

A large, light blue, stylized star graphic is centered on the page. It has multiple points and a layered, 3D effect. The star is set against a background of several curved, overlapping lines in shades of blue and grey, creating a sense of motion or a stylized "N" shape.

NORTH EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION

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NORTH EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Constitution

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the North Eastern Athletic Conference, hereinafter referred to as the NEAC or the Conference. The NEAC was re-constituted in 2004.

ARTICLE II

MISSION STATEMENT

Section 1

Purpose: It shall be the general purpose of the NEAC to foster meaningful competition in as many sports as may be successfully provided by the member institutions within the limits of financial budget capabilities. A primary objective shall be the encouragement of widespread participation by student-athletes. The NEAC shall sponsor, promote, and organize intercollegiate athletics competition among member institutions for charitable and educational purposes. The NEAC encourages such competition to be equitable, fair, and amicable for all student-athletes.

Section 2

Philosophy: The NEAC and its member institutions operate intercollegiate athletics programs that must be consistent with the NCAA Division III philosophy. The NEAC recognizes that intercollegiate athletics are an integral and essential part of the collegiate experience and should operate in harmony with the educational mission of its member institutions. NEAC members must strive to uphold the highest ethical standards of athletic competition. Membership in the NEAC is intended for colleges and universities that provide a broad base of athletic competition for men and women.

ARTICLE III

ORGANIZATION

The NEAC may be organized into districts, regions, or areas for administrative, legislative, or competitive purposes, as determined by the affirmative vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the members entitled to vote at any regular or special meeting of the membership. The NEAC is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Membership in the NEAC shall be limited to four-year colleges and universities having exploratory, provisional, or active membership in Division III of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), adhering to the purpose and standards of the NEAC.



Membership is based on a mutual trust and respect among member institutions dedicated to the education of men and women.

Section 2 Charter Members: Charter members of the NEAC include Baptist Bible College (PA), Cazenovia College (NY), D'Youville College (NY), Keuka College (NY), Keystone College (PA), Philadelphia Biblical University (PA), and Penn State University-Berks (PA). Additional members may be admitted by a three-quarters vote (3/4) of the President's Council.

New Members (2007): New full members of the NEAC include Penn State University-Harrisburg (PA), Wells College (NY), and Wilson College (PA).

New Members (2008): New full members of the NEAC include SUNY Cobleskill (NY) and SUNY Institute of Technology (NY). New associate members of the NEAC include Medaille College (NY) – men's and women's lacrosse, Rutgers University – Camden (NJ) – men's golf, SUNY Oneonta (NY) – men's tennis, and University of Dallas (TX) – men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's golf, and men's soccer.

New Members (2009): New full members of the NEAC include the College of St. Elizabeth (NJ) and Penn State University – Abington (PA).

Section 3 Full Members: These institutions retain full voting privileges on all matters and are eligible for all conference championships and awards. Full members are expected to participate in all NEAC sports which they sponsor.

Section 4 Provisional Members: These institutions have been admitted by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the Presidents Council. Provisional institutions must meet pre-determined criteria by the conclusion of their first year. Voting on new members shall take place when the need arises. Provisional members shall otherwise be granted full member privileges.

Section 5 Membership Withdrawal: Any member institution may withdraw from the NEAC by giving written notice to the NEAC and all members at least one and one-half years in advance of the intended time of withdrawal. Written notice must be received no later than February 1 in order for the withdrawal to be effective for the following academic year. If an institution fails to give the required one year in advance notice, they will be required to pay two years of the annual dues.

Section 6 Revoking of Membership: Any member institution may be dropped from the remaining NEAC membership by a unanimous vote of the Presidents Council after due notice and appropriate hearings.



Section 7 Dues: Full member institutions shall pay annual dues and other assessments as determined by the membership. Associate members shall pay annual dues that are prorated based on the number of sports in which they participate and other assessments as determined by the membership. All dues for the upcoming academic year will be made payable to the North Eastern Athletic Conference by August 1st of each year.

