

MID-ATLANTIC ROWING CONFERENCE (MARC)



Constitution & By-Laws

PREAMBLE

The members of the Mid-Atlantic Rowing Conference, in accordance with NCAA Constitution Article 3.3.4.4, do hereby grant “institutional presidents or chancellors...the ultimate responsibility and final authority for the operation of the [Mid-Atlantic Rowing Conference].” This includes the following constitution, its articles, by-laws, and subsets.

ARTICLE I – NAME

- 1.01** The name of the association shall be the Mid-Atlantic Rowing Conference, hereinafter referred to as the Conference or as MARC.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES & OBJECTIVES

- 2.01** *Purpose.* The purpose of this organization shall be assisting member institutions in the operation, general regulation, supervision, and control of their varsity intercollegiate rowing program under the highest ethical standards, and to maintain a program that is consistent with the overall educational philosophy of the member institutions.
- 2.02** *Objective.* The primary objective of the MARC shall be fostering the education of the student-athletes of the member schools. This shall be accomplished by promoting intercollegiate competition in varsity women’s rowing among member institutions. The MARC will provide a non-profit and non-political organization for the formation and regulation of the varsity rowing programs of the member institutions. This will be achieved under the supervision, regulation, and guidance from the NCAA, USRowing, and member institutions themselves. The MARC shall assist member institutions to have intercollegiate rowing programs of the highest quality.
- 2.03** *Objective.* Developing a harmony of good feeling, a spirit of competitive sportsmanship, fellowship and uniformity of practice among member institutions.
- 2.04** *Objective.* Through promotion via 2.02, the MARC shall develop and foster a conference where all members minimally compete as the NCAA Division III defines a “team” – a first and second varsity 8.
- 2.05** *Non-profit Organization.* It is expressly provided that the MARC shall not derive any monetary profit and that no portion of the contributions of the member universities/colleges shall be to the benefit of any private individual, and that no portion of such contributions shall ever be expended for political purposes. This provision shall not, however, prevent the MARC from compensating any persons lawfully employed pursuant to the authorization of the Constitution and Bylaws of said Conference.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- 3.01** *Conditions.* Members of the conference shall be four year institutions of higher learning, and shall be fully accredited by the appropriate regional accrediting association. Women’s teams of member institutions shall be active members of the NCAA, Division III. They also must follow the NCAA Division III rules, guidelines and philosophy in all sports in which they sponsor varsity teams. Men’s teams of member institutions shall be eligible to be active members of the IRA or ACRA and following all rules for subscribing thereto.
- 3.02** *Charter members.* The charter members of the conference are the club and varsity teams representing Bryn Mawr College, Franklin & Marshall College, Johns Hopkins University, Marietta College, University of Mary Washington, North Park University, Richard Stockton College, Rutgers-Camden University, and Washington College.
- 3.03** *Admission for Membership.* Institutions seeking membership into the conference must designate women’s rowing to be a varsity sport by their respective institution. The institution must then make written application to the Commissioner of the Conference. This application should include a written statement of full support from their respective President/Chancellor and the Athletic Director. The institution seeking membership must receive a two-thirds vote of approval from the Board of Coaches. The newly elected member shall have all rights and privileges of membership in the conference.
- 3.03.1** *Provisional Membership.* An institution seeking membership but not having met all conditions as set forth in 3.03 may be granted provisional membership. The MARC will offer provisional membership to applicants that can confirm - with an exact date (i.e., August 2011) - when they will be promoted to varsity status. The provisional membership includes a stipulation that the applying institution agree to follow NCAA Division III rules until they receive their varsity status. The applicant’s President/Chancellor and Athletic Director must provide a written confirmation of their status as well as their agreement to follow NCAA Division III rules. Each respective application for provisional membership will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.04** *Loss of Membership.* Membership in the conference is automatically terminated should a women’s team lose its varsity status. Loss of academic accreditation, loss of NCAA Division III status or failure to pay conference dues of each academic year shall result in automatic termination of an institution’s membership in the conference.
- 3.05** *Dues.* Each rowing program of Member Institutions shall cover fees for the regatta such as: USRowing Regatta fee, USRowing regatta administration fee, NCAA Conf Registration (women’s rowing only)

ARTICLE IV – LEGISLATION

- 4.01** *Legislative Authority.* Legislative authority rests with the member institution’s presidents or chancellors. Per the NCAA Constitution 3.3.4.4, presidents or chancellors have ultimate responsibility and final authority for the operation of the conference and any institution that is a member of the conference.

- 4.02** *Voting Rights.* Each member of the Board (5.01) shall have one (1) vote. On matters that relate to the NCAA, Women's Rowing, or other Women's matters, those members of the board directly responsible for a women's team may vote. On matters that relate to the IRA, Men's Rowing, or other Men's matters, those members of the board directly responsible a men's team may vote. All matters that face the conference as a whole may be voted on by all members of the Board.
- 4.03** *Quorum.* Three-quarters of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- 4.04** *Legislative Affect.* Three-quarters of the voting members present shall be sufficient to pass new legislation which will become operative immediately provided there is no protest made of it by a member school within one month. If, within the one month period, one or more of the schools reject such legislation and have notified the other member schools through the Commissioner of the Conference to that effect, that legislation must be reconsidered at the next regular meeting and, if passed, again becomes operative from the time of the second passage.
- 4.05** The presidents/chancellors may delegate authority in the area of general agreements (e.g., items dealing with details of athletic administration, rules of play, etc.) to the Athletic Directors and/or the Board of Coaches. Presidents/Chancellors will be included in all communication and reserve the right to comment and/or intervene when they deem it necessary.

