



Soccer

SECTION A: Membership and Voting

1. Each head coach of both men's and women's programs of each member conference school sponsoring varsity soccer is a member of the Soccer Coaches Committee. Each program has one vote on all matters taken to vote. A head coach may designate a proxy person to cast his/her vote(s) at any meeting on any matter.
2. Soccer coaches meet at the Heart Summit each year.
3. A chairperson will be designated for men and women. One of these chairpersons shall chair the annual pre-season and post-season meetings of the entire group.
4. A quorum will consist of $\frac{1}{2}$ plus one of the voting members. Thus, if there are 20 programs, 11 voters will constitute a quorum. If an even number, then a quorum would be the next whole number past $\frac{1}{2}$. (For example: If 19 programs, 10 would constitute a quorum.)
5. The pre-season meeting will be held during the Heart Summit which is held the first Monday in August and the post season meeting for all head coaches is to be held the day following the completion of the regular season with the time and place to be announced.

SECTION C: Scheduling

1. Limit of twenty (20) playing dates, 18 of which are varsity competition and 2 scrimmages.
 - a. EXCEPTIONS: institutions not playing on Sundays are allowed 4 additional Monday-Friday games, inclusive of scrimmages.
2. First Practice Date: For 2024, Monday, August 5.
3. Heart Summit: Monday, July 29, 2024

4. Scheduling: each team must play every other team once during the regular season. All conference games must be completed by the Saturday prior to the NAIA deadline for Conference: the 1st Saturday in November
5. Game Times shall start no later than 7:30 pm.
6. Schedule Approval Process:
 - a. The Coaches will have the opportunity to present scheduling parameters to the Commissioner that meet the 60% minimum criteria of overall games set by the COP. This will be reviewed by the Commissioner and submitted to the Heart Scheduling Committee.
 - b. The Scheduling Committee along with the individual sport liaison will then review the proposed scheduling parameters submitted by the Commissioner and approve or alter the proposal. These approved or altered parameters will be returned to the Commissioner to produce a schedule that fits the parameters.
 - c. When the schedule is completed, it will be submitted to the Scheduling Committee (with the sport liaison as an adjunct) for analysis and approval. If not approved, it will be sent back to the Commissioner for alterations.
 - d. Once approved by the Scheduling Committee the Commissioner will forward to the Athletic Directors Committee for final approval. At this point, the schedule will be at the stage where any changes should be made via the schedule change process.
 - e. Approval comes with a 2/3rds majority voting in the affirmative.

SECTION D: Game Policies

1. The host team shall have an administrator or designate present at all home games. It is recommended that this be a member of the staff, not a student.
2. Home team shall provide a minimum of 4 ball chasers for all games.
3. Home team shall provide at least 30 minutes warm-up time to the visitors. At least 15 minutes of this time must be on the game field.
4. Home team shall provide opponents use of a locker room for changing before and after the game, with showers available after the game. Towels are the responsibility of the visitors.
5. The Director of Athletics or his/her assignee will be present at all home contests.
6. The official soccer ball of the NAIA is required to be used and must have a minimum of 5 balls for each game.

SECTION E: Conference Champions

1. In the case of a tie for the regular season championship, co-champions shall be declared.
2. The following are the seven criteria for determining seeds in the conference tournament. Applied in numerical order. (Tiebreakers)
 - a. Point system based on Win = 3, Tie = 1, Loss = 0 in conference games only.
 - b. Head-to-head results, based on point system.
 - c. Team with most wins in conference play.
 - d. Goal differential, in conference play. Calculated to a maximum of 3 goals per game.
 - e. Overall win/loss/tie record against non-conference opponents.
 - f. Most recently published NAIA MRPI ranking.
3. If more than 2 teams are tied, once one team is eliminated based on tiebreakers, revert and start process again from number one with remaining tied teams.

SECTION F: Reporting and Information Sharing

1. A copy of the program's schedule must be sent to each conference coach prior to the start of the season. Any changes, additions, or cancellations after that time must be included on the weekly report to the conference SID.
2. Weekly report: Coaches are responsible for reporting to the Conference Sports Information Director each week. The report shall include:
 - a. Results for the week (opponent, result, score, site)
 - b. Individual stats (cumulative for goals scored, assists, and points. Individual must play 75% of team games to be eligible.)
 - c. For goal keepers (games played goals against average and shutouts).
 - d. Team stats (cumulative: overall record, conference record, goals for, goals against.)
 - e. Nominations (if any) for Offensive and/or Defensive Player of the Week.
 - f. Reports of accumulated yellow and red card must be filed with other statistics.
3. Coaches shall not give scouting reports on conference opponents.