Section 8 Associate Membership: Associate member institutions must be NCAA Division III provisional or full members. Associate member institutions must apply and be admitted to the conference by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the Board of Athletic Directors with approval from the NEAC President's Council. Associate member institutions must submit applications for continued associate membership status every two years. Associate membership dues will be prorated based on the number of sports in which they participate. Associate member institutions are required to adhere to all NEAC policies and guidelines. Associate member institutions are required to attend all Board of Athletic Director meetings and appropriate sport committee meetings. Associate member institutions shall have voting privileges on pertinent items only and shall not count for the purposes of establishing a quorum at meetings.

ARTICLE V

PARTICIPATION

Section 1 Minimum Participation: Conference sponsored sports are those with a minimum of four (4) participating teams.

Section 2 Scheduling: Member institutions sponsoring conference approved team sports must schedule all other conference members in those sports as indicated in the appropriate Sports Procedures Manual.

Section 3 Member institutions must meet the NCAA Division III minimum sports sponsorship requirement.

Section 4 Member institutions shall be bound by the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the NEAC Athletic Training, Sports Information Directors, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and Sports Procedures Manuals.

Section 5 The NEAC will determine a champion in every Conference sponsored sport.

Section 6 To represent a member institution in one of its Conference sports, a student-athlete must meet the eligibility standards of the member institution, the NCAA Division III, and any other national governing body applicable to their institution.



ARTICLE VI AWARDS

Section 1 President's Cup: The NEAC President's Cup shall be awarded each year to the men's, women's, and combined overall athletics program with the highest competitive percentage rating obtained from championship and regular season play as noted in Article III of the NEAC Bylaws.

Section 2 Varsity student-athletes, coaches, and administrators may be recognized for various awards as specified in the Bylaws and the NEAC Sports Procedures.

ARTICLE VII GOVERNANCE

Section 1 Presidents Council: Comprised of the Presidents and/or CEOs of all member institutions, the Presidents Council is the final decision making body of the Conference and has ultimate oversight over conference athletics. Each member institution shall have one vote. The Presidents Council shall:

- (a) deliberate and shape the basic purpose and direction of the Conference;
- (b) review and ratify the Conference Constitution, Bylaws, and Procedures Manuals proposed by the Board of Athletic Directors;
- (c) have oversight of conference financial matters;
- (d) be involved in the selection process of conference leadership;
- (e) be responsible for, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, the selection and appointment of the Conference Commissioner; and consider and approves amendments to the Constitution.

Section 2 Board of Athletic Directors: The Board of Athletic Directors shall be a standing committee composed of the Athletic Directors of the member institutions. Each institution shall have one vote. The Board of Athletic Directors shall:

- (a) draft and submit for approval to the Presidents Council the Constitution and Bylaws which guide the Conference's routine operations;
- (b) review and approve the NEAC Athletic Training, Sports Information Directors, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and Sports Operating Procedures proposed and agreed to by the representing Committees; and
- (c) consider and recommend to the Presidents Council such other policies and practices that advance the Conference as an exemplary member of the NCAA Division III.

Section 3 Sports & Other Group Committees: There shall be a Sports Committee for each Conference sport and a committee representing the following groups: Athletic Trainers, Sports Information Directors, and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. These Committees shall be composed of the head coaches and appropriate representative from each



Conference institution. A member of the Board of Athletic Directors shall be assigned as a liaison and, if not a coach, serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of each Committee. Each Committee shall recommend guidelines for the conduct of conference business or their sport to the Board of Athletic Directors.

Section 4 Conference Faculty Athletics Representative: A Conference FAR will be appointed on a rotating basis. This individual will be a non-voting member of the Board of Athletic Directors and shall attend all meetings of the Board of Athletic Directors. The Conference FAR shall serve as the liaison to all member institutions FARs.

Section 5 Any student-athlete, coach, senior woman administrator, athletic director, faculty athletics representative, or president from any member institution is entitled to propose legislation to the appropriate governing body (Presidents Council, Executive Committee, Board of Athletic Directors, or Sports or Other Group Committees).

