

## 200 and 300 Constitution of the Greater Metro Conference

### 210 Preamble

- 211 The organization of high schools comprising the Greater Metro Conference has been developed to provide a means of coordinating activities in interscholastic matters among the schools named.
- 212 Application of purposes and rules governing activity of this conference has been provided in the framework of this constitution. The welfare of the students in the schools involved shall always be the major consideration in conducting any conference activity.
- 213 This document refers specifically to the operation of the high school(s). Other arrangements may be made for other areas of administrative organization in the member districts.

### 220 Name

- 221 The name of this organization of these high schools shall be the **Greater Metro Conference**.

### 230 Purpose

- 231 To provide a vehicle for the conduct of conference activities.
- 232 To promote academic, athletic, and other interests of students.
- 233 To develop a sense of unity in all matters pertaining to conference activities.
- 234 To arrange schedules for conference activities and to set dates and formulate policies governing such as the conference may choose to sponsor.
- 235 To provide a means for determining awards and recognition for success and service in conference activities.
- 236 To further good sportsmanship and to use the conference activities as a means of developing good citizenship responsibility and positive human relations on the part of competing members and spectators.

### 240 Membership

- 241 Memberships for athletic purposes will involve high schools only. Wherever grade nine may be included in the administrative organization of the schools, student participation at grade nine is at the discretion of the individual school. If the school has any teams at the freshman level, however, they will be expected to participate in conference activities.

Participation in other interscholastic activities will be determined by specific by-laws in this constitution and in the future agreements made by the conference.

- 242 New members: High schools in good standing and offering a reasonable number of WIAA approved activities may, upon application, be elected to this conference by the two-thirds vote of the membership and approval of the WIAA. New high schools built in member districts must submit to the president of the conference a request for inclusion in conference activities one academic year prior to entry.
- 243 Withdrawals
- 243.1 A school may be dropped from membership by a two-thirds vote of the members upon being given twelve months notice in writing by the president of the conference at the end of any academic year and with WIAA approval.
- 243.2 A school may withdraw from the conference upon giving a twelve month written notice at the May meeting and WIAA approval. The withdrawal will be effective at the end of the following year.
- 244 Charter Members of the Greater Metro Conference were Brookfield Central High School, Brookfield East High School, Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, Hamilton High School, Marquette University High School, Menomonee Falls High School, Wauwatosa East High School, West Allis Central High School, and West Allis Nathan Hale High School. Beginning with the 2017-18 season, West Allis Central High School left the Greater Metro Conference and Germantown High School and Wauwatosa West High School were added by WIAA realignment.
- 245 Executive Membership - All charter member schools (Including the schools added above by WIAA realignment) are given Executive member status as long as they remain in good standing with the Greater Metro Conference. All new members complying with By-Law 242 will have Executive member status when approved to into the Greater Metro Conference.
- 246 Associate Membership - Non-GMC schools can petition to become Associate members of the conference to participate in any sport that the GMC offers. A formal request should be made to either the GMC Commissioner or the Athletic Director in charge of that sport in the GMC. The petition will be brought before the GMC Athletic Directors at the next regularly scheduled meeting. If a two-thirds vote by the Athletic Directors of the participating GMC schools in that sport is cast in favor of allowing the non-GMC school to become an Associate Member of the GMC, the matter will go before the GMC Principals for approval.
- 246.1 After approval, the petitioning school(s) will be permitted to participate in that sport for two years. Each Associate member's

head coach will be allowed all the rights and privileges that GMC coaches have in voting at year-end meetings. Associate Members Athletic Directors will also be allowed the same rights and privileges to vote regarding sport-specific by-laws, policies, and schedules in the sport they participate in the GMC. Principals of the Associate member school(s) will be non-voting members for making changes to the GMC by-laws and constitution.

246.2 By acceptance into the GMC, all member schools agree to abide by the GMC's Constitution and By-laws and any remedies set forth by them.

246.3 Dues - Associate members of the GMC will be invoiced by the Conference Commissioner each year to cover the costs of conference tournaments, administrative expenses and awards.

## **250 Executive Committee**

251 The Executive Committee consists of one principal or his/her representative from each school with each having one vote, plus the Conference Commissioner, who shall preside, but shall have no vote by virtue of his/her office.

252 Function:

252.1 The Executive Committee shall employ a Commissioner who shall be charged with responsibilities as outlined in Section 270 (Job Description) of the operation of the conference.

252.2 The Executive Committee may adopt, repeal, amend, rescind, suspend, and waive all rules and regulations governing the interscholastic and curricular activity programs under its review.

