

MCAC MEN'S DIVISION FOOTBALL OPERATING CODE

I. Organization of Coaches Group and Meetings

A. Membership

1. All football coaches of the MCAC may participate.
2. Each member college will have one vote.

B. Chair and Secretary

1. The president of the football coaches association will chair the meeting.
2. The secretary will keep written records of all business conducted. These records will be sent to the membership and the Men's Division secretary as an addendum to the minutes.

C. Coaches Meetings

1. Regular annual meetings will be scheduled at the State Championship Game host site.

II. Competitive Season

A. The first allowable date for football conditioning and/or practice shall be Friday, August 8, 2008.

1. First (3) three days are one practice not to exceed three hours in shorts, shoulder pads, and helmets.
2. Subsequent to the three-day period, institutions may practice in full pads. However, and institution may not conduct multiple on-field practice sessions (e.g., two-a-days or three-a-days) on consecutive days.
3. Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of on-field practice activities on those days which one practice is permitted.
4. Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of on-field practice on those days during which more than one practice is permitted.
5. On days that institutions conduct multiple practice sessions, student-athletes must be provided with at least three continuous hours of recovery time between the end of the first practice and the start of the last practice that day. During this time, student-athletes may not attend any meetings or engage in other athletically related activities (e.g., weight training); however, time spent receiving medical treatment and eating meals may be included as part of the recovery time.
6. In the NJCAA, during the preseason practice period only and subsequent to the three-day acclimatization period, walk-throughs are not considered an on-field activity, provided protective equipment (e.g., helmets, shoulder pads) is not worn, equipment related to football (e.g., footballs, blocking sleds) is not used and conditioning activities do not occur.

B. The following may not take place before the starting date for football practice:

1. Any football practices organized or supervised by college personnel.
2. The mailing of notebooks (a conditioning program may be sent to each athlete).
3. Any action considered an attempt to bypass the intent of the rule.

C. All teams will play a full nine game schedule verses all other MCAC teams.

D. Transportation for the ninth game will be shared between MCAC schools. Teams will be reimbursed or charged at a rate of \$2.25/mile for all mileage above or below 330 miles roundtrip to the host site.

- E. The MCAC Football Classic will be held at St. Cloud State University on August 29-30, 2008. The Southern teams will be the home teams in 2008, with the Northern teams being the home teams in 2009.
- F. Conduct: The second penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct that is charged directly to the coach, shall be considered flagrant and lead to ejection of that coach from the game.

III. Rules and Regulations

A. Officials

- 1. Football Assignment Secretary
 - a. Position
 - 1) The Assignment Secretary will be selected by the MCAC (Mike Budion)
 - 2) The Assignment Secretary will be paid \$200.00 per college.
 - b. Duties:
 - 1) Shall assign football officials statewide.
 - 2) Six (6) officials will be paid \$110 per official, plus mileage.
 - 3) An attempt shall be made to use competent and acceptable officials from the Twin Cities area, as well as other areas throughout out-state Minnesota, eastern North and South Dakota, and northern Iowa.
 - 4) The Assignment Secretary is responsible to work with the conference coordinator to arrange for a rules interpretation meeting (or informational mailing) prior to the season for officials and coaches.
 - 5) Colleges will submit an evaluation at the completion of each game. Officials will write a critique for each game, evaluating their performance and the conduct of the participating teams. This is to be sent to the Assignment Secretary.
 - c. Procedure
 - 1) It is strongly recommended that no set of officials work more than one MCAC football game per day.
 - 2) Six (6) officials shall be used.

B. Game Regulations

- 1. It is recommended that fields be marked at ten yard intervals, with the markings being placed on the hash marks.
- 2. NCAA Rule Exceptions:
 - a. Effective with the 1991 football season, the NCAA narrowed the goal post width to 18'6"; however, the MCAC shall keep the 23'4" goal post width.
 - B. Double logo permitted.
 - c. Colored mouthpiece permitted, clear is not required.
 - d. Mid hash-markings optional.
 - e. Visible 25/40 second clock on each end of the field is not required.
- 3. A doctor and/or emergency squad is to be in attendance at every scheduled football game.
- 4. In all MCAC games, the ball shall be a Wilson 1005. The MCAC is under contract with Wilson for the 2008 season. The home team shall be required to furnish the official football.
- 5. Pre-Game Protocol
 - 60:00 prior to game time Time posted on game clock

60:00 to 40:00 Each team shall have their side of the 50 yard line, plus an additional 20 yards on their sideline (50 yard line to -30 yard line) from the near hash to the sideline for kicking.

40:00 to 0:00 Each team shall have their side of the 50 yard line only for team activities.

20:00 Each team shall have a representative on the field for the coin toss and meeting with officials.

10:00 Introduction of line-ups (optional).

5:00 Each team shall be assembled for the national anthem.

6. Officials may suspend a game until the field is ready and have the host college get it ready.
7. The "Chain Crew" shall operate on the sideline opposite the press box.
8. Games shall be played either at 1:30 p.m. (or 3:00 p.m. when teams are more than 250 miles apart), unless a different time is mutually agreed upon, and placed on the master schedule by March 1.
9. In the Northern division, games shall be played on Saturdays at 1:30 unless a different time is mutually agreed upon.
10. For all MCAC games, the visiting team shall wear white uniforms and the home team shall wear colored uniforms.
11. Film Exchange Policy (effective 2008). For the 2008 season the use of GFS.

