECAC.

Article Two
SCOPE

The scope of these Bylaws shall include all forms of intercollegiate athletics competition engaged in by member institutions of the ECAC.

NOTE: Definition of Terms “Intercollegiate Athletics” and “Competition:” A student engages in intercollegiate competition within the meaning of the term adopted by the Conference for eligibility purposes when competing in any contest, scrimmage, regularly scheduled, exhibition or postseason game on any team authorized by the student’s collegiate institution to represent it in intercollegiate athletics competition against any team composed of students or individuals of any other collegiate institution or organization.

Article Three
PRINCIPLES FOR THE CONDUCT OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Section I. Rules of Eligibility

Duly promulgated NCAA rules and official interpretations pertaining to the principles of amateurism and student participation, institutional control and responsibility, sound academic standards, financial aid, recruiting, ethical conduct, competition in postseason and non-collegiate-sponsored contests, playing and practice seasons, and eligibility of individual student-athletes for participation in the intercollegiate athletics programs of member institutions, as contained in the NCAA Constitution and Bylaws, are incorporated herein by reference and shall be in effect as the rules of the ECAC unless otherwise noted in this Article.
Section II. Principles Governing Competition in ECAC Postseason Contests

The principles governing competition in ECAC postseason contests shall be the same as those adopted by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and shall govern the eligibility of student-athletes who represent ECAC member colleges in intercollegiate athletics competition, except to the extent that such rules are modified by regulations adopted by vote of the conference members, set forth:

A. Competition by member institutions in ECAC postseason contests shall conform to the provisions of the Constitution of the Conference and to the rules or regulations prescribed by these Bylaws.

B. The Board of Directors shall administer Conference meets and tournaments under such conditions and regulations as it deems appropriate.

C. Any meet or tournament established by the Board of Directors, shall be under the control, direction and supervision of the meet or tournament committee appointed by the President for that purpose. All actions of such meet or tournament committee shall be subject to review, revision and/or rescission by the Board whenever the Board, in its discretion, deems such action necessary.

D. All active member institutions in good standing shall be eligible for any meets and tournaments established under the auspices of the Board of Directors, provided, however, that the Board may limit participation in any such meet or tournament to the members of either Division I, II, or III.

E. In meets or tournaments of the Conference which lead to automatic qualification for NCAA championship events, it shall be the obligation of any member selected by the meet or tournament committee to compete in such meet or tournament.

F. Participation in Conference meets or tournaments shall not preclude other postseason competition by member institutions provided such other postseason competition is not in violation of any provision of the Constitution, or any rule or regulation prescribed by the Bylaws of the Conference.

Section III. Authority for Establishment and Implementation of Conference Assessment Policies and Procedures

A. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to adopt such assessment policies for television appearances, tournament participation, championship meets or events by member institutions, as well as any other assessment policies it may deem necessary and
desirable from time to time. Such policies, on adoption by the Board, shall be binding on all member institutions.

B. Assessment policies adopted by the Board of Directors shall be implemented by the Board in the form of Executive Regulations which shall be published to the membership.

Section IV. Authority and Procedure Governing Official Interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws

A. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE OFFICIAL INTERPRETATIONS

The following officials and bodies of the ECAC shall have the sole authority to issue official interpretations of the Constitution and Bylaws subject to the provisions and procedures hereinafter set forth in paragraph B of this Section IV:

1. The Board of Directors;

2. The Eligibility and Infractions Committee; and

3. Any one of these ECAC officials: Chairman, President & CEO, Associate or Assistant Vice President

B. PROCEDURES AND LIMITATIONS GOVERNING OFFICIAL INTERPRETATIONS

1. Board of Directors
   a. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to issue official interpretations on all matters relating to the Constitution and Bylaws except matters relating to the eligibility of individual student-athletes as set forth in Section I of Article Three of the Bylaws.
   b. Official interpretations by the Board of Directors must be passed by a majority of those Board members voting, provided those present constitute more than half of the Board membership.
   c. Official interpretations issued by the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of subparagraphs a and b of this paragraph 1 shall be binding on the membership of the Conference as of the time of their publication. There shall be no appeal from such interpretations.