SECTION G: Video Exchange

1. HUDL will be the exclusive 3rd party provider for video exchange.

2. All Heart soccer teams must video record all conference games and download for sharing purposes with all conference teams within 24 hours of completion of competition. Coaches agree that all film should be uploaded as quickly as possible but the 48-rule accounts for technological errors, etc.
3. Once conference play begins, the home team is responsible for sharing to all conference opponents within the 48 hours from completion of game.
4. Any team that does not post video in the required timeline will be given a warning 1st and then a \$250 fine for a 2nd time.

SECTION H: Awards

1. All award orders will be placed through the conference office.
2. Each team must submit a list of nominations for All-conference team to the chairperson at least 24 hours prior to the coaches meeting. The nominations should be listed with name, jersey number, stats (if any), and comments(s), if any, from the coach. They should be listed in order of rank, in the opinion of the coach, beginning with the most deserving.
3. Men's All-Conference Awards: The All-Conference team shall consist of three teams, first and second third. Each shall have 15 players: one goalkeeper, three defenders, three midfielders, three forwards and five flex players of varying positions.
4. Women's All-Conference Awards: The All-Conference team shall consist of three teams, first and second third. Each shall have 15 players: one goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders, four forwards and three wild card of varying positions.
 - a. These teams shall be chosen at the annual soccer coaches meeting by vote.
 - b. Coaches are precluded from voting for student-athletes on their own teams.
5. Players of the Year: After all All-Conference team is chosen, then the coaches shall vote for an Offensive, Defensive, Freshman and Newcomer of the Year. These shall each be one of the players on the first team All-Conference. Then one of the two shall be voted player of the year.
6. The HEART Coach of the Year shall be named by a vote of the coaches at the meeting.

7. Champions: the Heart regular season champion shall receive a banner. If two or more co-champions, the cost of extra banners shall be shared evenly between teams tied.
8. All-Conference first team members and Players of the Year shall receive a plaque. Voting for the teams will take place at the post-season coaches meeting.
9. Coach of the year shall receive a plaque.

SECTION I: Post Season

1. Final regular season conference standings are used to determine the top 8 teams. Tie breaking procedures will follow already established conference guidelines.
2. Conference Tournament Dates:
 - a. Women: November 5, 8, 12
 - b. Men: November 6, 9, 13
 - i. Note: Game dates will flip flop every year between the Men and Women. Note: All times are to be determined based on availability of lights
3. Game Order:
 - a. Game A: #1 will host #8
 - b. Game B: #2 will host #7
 - c. Game C: #3 will host #6
 - d. Game D: #4 will host #5
 - e. Game E: Semifinal 1 - Winner of Game A and D
 - f. Game F: Semifinal 2 – Winner of Game B and C
 - g. Game G: Championship Winner of Game E and F
4. Semifinals and Championship final will be hosted at highest seed.
 - a. The winner of the regular season receives the 1st berth and the tournament champion shall receive the 2nd berth to the NAIA National Tournament. If they are the same team, then the 2nd berth will go to the conference tournament runner-up.
5. In the event that the tournament cannot be concluded due to weather and only after every all options are considered; the regular season conference champion be named as the automatic bid winner to the NAIA National Tournament.

SECTION J: Rater Procedures

1. The rater position for both men's and women's soccer is a two-year service position, followed by a transition year where if a new rater is voted upon the current rater helps the new rater along, followed by the new rater taking over in year four.
2. If a change in rater is voted upon, the newly appointed rater must have served at least 1 year on the oversight committee or have been a previous rater (unless there are no candidates with such credentials)
 - a. The rater position must be accompanied by an oversight committee.
3. The oversight committee must consist of Heart Conference Administrator, Heart BOG Liaison, Heart SID Liaison.

APPENDIX: Leadership

1. Executive Committee Men's Soccer:
 - a. Chair – Amer Hadzic, Mount Mercy University
 - b. Vice Chair – Simon Brown, William Penn University
 - c. Rater – Amer Hadzic – Mount Mercy University
2. Executive Committee Men's Soccer:
 - a. Chair – Josh Printz – Clarke University
 - b. Vice Chair – Tyler Tomlinson – Culver-Stockton College
 - c. Rater – Drew Hawkins, Missouri Valley College
3. The Chair and Co-Chair will serve for a 2-year term by election with a 2-term limit.