4.4 DECORUM POLICY

4.4.1 DECORUM—Is the CCCAA code of behavior for all participants in sponsored athletic events. For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions apply:

A. PARTICIPANT—is a player, coach, team member, team attendant, official, or college staff member.

B. EVENT—is defined as the time a team or participant arrives at the event site until the time the team or participant leaves the event site.

C. EJECTION—Removal from a scrimmage/game/meet/match of a participant for the remainder of the event.

1. Sport rulebook infraction. Removal from the event for actions not under the jurisdiction of this policy, but are covered by the rules of the sport.

2. Decorum violation: Removal of a participant for verbal or physical misconduct, or unsportsmanlike conduct.
   a. Verbal misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as, but not limited to, unsportsmanlike tactics, such as using profanity or vulgarity, taunting, spitting on an opponent, ridiculing, finger pointing, making obscene gestures, throwing gang signs, baiting an opponent, inciting undesirable crowd reactions, persistent arguing with officials, or aggressive behavior toward officials.
   b. Physical misconduct is defined as, but not limited to, any attempt by a participant to contact another participant in a combative manner unrelated to the sport. Such acts include striking or attempting to strike a participant whether or not there is contact.

3. All ejections will be reviewed by the conference commissioner, who will determine if the ejection was a sport rulebook infraction or a decorum violation.
   a. A decision that a decorum violation has occurred may be appealed to the conference appeals board.
   b. An appeal does not set aside the sanction while the appeal is being deliberated.
   c. All decorum violations will result in at least a next event suspension.

4.4.2 Where official rule books and the CCCAA decorum rules differ, the most stringent rules shall apply.

4.5 SANCTIONS FOR DECORUM VIOLATIONS

4.5.1 The following are minimal sanctions. Other sanctions may be imposed by the college, the conference commissioner, the conference, or the conference appeals board:

A. FIRST VIOLATION: Suspension from the next event.

B. SECOND VIOLATION (in the same season): Suspension from all events for the remainder of the sport season including post conference competition.

C. LEAVING THE BENCH AREA OR POSITION: Participants entering the field of play, or leaving their position in the field of play, in reaction to a confrontation, even if they do not become physically involved or verbally confrontational, shall be ejected and sanctioned as outlined in Bylaw 4.4 and Bylaw 4.5.

   If, in the judgment of the official(s), a coach entering the field of play was helpful in the effort to control participants; the sanctions against the coach may be waived by the conference commissioner. Otherwise, sanctions are mandatory.

D. PHYSICALLY ASSAULTING AN OFFICIAL(S): Physically assaulting or attempting to physically assault an official shall result in immediate ejection, and the participant shall be suspended from participation in CCCAA athletic events for a period of sixty (60) months.

E. TOBACCO AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE: The use or possession of any form of tobacco, alcohol, or other controlled substances by any participant during a CCCAA event shall result in an ejection.

   1. Tobacco or substance abuse violations shall be considered decorum violations.
2. Sanctions shall be applied as in this bylaw.

F. Ejected participants must leave the confines of the playing site and grandstands immediately.

G. Suspended participants may not:

1. Be dressed in game uniform.

2. Communicate with any team personnel or officials.

3. Take part in any pregame activities at the site of the competition.

4. Be in the confines of the playing site once pregame activities have started.

H. Coaches or team attendants sanctioned by any of the above bylaws are prohibited from participation in the event only, not from carrying out assigned non-event responsibilities.

4.6 REPORTING OF REMOVALS

4.6.1 Each removal must be reported to the athletic director within 24 hours.

A. The athletic director shall immediately inform the conference commissioner.

B. Failure by the coach to report within 24 hours shall result in an automatic one (1)-game suspension.

C. Failure to report by the athletic director shall result in disciplinary action against the athletic director or the sports program by the conference commissioner.

4.6.2 Post conference Competition Reporting

A. Each removal from a post conference competition game, meet, or match must be reported by the coach to the coach’s athletic director within 12 hours.

B. The athletic director will immediately inform the conference commissioner.

C. Failure to report the ejection to the athletic director within 12 hours is an automatic one (1)-game suspension of the coach.

D. Failure to report by the athletic director with 24 hours shall result in disciplinary action against the athletic director or the sports program by the conference commissioner.

4.6.2.1 Penalties for post conference CCCAA rules, eligibility, and decorum violations shall be ruled on by the involved conference commissioner(s) and the CCCAA Executive.

If participants are ejected, then the involved conference commissioner(s) and the CCCAA Executive or his/her designee shall rule on it.

4.6.2.2 Post conference Appeals

A. The Championship Handbook appeals process must be followed first.

B. If the Championship Handbook appeals have been exhausted, the appeals process in Article 7.4.6.1 or 7.4.6.3, whichever is appropriate.

4.7 DECORUM UNDERSTANDING

4.7.1 Each person participating in a CCCAA event shall receive a copy of the decorum policy, and provide written acknowledgment of understanding the rules contained therein.

4.7.2 Failure of the institution to conduct decorum training for all coaches shall result in the entire sports program being placed on probation.