ARTICLE VIII CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER

The NEAC shall retain a Conference Commissioner. The Commissioner will report to the Presidents Council and the Executive Committee. The Commissioner shall perform the duties set forth in the Bylaws and others as may be prescribed by the Presidents Council. The Commissioner is reviewed in the spring of each year by the NEAC Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

Section 1 Presidents Council: The NEAC Presidents Council shall elect a Chair and Chair-Elect from among member institution Presidents or CEOs.

Section 2 Board of Athletic Directors: The NEAC Board of Athletic Directors shall elect a Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer from among member institution Athletic Directors.

Section 3 Executive Committee: The NEAC Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Chair and Chair-Elect of the Presidents Council, the Chair and Chair-Elect of the Board of Athletic Directors, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and one (1) female Athletic Director elected as Senior Woman Administrator.

Section 4 Duties: The duties of the Chair and Chair-Elect shall be those normally associated with these offices. Specifically, the Chair shall call and preside over all meetings; solicit agenda items; prepare the final agenda; appoint members to special committees; and conduct interim business. The Chair-Elect shall act in the absence of the Conference Chair. The



Secretary shall keep records of all meetings of the board of athletic directors and president's council. The treasurer shall keep all financial records and funds for the Conference; shall disperse funds upon authorization of the President's Council and Commissioner.

Section 5 Terms: Each Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and SWA elected by the membership shall serve two (2) year terms commencing July 1. Exceptions to this policy may be made only with the unanimous approval of the President's Council.

ARTICLE X MEETINGS

Section 1 The Presidents Council shall annually hold two (2) regularly scheduled meetings, one in the fall and one in the spring. The Executive Committee may call a special meeting at any time with two (2) weeks notice.

Section 2 The Board of Athletic Directors shall annually hold four (4) regularly scheduled meetings, one in the fall, one in the winter, one in the spring, and a summer retreat. The Chair may call a special meeting at any time with two (2) weeks notice.

Section 3 Action by the Presidents Council, Board of Athletic Directors, Executive Committee, or any other committee shall require a majority vote unless otherwise provided for in the Conference Constitution and/or Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI RULES AND POLICIES

The NEAC Sports Procedures Manual of each sport shall be the official rules and regulations governing the conduct of sports within the Conference.

ARTICLE XII FINANCIAL AID

NCAA Division III financial aid regulations shall govern the administration of financial aid to student-athletes at all member institutions.

ARTICLE XIII STUDENT ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC)

Section 1 The purpose of the NEAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) shall be as follows:

- (a) to advise the NEAC on governance issues pertinent to student-athlete welfare;
- (b) to provide guidance for each institution's SAAC, which shall include networking and group discussion concerning specific institutional issues; and
- (c) to provide input from all members of the Conference SAAC to the NCAA Division III National SAAC.



Section 2 Membership: The NEAC SAAC shall be composed of two institutional SAAC representatives (one male and one female where possible) from each Conference institution.

Section 3 Leadership: The NEAC SAAC shall elect a Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary from among its membership.

Section 4 Meetings: The NEAC SAAC shall meet two (2) times per year, once in the fall and once in the spring.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

The Conference Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a meeting of the Presidents Council. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be mailed to all member institutions at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted upon.

ARTICLE XV PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

All official meetings of the NEAC and its membership shall follow protocol according to Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

ARTICLE XVI LIABILITY/INDEMNITY

The NEAC will maintain general liability and directors/officers liability insurance policies with a minimum of \$3,000,000.00 general aggregate limit of liability for the policy year to include coverage for acts of terrorism.

ARTICLE XVII BUDGET & FINANCIAL PROCESS

Section 1 The NEAC budget will be prepared by the Commissioner in conjunction with the Treasurer on a yearly basis. A budget proposal will be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for review who will forward the recommended proposal to the President's Council for approval in their Spring meeting.

Section 2 The league account will be reconciled on a monthly basis. Monthly financial reports outlining expenses and account balances will be provided to the Commissioner from the Treasurer who will forward them to the Chair of the President's Council.

Section 3 The Treasurer will be responsible for arranging the yearly tax filings and yearly audit with a Certified Public Accountant at the conclusion of each fiscal year. A copy of the tax documents and audit will be distributed to each member of the President's Council.