2. Eligibility and Infractions Committee
   a. The Eligibility and Infractions Committee shall have the authority to issue
official interpretations on all matters relating to the eligibility of individual student-athletes as set forth in Section I of Article Three of the Bylaws subject to limitations imposed under NCAA Regulations.

b. Official interpretations issued by the Eligibility and Infractions Committee must be passed by a majority of those committee members voting, provided those present constitute more than half of the committee membership.

c. Official interpretations issued by the Eligibility and Infractions Committee in accordance with the provisions of subparagraphs a and b of this paragraph 2 shall be binding on the membership of the Conference as of the time of their publication. There shall be no appeal from such interpretations.

Note: Official interpretations by the Board of Directors and Eligibility and Infractions Committee may only be challenged by motions or amendments properly made or proposed according to the procedures set forth in the Constitution at a meeting of the entire membership.

d. The Eligibility and Infractions Committee shall have the discretionary power to grant exceptions to any and all rules as delineated in Section I of Article Three of these Bylaws having to do with the eligibility of individual student-athletes for participation in intercollegiate athletics programs of member institutions. The committee’s authority is subject to limitations imposed under NCAA Regulations.

3. ECAC Officers

a. Either the Chairman, the President & CEO, an Associate or Assistant Vice President, may, in the interim period between Board of Directors or Eligibility and Infractions Committee meetings, issue official interpretations on the Board’s or committee’s behalf on any matter relating to the Constitution or Bylaws.

b. Official interpretations made by the Chairman, the President & CEO, an Associate or Assistant Vice President, in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph A of this paragraph 3, shall be binding on the member or members as of the time they are communicated in writing to the member or members.

c. Official interpretations made by the president, commissioner, associate or assistant commissioner under subparagraphs a and b of this paragraph 3 may be appealed to the Eligibility and Infractions Committee in matters
relating to the eligibility of individual student-athletes and to the Board of Directors in all other matters. It being understood, however, that said interpretations are binding unless and until changed by the Eligibility and Infractions Committee or the Board of Directors.

Section V. Annual Declaration of Adherence

A. CONTENTS AND FILING

The president of each member institution shall file, annually, with the office of the commissioner a “Declaration of Principles,” indicating those teams authorized to represent it in intercollegiate athletics competition as defined in Article Two of these Bylaws. This declaration extends to ECAC-sponsored postseason championships competition and confirms the member institution’s continuing support of, and adherence to, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Conference in such competition. (Revised 10/7/87)

Each member institution shall designate those varsity intercollegiate sports necessary to satisfy ECAC membership requirements as set forth in Article Four, Section II, B of the Constitution. (Revised 10/7/87)

B. RIGHT OF INSPECTION

These “Declarations of Principles” shall be kept in files at the office of the President & CEO and shall be available for inspection by authorized representatives of any of the Conference’s member institutions.

C. RESPONSIBILITY TO INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

It is the obligation of each member institution to provide necessary and adequate means to ensure that the members of its athletics staff and all the students on its athletics squads in those sports designated on the ECAC declaration form are aware of their obligation as representatives of an ECAC member institution to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the ECAC. (Revised 10/7/87)

Section VI. Amendments

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be received by the commissioner at least 30 days before the meeting at which they are to be considered and acted; and at least 15 days notice by mail thereof shall be given by the commissioner to each member institution. Amendments shall become effective when adopted by a majority vote of those voting at the meeting, provided those present constitute more than half of the membership.
Article Four

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS ON DISSOLUTION

On dissolution of the ECAC, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Conference, dispose of all the assets of the Conference by distributing those assets exclusively for charitable purposes. Such organization(s) shall operate exclusively for charitable purposes, as the Board of Directors shall determine, as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and as other than a private foundation under Section 509 of the Internal Revenue Code.