C. Scheduling

1. If any date is changed from the master schedule, it must be played later.
2. Regarding postponements due to bad weather:
 - a. Unless there is mutual agreement to postpone, the host college must provide a "home" field somewhere, or else forfeit.
 - b. The "home" field could be that of "away" college, if agreed upon.

D. Tie Breakers

1. All MCAC games follow the NCAA overtime rule.

IV. Division Organization

A. The following divisions are established:

<u>Northern Division</u>		<u>Southern Division</u>	
Itasca	Northland	Central Lakes	Fergus Falls
Mesabi Range	Fond Du Lac	Minnesota West	Ridgewater
Vermilion		Rochester	

B. For determining division champions, division games will count as two points in the standings. Inter-division games will count as one point.

C. The top two teams from each division will participate in the first round of playoffs.

V. Eligibility

- A. The NJCAA rules shall govern all MCAC games, with the exception of maintaining the rule on exclusion for flagrant misconduct resulting in game suspension.

VI. Season Awards

- A. Division winners shall receive a trophy.
- B. An All-MCAC team shall be selected - 24 players in the Northern and Southern Divisions. Each member shall receive a certificate.
- C. All-MCAC second team & honorable mention recipients shall receive certificates.
- D. Procedure for selecting All-Division and All-Conference teams.

Northern and Southern Divisions

- 1. A Northern Division team and a Southern Division team shall be selected with 24 players.
- 2. One kicker and one punter will be selected based upon statistics.
- 3. The selection of the All Conference team members will be based upon the final conference standings.

<u>North</u>		<u>South</u>	
<u>Standings</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>Standings</u>	<u>Players</u>
1	6	1	6
2	5	2	5
3	4	3	4
4	3	4	3
5	2	5	2
6	2		
At large	<u>2</u>	At large	<u>2</u>
	24		22

- 4. In case of a tie, if the total number of all conference certificates does not divide evenly, add the appropriate number of certificates so that it does.
- 5. The maximum number of MCAC second team players is five per team.
- 6. The maximum number of MCAC honorable mention players is five per team.
- 7. Coaches are responsible for conducting the All-MCAC balloting process.
- 8. Details of the All-MCAC voting shall be distributed to the coaches.

VII. State Play-Off Policy

A. Date-Location

The first round play-off game shall be played at 1:00 p.m. unless mutually agreeable or circumstances absolutely prevent the use of the home field at 1:00 p.m.

The championship game shall be held at a neutral site. St. Cloud State University will be the host location in 2008. The 2008 date is November 9 at 1:00 pm. If the Championship game is not held at a neutral site, the Southern Division participant will host in even years and the Northern Division participant in odd years. In the event both participating teams come from the same division, the host school will be the highest seeded team.

B. Selection of Play-Off Participants

1. The top two teams for each division will participate in the first round of playoffs.

C. Tie-Breaking Procedures

1. In the event of a two-way tie for division championship, the winner of the game between the two teams in regular season play will participate.
 - a) A coin flip will be held between the coaches of the three teams or a representative of the team(s)
 - b) The odd coin will indicate the team that will be eliminated from state competition
 - c) The two remaining teams will receive the 1st and 2nd seed based upon their regular season game.

D. The following items shall be authorized first-round playoff expenses:

1. Officials

E. Awards

1. An MCAC championship team shall be declared and receive a trophy.
2. A runner-up team shall be declared and receive a trophy.
3. Championship game participants shall receive certificates.

VIII. Post-Season Play

Opponents and Sites for First Round of Playoff

1. North #1 will host the 1st round of playoffs against the S-2 team.
2. South #1 will host the 1st round of playoffs against the N-2 team.

2008 MCAC FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

North	Week1	Week2	Week3	Week4	Week5	Week6	Week7	Week8	Week9
FDL	CL	FF (H)	MW	RO(H)	IT	NL(H)	RW	MR(H)	VE
IT	RW	MW(H)	RO	CL(H)	FDL(H)	VE	MR	NL	FF
MR	FF	RW(H)	CL	MW(H)	VE(H)	RO	IT(H)	FDL	NL
NL	RO	CL(H)	FF	RW(H)	MW	FDL	VE(H)	IT	MR(H)
VERM	MW	RO(H)	RW	FF(H)	MR	IT(H)	NL	CL	FDL(H)
SOUTH									
CL	FDL	NL	MR(H)	IT	RO(H)	FF(H)	MW	VE(H)	RW
FF	MR	FDL	NL(H)	VE	RW(H)	CL	RO(H)	MW	IT(H)
RW	IT	MR	VE(H)	NL	FF	MW(H)	FDL(H)	RO	CL(H)
ROCH	NL	VE	IT(H)	FDL	CL	MR(H)	FF	RW(H)	MW(H)
MW	VE	IT	FDL(H)	MR	NL(H)	RW	CL(H)	FF(H)	RO

Kickoff Classic Schedule @ St. Cloud State University

Friday, August 29

Game 1 @ 11:00 - Fond Du Lac vs. Central Lakes

Game 2 @ 3:00 - Mesabi Range vs. Fergus Falls

Saturday, August 30

Game 1 @ 11:00 - Itasca vs. Ridgewater

Game 2 @ 3:00 - Northland vs. Rochester

Game 3 @ 7:00 Vermillion vs. MN West

- 1st Round Playoffs – November 1, 1:00 PM, Hosted by #1 seeds
- Championship Game – November 9, 1:00 PM, St Cloud State University