

AMERICAN MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Men's and Women's Soccer

ACADEMIC YEAR:	Fall 2009
CONFERENCE LIAISON:	Jason Nichols – Athletic Director Hannibal-LaGrange College
CONFERENCE SPORT CHAIR:	Deno Merrick – Missouri Baptist University (Men) Jason Nichols -- Hannibal-LaGrange (Women)
CONFERENCE RATER:	David Erskine – Hannibal-LaGrange College (Men) Tim Strange – McKendree University (Women)
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:	Scott Hartwig – Harris-Stowe State University (Men) John Ryan – Harris-Stowe State University (Women) Tim Strange – McKendree University (Both)
PLAYOFF DATES:	MEN: Nov. 7, 10 and 13, 2009 (Men) WOMEN: Nov. 6, 9 and 12, 2009 (Women)
TIME(S):	Conference playoff games will begin at 1 p.m., unless a host facility has lights for use.
NAIA PLAYOFFS/NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP –	
NAIA OPENING ROUND DATE:	Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009 (Site TBA)
NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT:	MEN: Dec. Nov. 30-Dec. 5, 2009 (Fresno, Calif.) WOMEN: Nov. 30-Dec. 5, 2009 (Decatur, Ala.)

MEN'S/WOMEN'S SOCCER POLICIES

I. SCHEDULING POLICIES

- A) (MEN) The conference schedule consists of a single round format which will alternate each year. No changes can be made once the schedule has been approved by the soccer coaches and approved by AMC Executive Committee unless both athletics directors agree.
- (WOMEN) The conference schedule consists of a double round-robin, where each team will play home and away.
- B) All regular season conference games need to be played on a Tuesday-Wednesday and/or Friday-Saturday between the third week of September and the last week of October. Any schedule change must also be approved by both Athletics Directors.
- C) Regular season conference scheduling will be completed at the August meeting by all conference coaches.
- D) Institutions must play a minimum of eight regular-season games against upper-level, degree-granting institutions.

II. GUIDELINES FOR PLAY

- A) The AMC/NAIA follows the NCAA rules and regulations.
- B) The official soccer ball of the NAIA is strongly recommended for use at all conference games.

III. HOST SCHOOL DUTIES

- A) It is the duty of the host school to provide changing room facilities as well as showers if desired. They should also supply the officials, the game balls and separate benches for both teams.
- B) Some type of barrier distinction needs to be made between the field and spectators at 12 feet from the sidelines and 12 feet behind the benches.
- C) Rulebook requirement must be met at all venues.

IV. STATISTICS AND REPORTING

- A) Game scores will be posted to the AMC website after each game.
- B) AMC game stats are to be posted on the school's website immediately after each game.
- C) Each school may use the in-game statistical program of its choosing. However, final game statistics must be websynced on the NAIA national website via Dakstats within 24 hours after the conclusion of each AMC league game.
- D) Player of the Week will be announced by the AMC Sports Information Director who will be given the responsibility to choose based on that week's results.

V. OFFICIALS

- A) There will be 3-person official crews at all AMC games.
- B) Schedules are sent to the Soccer Officials Assignor for assignments each year.
- C) The Soccer Officials Assignors will:
 - 1. Assign all game officials.
 - 2. Provide evaluation of officials.
 - 3. Prepare preferred list of officials. Each coach will be allowed to redline 20 percent of the officials list. If there is a disproportionate amount redlined that it becomes impossible to assign, the Supervisor of Officials will be allowed to adjust as necessary.
 - 4. Handle any disputes which involve officials.
 - 5. Gather input from coaches on officials.
 - 6. Acquaint officials with any NAIA or conference rules.
 - 7. Provide for the officials' evaluation of coaches' conduct.
 - 8. Provide uniformity of assignment - trust, consistency, conference control.