252.3 The adoption of a conference schedule by the Greater Metro Conference shall constitute binding contracts upon all member schools. Individual contracts need not be sent. All schools agree to abide by all the GMC's Constitution and By-laws and any remedies set forth by them in the sports that they are participating.

253 Executive Committee meetings are to be held a minimum of three times during a twelve-month period, preferably every other month during the school year. Additional meetings are to be held as needed. The agenda for each meeting will be distributed to members of the Executive Committee.

253.1 Special meetings may be held at the request of a majority of the schools or called by the President.

- 253.2 No official action can be concluded without a quorum present at the Executive Committee meeting. This quorum would be made up of two-thirds of the member schools (six schools).
- 253.3 All meetings will be conducted in the procedure outlined in Robert's Rules of Order.
- 254 The times and dates of all the following meetings will be set and be furnished to the Executive Committee.
  - 254.1 Head coaches in all sports will meet with the athletic director in charge.
    - 254.1a Coaches of each sport will attend an end-of-season meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the past season and offer suggestions for the coming season. The AD in charge of that sport will distribute the minutes of this meeting to the other conference athletic directors to discuss and vote for any changes that were approved by a majority vote of the coaches.
    - 254.1b Exceptions to these meeting times may be made in those sports where a "seeding" meeting is required before the conference meet. The end-of-season meeting and the "seeding" meeting could be combined at a date before the conference meet.
    - 254.1c The Athletic Directors will meet monthly.
    - 254.1d Conference sponsored co-curricular activities will conduct an annual meeting.
    - 254.1e Expenses and hospitality incurred for these meetings will be the responsibility of the host schools.

## **260 Officers**

### **261 President and Vice-President**

- 261.1 The Executive Committee shall have three officers - a president and a vice-president plus the Conference Commissioner, who shall preside, but shall have no vote by virtue of his/her office. An alphabetical rotation system as defined by the constitution for filling the office of president and vice-president shall be used. The Vice-President shall be from the next school in alphabetical order from that of the president and shall preside at Executive Committee meetings in the absence of the President and be responsible for the preparation of the meeting minutes and sending them to the Conference

Commissioner. By mutual agreement, individual schools may trade the year of presidency.

262 Terms of Office

262.1 The president and vice-president shall take office on August 1 and serve a term of one year.

263 Designated Members

263.1 The conference president shall designate (if possible, from his/her school) the chairperson for the following committees: Athletic Directors, Speech and Forensics Activities, Student Council, Music, and Mathematics Activities and similar committees which either exist or shall in the future be formed.

264 Rules Infraction Committee

264.1 The Rules Infraction Committee will consist of the Conference Commissioner, who shall preside, but shall have no vote by virtue of his/her office. The current President of the Athletic Directors, the current Vice-President of the Athletic Directors, and the previous year's President of the Athletic Directors. If one of those named committee members is from the school involved in the appeal, the following year's Athletic Director in the rotation will take the involved Athletic Director's place on the committee for that particular appeal. The following year's Vice-President in the rotation will be the next alternate if necessary.

265 Principals' Rules Infraction Appeals Committee

265.1 The Principals' Rules Infraction Appeals Committee will consist of plus the Conference Commissioner, who shall preside, but shall have no vote by virtue of his/her office. The current President of the Principals, the current Vice-President, and the previous year's President. If one of those named committee members is from the school involved in the appeal, the following year's President in the rotation will take the involved Principal's place on the committee for that particular appeal. The following year's Vice-President in the rotation will be the next alternate if necessary.

## **270 Conference Commissioner**

271 Selection or Renewal

271.1 The Executive Committee shall employ a conference commissioner whose performance shall be reviewed annually. The commissioner shall serve a term of one year (August 1 - July 31). The primary criteria in the selection of the commissioner shall include:

271.1a Knowledge and experience in school activities.

271.1b Shall be available to meet the time requirement as set forth in the job description.

272 Responsibilities:

272.1 Report to the conference principals and be responsible for all conference athletics and assigned co-curricular concerns.

272.2 Attend and preside at all conference principal meetings.

272.3 Attend and preside at all athletic director conference meetings and prepare and distribute minutes of these meetings.

272.4 Represent the conference at state and local meetings.

272.5 In the absence of the conference commissioner the athletic director from the school of the conference president shall preside.

273 Duties:

273.1 Be responsible for updating, editing and maintaining the conference handbook which will contain the constitution, schedules, directory, meet results and records maintained by each Athletic Director in their assigned sport. Costs for producing all conference materials is to be shared annually by member schools.