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF COACHES & OFFICERS

- 5.01** *Board of Coaches.* The Board of Coaches (hereto referred to as the Board) shall include the Head Women's Rowing Coach of Women's members, the Head Coach Men's Rowing Coach of Men's members, and the Head Women's and Men's Rowing Coaches of Coed members and will serve as the voting body for the conference. Should there be a vacancy in the position of Head Coach at a member institution, the president or the president's designee shall name a temporary replacement to represent said institution on the Board.
- 5.02** *Officers.* The Officers of this conference shall be a Commissioner, Secretary/Treasurer, Compliance, Senior Woman's Administrator (SWA), and Sports Information Director (SID). The Commissioner shall serve a two-year term. The Secretary/Treasurer, Compliance, SWA, and SID shall serve at the pleasure of the Conference for an unrestricted term. The SID serves at the pleasure of the Conference and shall be a non-voting member. Officers must be affiliated with a member institution.
- 5.03** *Duties.* The duties of the officers shall be those established by *Robert's Rules of Order – Revised*, and such others as established by the Association.
- 5.04** *Nominating Officers.* Only Presidents or Chancellors and members of the Board may

nominate someone to the position of Commissioner. Nominations and elections are held every two years at the annual spring meeting (held at the conclusion of the conference championship). Officers are elected by a majority vote of the Board. New officers will assume their responsibilities upon the adjournment of the meeting in which they were nominated and elected. Special elections may be held to fill a vacancy. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep and distribute minutes of the meetings of the conference and the executive committee. The SID shall: keep conference standings and statistics during the respective seasons and make this information available to conference members and the media on a weekly basis; publish an annual conference directory; serve as the conference public relations director at those conference functions which require such services.

- 5.05** *Compensation.* Officers may be paid a stipend as determined by and voted upon by the Board of Coaches at the annual Spring meeting.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

- 6.01** *Regular Meetings.* The Board shall hold one meeting that follows the spring season. Agenda items for the meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer at least one week prior to the meeting. It is recommended that Conference race scheduling be done at this time. Additionally, there shall be a conference call held at least once every two months, more if necessary.
- 6.02** *Quorum.* A quorum, consisting of three-quarters of the voting members of the Board, shall be required for action to be taken on any conference business.
- 6.03** *Special Meetings.* Special meetings or conference calls may be scheduled as necessary. The Commissioner shall schedule these when requested to do so by a majority of the active member institutions.
- 6.04** *Parliamentary Procedure.* Robert’s Rules of Order – Revised shall be observed in instances of parliamentary challenge.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

- 7.01** *Committees.* Each Board member shall be a part of one of the following committees: Legislative, Competition, Awards. The Board of Coaches shall select the Chair for each Committee. The Commissioner will work directly with each committee and punctually act upon any suggestions made.
- 7.02** *Legislative Committee (2 members).* The responsibilities of the Legislative Committee are: (1) annually review the Constitution and Bylaws of the Conference and recommend changes that reflect current practices, and (2) assist in the interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws if necessary.

7.03 *Competition Committee (4 members)*. The responsibilities of the competition committee are: (1) aid in the organization of the Spring Championship (establishing a site, determining entry fees, developing a race schedule, etc.); (2) evaluate and recommend reforms to the championship regatta (including but not limited to the schedule, structure, point system, competition site, course, safety, and fairness).

7.04 *Awards Committee (2 members)*. The responsibilities of the Awards Committee are: organizing, tallying, and awarding the All-Conference and All-Academic teams; organizing, tallying, and awarding the Coaches of the Year.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

8.01 *Notifications*. Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be in writing and must be received by the Commissioner of the Conference one week prior to the meeting at which the proposal will be submitted for consideration. The Commissioner shall distribute copies of the amendment proposal to all members of the Board of Coaches one week prior to said meeting.

8.02 *Adoption*. Amendments to the Constitution can be considered at any regular or called meeting of the Conference. A majority of the voting members shall be required for approval.

8.03 Amendments may be made without the required notice by a unanimous vote of the Board.

8.04 The rejection provision of Article 4.03 applies to constitutional amendments.

ARTICLE IX – CHAMPIONSHIPS

9.01 *Spring Championship*. The Conference shall conduct a Spring championship, sanctioned and run by USRowing, in which all members shall participate. The Competition Committee is primarily responsible for this regatta.

9.02 Full members and attendees of men's programs will be allowed to race for points and the points trophy.

ARTICLE X DISSOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE

10.01 *Dissolution*. Upon dissolution of the Conference, after discharge and satisfaction of all outstanding obligations and liabilities, the remaining funds and assets, if any, of the Conference shall be distributed equally only to such organizations or entities as shall be designated by the active membership.