VI. PRE-GAME PROTOCOL

- A. Lineup Exchange - Teams are to exchange starting lineups before the start of the game.
- B. Pre-game practice - Each team will warm up on opposite ends of the field in accordance with the end that their bench is situated on.
- C. National Anthem/Prayer - The use of these is optional with the understanding that they should take place prior to the scheduled game time so that the game can start as scheduled. Team introductions are optional.

VII. RAIN-OUT POLICY

- A. Rain-outs will be rescheduled at a time mutually convenient to both coaches (must be approved by both Athletics Directors) and must take place before the playoff selections are made.

VIII. CONFERENCE STANDINGS

- A. The following system will be used for determining the AMC standings;
 - 1) 3 points for a win
 - 2) 1 points for a tie
 - 3) 0 points for a loss
- B. The AMC Champion will be determined by the AMC regular-season standings. Any ties in the standings will be broken by the AMC tie-break policy, not the winning percentage. The tie-

breaking procedure is as follows:

For regular season games, two sudden victory overtime periods of 10 minutes shall be played. A coin toss by the visiting team will determine choice of ends of the field or the kickoff before the start of the first sudden victory overtime period. If the score is still tied at the end of the second sudden victory overtime period, the game shall be declared a draw.

C. Points are awarded for conference games: win = 3 points; tie = 1 point; loss = 0 points.

D. The team with the highest point total will be the AMC regular season champions.

E. Should a tie exist between two or more teams, the following methods will be used to break the tie:

1. Head-to-head competition (If more than two teams are tied and one team holds an undefeated record vs. the other tied teams, the undefeated team will be awarded the highest seed. The remaining seeds will move back to head-to-head.)
Tiebreakers 2-4 should include results from all conference matches.
2. Goal differential: Goals scored minus goals allowed. (maximum is + 3 or – 3 per Match)
3. Most goals scored (maximum is 3 per match)
4. Least goals allowed (maximum is 3 per match)
5. Longo (A conference ladder should be utilized – previous week's ranking shall be used when calculating Longo)

IX. PLAYOFFS

- 1) The playoff format will consist of a six-team conference post-season tournament.
- 2) The postseason tournament will be single-elimination format.
- 3) Game sites for each round will be at the highest seeded institution's home field.
- 4) The host team is responsible for finding a playable location.
- 5) The host team will bear administration expenses and the visitors will pay travel expenses.
- 6) Three NISOA officials must be used during play-in games. Games shall start by 1 p.m. unless host team has a lighted facility.
- 7) For conference play-in games, two sudden victory overtime periods of 10 minutes shall be played. If the score is still tied, the game shall be recorded as a draw and the tiebreaker procedure of taking kicks from the penalty-kick line or spot, as set forth by the NCAA rulebook, shall be used.
- 8) The men's and women's conference post-season tournament will take place in the following format: Saturday, Tuesday and Friday for men, and Friday, Monday and Thursday for women.
- 9) Team rosters will consist of 24 players.
- 10) After the first round (quarterfinals) of conference tournament play, teams will be reseeded for the semifinal round pairings. The No. 1 seed will host the lowest-remaining seed in the tournament, while the two middle seeds will play in the other semifinal contest. The two semifinal winners will meet for the tournament championship, with the higher-seeded team having home-field advantage.

X. AWARDS

PLAQUES

1. Conference Championship
2. Coach of the Year
3. Player of the Year
4. Newcomer of the Year
5. Freshman of the Year
6. First-Team All-Conference
7. Fair Play and Sportsmanship Award

CERTIFICATES

1. Academic All-Conference
2. Honorable Mention All-Conference Team

XI. CONFERENCE MEETINGS

- A. The Men's and Women's Soccer coaches will meet yearly at the Annual AMC meeting in August with other meetings scheduled as needed.

XII. SOCCER CHAIR

- A. Selection shall be decided by vote of participating head coaches during the Annual meeting. Service will be for a period of two years.
- B. Duties - The chair will coordinate the selection of the All-AMC and Coach of the Year honors. Other duties are assigned as outlined in the AMC Handbook.