273.2 Be responsible for distribution of the conference handbook and conference passes.

273.3 Order conference awards and see to the delivery of awards to athletic directors, individuals, and schools involved. (Conference responsibilities will include forensics, debate, math, and other appropriate conference activities).

273.4 Will act as financial manager for the conference. Duties include conference budget preparation, collection of dues and disbursement of funds.

273.5 Provide quarterly conference financial reports.

273.6 The conference will conduct a yearly review of the Commissioners performance.

273.7 Responsible for arranging the site and time of conference meetings for forensics, debate, math, academic decathlon and other appropriate conference activities.

273.8 Assign officials and distribute contracts in the following sports:

|                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Varsity Girls Swimming        | Varsity Football            |
| Varsity (JV) Boys Volleyball  | Varsity Boys Basketball     |
| Varsity (JV) Girls Volleyball | Varsity Girls Basketball    |
| Varsity Wrestling             | Varsity Girls Gymnastics    |
| Varsity Baseball              | Varsity Softball            |
| Varsity Boys Soccer           | Varsity Girls Soccer        |
| Varsity (JV) Boys Lacrosse    | Varsity (JV) Girls Lacrosse |

273.9 Assign officials and distribute contracts in the following Conference Meets:

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Cross Country | Swimming   |
| Gymnastics    | Wrestling  |
| Track         | Volleyball |

274 Salary

274.1 Stipend is to be paid on a quarterly basis. The stipend amount includes meals and mileage. The commissioner's expense account does not include the costs for printing handbooks and passes.

## 280 Fiscal Matters

281 Annual Dues

281.1 The annual dues for the next school year will be established no later than the May Principals meeting of the current school year and shall be based on the approved budget from the Athletic Directors. Subsequent changes which may result in increased dues will require a vote of two-thirds of the member schools.

282 Special Arrangements

282.1 If additional money is needed to prevent a deficit in any school year, a special assessment shall be levied against each member school.

283 Costs of Awards

283.1 The cost of all approved awards shall be charged to the conference account.

284 Conference Recognition and Expenses

284.1 (To be determined by Executive Committee) Any sport or activity with less than a majority of schools participating will not be considered a conference sponsored event and all expenses will be the responsibility of the schools invited.

285 Fiscal Year

285.1 The fiscal year will begin on August 1 of each year and end on July 30.

## **290 Responsibilities of Conference Athletic Directors**

291 Each athletic director will be responsible for attending conference meetings, generating schedules, maintaining records and by-laws, reporting tournament results, and chairing the coaches meetings in the sport assigned to him/her.

292 Such schedules, by-laws, tournament results, and All-Conference selections shall be presented to the athletic directors and delivered to the Conference Commissioner at appropriate times during the sports seasons.

293 The Athletic Director in charge of the specific sport shall serve as initial representative of the Greater Metro Conference to the media and public in matters relating to that sport's scheduling, cancellations, statistics, records, awards, and similar items.

294 The athletic director or his/her designee in charge of a specific sport shall be on site to handle rules interpretation on the days of the scheduled conference tournaments.

## **300 Rules**

301 The WIAA, WHSFA, WSMA and any other state association rules plus others prescribed by the conference, shall govern all conference interscholastic contests. Such rules as prescribed by the conference shall govern all other events and activities.

## **310 Conference Champions**

311 Conference champions are determined by the by-laws governing each individual activity.

## **320 Protests**

321 Violations of WIAA or GMC Rules or Regulations

321.1 Any school affected by a possible violation of any conference bylaw, rule or student code of ethics shall notify in writing the Conference Commissioner within five (5) school days after the alleged violation utilizing the GMC Rules Infraction Report. Only an Athletic Director

or Principal can submit a Rules Infraction notification to the Commissioner.

- 321.2 If the Conference Commissioner is unable to satisfactorily resolve the issue, the Conference Commissioner will convene a special meeting with the Rules Infraction Committee (see by-law 264). A hearing will be held to allow all parties to explain the situation and to gather information.
- 321.3 This rules infraction process does not apply to the appeal of a coach ejected from a contest (see by-law 345).
- 321.4 The individual high schools will be responsible for carrying out disciplinary action against their own personnel.
- 321.5 If the Rules Infraction Committee is unable to resolve the problem OR the involved school(s) Principal(s) choose(s) to appeal the Rules Infraction Committee's decision, the issue will be brought before the Principals' Rules Infraction Appeals Committee (see by-law 265). School(s) choosing to initiate the appeals process must notify the Commissioner in writing within two (2) weeks of the Rules Infraction Committee's decision. The decision of the Principals' Rules Infraction Appeals Committee is final.

