Heart of America Athletic Conference

Lacrosse Bylaws

Section 1: Leadership

1.1 Terms of Service
1.1.1 Leadership roles are elected to two-year terms during the Annual Heart Lacrosse Coaches Meeting.
1.1.2 Nominations will be solicited during the call for agenda items each fall.
1.1.3 Nominations may also be accepted from the floor.

Section 2: Coaches Meeting

2.1 The Heart Summit Business Meetings will be held during the first week of June.

Section 3: Competition Model

3.1 Regular Season
3.1.1 Teams will play each school in the conference.
3.1.2 The regular season champion receives the Heart banner.
3.1.3 The team with the best conference record overall will be declared champion.
a. In the case of a tie, the tie-breaking system will determine the No. 1 seed in the conference tournament.
b. Co-Regular Season Champions will be recognized, and both will receive a banner.

3.2 Championships
3.2.1 The Regular Season Champion will receive the Heart Championship Banner.
3.2.2 The Conference Tournament Champion will receive the Tournament Trophy.

3.3 Postseason Tournament
3.3.1 Six teams qualify in a single-elimination format.
3.3.2 Quarterfinals: Higher-seeded teams host (#3 vs. #6, #4 vs. #5).
3.3.3 #1 and #2 seeds receive a bye.

3.3.4 Semifinals and championship are played at a neutral site, determined by the conference office via bid process.
3.3.5 Tournament dates are set by the conference office, with a day off between semifinals and championship.

3.4 Nationals Qualification
3.4.1 The Heart has one automatic bid (per six schools) for both men and women.
3.4.2 The automatic bid is awarded to the Conference Tournament Champion.

3.5 Tie-Breaking Procedures (in order)
a. Conference record
b. Head-to-head
c. Goal differential in conference play
d. Goal differential vs. teams that qualified for the conference tournament
e. Coin flip

3.6 Financial Responsibilities
3.6.1 Conference host rights fee: $300 per postseason game.
3.6.2 Officials' match fees: Paid by the host institution.

Section 4: Contingency Plan

4.1 If the tournament cannot be started, the regular season champion will receive the automatic bid.
4.2 If the tournament cannot be completed, the highest remaining seed will receive the automatic bid.

Section 5: Officials

5.1 Oversight
5.1.1 The Supervisor of Officials, reporting directly to the commissioner, assigns all officials for conference play.
5.1.2 Each institution is assessed a fee to cover the supervisor's stipend.

5.2 Travel Pay Schedule

- St. Ambrose
  5.2.1 $100: Chicago, Madison, Milwaukee, Iowa, Minnesota, St. Louis
  5.2.2 $200: Kansas City, Nebraska

- Clarke University
  5.2.3 $100: Chicago, Madison, Milwaukee, Iowa, Minnesota, St. Louis
  5.2.4 $200: Kansas City, Nebraska

- Culver-Stockton
  5.2.5 No travel fee: St. Louis, Iowa
  5.2.6 $100: Chicago, Wisconsin
  5.2.7 $200: Kansas City

- William Penn University
  5.2.8 No travel fee: Iowa
  5.2.9 $100: Nebraska
  5.2.10 $200: Wisconsin, Illinois, Kansas

- Missouri Valley & Benedictine
  5.2.11 Game fee only

Section 6: Sports Information

6.1 Requirements
6.1.1 Home team records and provides live statistics for both teams.
6.1.2 PrestoStats entry is the responsibility of each institution.
6.1.3 Institutions must submit results and statistics via NAIA/Heart and Presto services.
6.1.4 Schedules on school websites must accurately reflect conference matches.

6.2 Player of the Week Process
6.2.1 Heart will forward nominees for NAIA consideration.
6.2.2 Nominations are due Mondays at 9:30 a.m. from each school's SID.

6.3 National Reporting
6.3.1 NAIA SID department will access team and player statistics through the national reporting system.

Section 7: Ratings Process

7.1 Two coaches (men's and women's) are elected by conference coaches to serve on the NAIA rating committee.
7.2 Raters are confirmed each summer and reported to the commissioner and NAIA.

Section 8: Awards

8.1 All-Conference Nominations by Standing
1st place – 12 players
2nd place – 10 players
3rd place – 8 players
4th place – 6 players
5th place – 4 players
6th place – 2 players

7th place – 2 players
8th place – 2 players
9th place – 1 player
10th place – 1 player

8.2 All-Conference Teams
8.2.1 First Team All-Conference
8.2.2 Second Team All-Conference

8.3 Positions

- Men: 3 Attackers, 3 Midfielders, 3 Defensive players, 1 Face-off/Draw specialist, 1 Goalie

- Women: 5 Attackers, 4 Midfielders, 5 Defensive players, 1 Face-off/Draw specialist, 1 Goalie

8.4 Voting Process
8.4.1 Online ballot, preceded by a Zoom call for discussion.

8.4.2 All head coaches vote.

8.4.3 Coaches may nominate their own players but cannot vote for them.

8.4.4 Conference statistics and Presto data will be the primary reference.

8.4.5 Voting will occur immediately following the conference championship game.

Any offense to this policy thereafter will cause immediate Disqualification of the offending player(s) from the practice, game, tournament or event.

8.5 Special Awards
8.5.1 Freshman of the Year
8.5.2 Newcomer of the Year
8.5.3 Offensive Player of the Year
8.5.4 Defensive Player of the Year
8.5.5 Player of the Year
8.5.6 Assistant Coach of the Year
8.5.7 Coach of the Year (advances for NAIA national consideration)

- **Coaches may not vote for themselves or their players.**

Section 9: Video Exchange

9.1 Platform

9.1.1 Hudl is the exclusive provider for video exchange.

9.2 Upload Deadlines

9.2.1 Men: Within 48 hours of contest completion.

9.2.2 Women: By 1:00 p.m. the next business day.

9.3 Restrictions

9.3.1 Teams may not share conference film with non-conference opponents.

9.4 Penalties

9.4.1 First violation: Warning

9.4.2 Second violation: $250 fine