### **330 Postponements, Schedule Adjustments, and Forfeitures**

- 331 Because of the geographical differences in the conference, weather conditions at one school site may be substantially different from another school site. In recognition of this difference, the following guidelines are established for postponements due to inclement weather when schools are closed.
  - 331.1 Should weather conditions at the guest school be such that, in the judgment of the building principal, students not leave the community, the event will be postponed.
  - 331.2 Should weather conditions at the host school be such that, in the judgment of the building principal, students should not travel, the event will be postponed.
  - 331.3 When a conference school closes due to inclement weather, all contests and activities involving that school are also canceled.
  - 331.4 Every effort will be made to reschedule events postponed because of district closing;

In all of the above cases an effort will be made to make a decision early enough to provide for cancellations of buses. Every effort shall be made to

reschedule any event postponed for any of the above reasons.

## **340 Sportsmanship**

341 Good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity are important aspects of the educational process that should be emphasized in all levels of high school athletics. An awareness is expected of how an individual's behavior impacts others, positively as well as negatively. Good sportsmanship is defined by the Greater Metro Conference as an understanding of others, a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. These are all critical quantities to be passed on to our students. The GMC is not a just a device organized to permit a team to win a championship or to promote an intense rivalry, but an association formed for the purpose of making possible individual development through interscholastic competition. There are greater values at stake than winning games and championships at this important part of our students' lives.

342 To achieve the goals of the Greater Metro Conference, school administrators and other school personnel must commit themselves to:

342.1 Supervising athletic events in such manner that the visiting teams and spectators are made to feel welcome, at ease, and comfortable.

342.2 Discussing with the student body and other members of the community the Conference sportsmanship and crowd behavior guidelines, which all of the conference schools have endorsed, are as follows:

- a. Welcome the opposing team and treat them as guests.
- b. Respect the property of the school at which the event is being held.

343 Conference Sportsmanship and Crowd Behavior Guidelines

343.1 Any individual going on to the area of play or throwing objects onto the court or field are considered dangerous acts and require immediate attention and removal of the offenders from the game site.

343.2 Use of vulgar, profane, discriminatory or intimidating language toward officials, coaches, players or fans is considered offensive and should not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the game site.

343.3 Other behavior that shows disrespect for officials, coaches, or players such as booing or jeering during free throws, needs to be actively discouraged and are grounds for removal from the game site.

343.4 A spectator removed or ejected from an interscholastic athletic competition for flagrant harassment or unsportsmanlike conduct is suspended from attendance for no less than the next competitive event (but not less than one complete game or meet). Host school administration is required to record and submit an ejection report to the WIAA. The spectator's athletic director will inform the spectator and, if the next event is an away event, they will contact the next opponent's administration. Note: The suspension shall be served in the same sport at the same level of competition that the ejection occurred. If the sport season is completed, the penalty will be applied in the next sport or sport season.

#### 344 Specific Guidelines

344.1 Announcer: An announcer serves an important role at athletic contests. The information provided by the announcer should include only those details pertinent to the contest that trained observers may see, but might be missed by the average spectator. Announcers are not to attempt to do a play-by-play or to supply "commentary" as TV or radio announcers often do. An announcer serves in an important administrative function and should carry out his/her duties as any other event official would in a completely unbiased manner. Announcers should show respect for the visiting team and spectators, so they are made to feel welcome, at ease, and comfortable through the contest.

344.2 GMC Pregame Announcement: The following statement should be read before each contest: "Good evening ladies and gentlemen. We welcome you to \_\_\_\_\_ High School and we hope you enjoy tonight's contest. The Greater Metro Conference and \_\_\_\_\_ High School encourage and promote sportsmanship by student athletes, coaches, and spectators. Profanity, racial or ethnic comments, or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches, or team representatives will not be tolerated. Taunting or harassment of student-athletes is also inappropriate behavior. Spectators not abiding by these common sportsmanship rules will be asked to leave the premises. Enjoy tonight's game, and thank you for your cooperation."

344.3 Coaches: The behavior of the coach must, at all times, be marked by dignity and self-control. He/She should not, at any time, use provocative language, or engage in any unsportsmanlike actions or tactics. He/She must avoid any action or remarks which tend to incite the displeasure of the spectators or provoke disorderly behavior. He/She should stress to the team that he/she will not tolerate incidents on the field or playing floor which reflects poor

sportsmanship and take appropriate action if such behavior should occur.

344.4 Cheerleaders: It is important that cheerleaders regard themselves as part of the game and that they realize what they do can have a direct bearing on the game itself and the conduct of the people in the stands. Cheerleaders represent the school in the same manner as athletes, and their conduct must be equal to that expected of the athlete. Their philosophy must include a belief in showing respect for officials, respect for players, respect for all fans, and respect for themselves. Therefore, basic duties of a cheerleader at an athletic contest should include the following:

1. They should cheer for their school in a positive manor at all times.
2. It is important that cheerleaders regard themselves as part of the game and that they realize what they do can have a direct bearing on the game itself and the conduct of the people in the stands.
3. They should attempt to divert the crowd's attention by starting a popular cheer when booing develops.
4. They should be respectful to officials.
5. They should respect visitors and eliminate competition between cheerleaders by not conducting a cheer at the same time as the visiting cheerleading squad.
6. Care should be taken in making certain that words used in a cheer are not suggestive or do not provoke the other schools athletes or fans.
7. Only organized and authorized cheerleaders will be permitted to lead cheers from the floor. This includes home and away contests.

344.5 Spectators: Every student has a responsibility for contributing to the highest ideals of sport citizenship, while also demonstrating exemplary personal conduct. In this regard, students should:

1. Respect and support the efforts of school cheerleaders.
2. Respect the authority of school officials.
3. Demonstrate respect for injured players.
4. Demonstrate an appreciation for exceptional play by members of either team.

5. Refrain from applauding or degrading the errors, fouls or penalties imposed on opponents.
  6. Refrain from disrespectful comments to the opponents team members.
  7. Respect the judgment and strategy of coaches of both teams.
  8. Refrain from unacceptable and unauthorized cheers, taunting, harassment and profanity during the emotion of competition.
  9. Refrain from use of alcohol or other illegal chemical substances.
  10. Respect the decisions of contest officials.
  11. The use of bells, horns and noisemakers is prohibited. Handheld signs and banners in good taste may be permitted. Shakers and pennants for spectators, cheerleaders and pom pon squads are allowed, even if attached to wooden or plastic sticks. "Homer hankies," towels and hands with "No. 1" fingers are permitted. These items are subject to the following restrictions: (a) They may contain no printing except school name, team nickname and /or school mascot; (b) Tournament or meet managers have the authority to prohibit them if they cause crowd control problems.
  12. Student section spectators will remain in the stands and remain off the floor of the playing surface for indoor GMC events.
- 344.6 Student-Athletes: Every student-athlete has a responsibility for contributing to the highest ideals of sport citizenship while also demonstrating exemplary personal conduct. In this regard, student-athletes should:
1. Respect and support the efforts of opponents at all times.
  2. Respect the authority of visiting school officials.
  3. Demonstrate respect for injured players.
  4. Demonstrate an appreciation for exceptional play by members of either team.
  5. Refrain from applauding or degrading the errors, fouls or penalties imposed on opponents.
  6. Refrain from disrespectful comments to the opponents team members.
  7. Respect the judgment and strategy of coaches of both teams.

8. Refrain from taunting, harassment and profanity of opponents during the competition.
9. Refrain from use of alcohol or other illegal chemical substances.
10. Respect the decisions of contest officials.

345 If a Greater Metro Conference coach is ejected from any event at any level, that coach will be suspended for the next scheduled contest, event or tournament including WIAA State Tournament events. (Multiple games/matches on the same day equals an event in regards to this bylaw). The ejected coach must leave the playing surface/area and be out of sight and sound (the ejected coach may NOT sit on the bench, in the stands, dugout, etc.) for either the event he/she was ejected and when serving the one-event suspension. The suspended coach may not be at the contest site when serving the one-game suspension.

345.1 The Greater Metro Conference Rule Infraction Procedure as laid out in this conference manual, will handle all appeals regarding the GMC constitution and by-laws with the exception of by-law #345, dealing with a coach being ejected from a contest. All appeals of by-law #345 will come under this separate appeals process.

345.2 The Principal of the ejected coach's school must appeal to the Conference Commissioner. All relevant facts will be gathered by the Conference Commissioner and a 345 By-law Committee consisting of the current President of the conference, the current Vice-President of the conference, and the past chair of the Athletic Directors will hear the appeal. If one of those named committee members is from the school involved in the appeal, the preceding Athletic Director in the rotation and the succeeding Principal in the rotation will take the involved Athletic Director's/Principal's place on the committee for that particular appeal. This three-person committee and the Conference Commissioner, who shall preside, but shall have no vote by virtue of his/her office will make a final decision regarding the status or eligibility for the appealing coach to participate in his/her next scheduled contest. **If the next contest is before an appeal can be heard (for example, there is another game that same day, or the following day) the coach must sit out the next scheduled contest and is not allowed to postpone the suspension.**