

SEC CONSTITUTION  
AND BYLAWS

2017-2018



# **2017-2018 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**

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**CONSTITUTION  
OPERATING BYLAWS  
ADMINISTRATIVE BYLAWS**

*2201 Richard Arrington Boulevard North - Birmingham, Alabama 35203-1103  
Phone (205) 458-3000  
Fax (205) 458-3031  
[www.secsports.com](http://www.secsports.com)*

# Foreword

This Southeastern Conference Manual was revised during the 1989-90 academic year and approved by the Conference at its May 1990 Annual Meeting. The revised format was first implemented into the 1990-91 SEC Manual and is organized, as the NCAA Manual is, into three major sections as follows: Constitution - Articles 1 through 6; Operating Bylaws - Articles 10 through 22, and Administrative Bylaws - Articles 30 through 32.

The subsections of Articles 1-6 in the Constitution of the SEC Manual do not necessarily have any relation to the correspondingly numbered subsections in the NCAA Manual. In the Operating Bylaws and Administrative Bylaws of the SEC Manual, subparagraphs are numbered so that similar provisions are addressed in each manual. A particular subparagraph will appear in the SEC Manual only if the corresponding SEC provision is more restrictive than the NCAA. Thus, if no correspondingly numbered subparagraph is found in the SEC Manual, the reader should interpret the SEC provision to be identical to the NCAA. In those instances where the NCAA does not have a provision comparable to the SEC, the subparagraph is numbered considerably higher than the highest numbered subparagraph in the appropriate section of the NCAA Manual. This system will allow the NCAA to add subparagraphs in that same subsection without the SEC having to renumber all of its paragraphs in the same subsection.

The rules and regulations of the NCAA constitute the base for SEC requirements. In some instances, the rules and regulations of the SEC are more restrictive than those of the NCAA, but in no case is the SEC less restrictive than the NCAA. Therefore, in determining rule interpretations, member institutions should first read the applicable Article(s) in the NCAA Manual and then the corresponding Article(s) in the SEC Manual.

Provisions in the manual, which require a two-thirds vote for amendment and a unanimous vote for suspension, are called dominant provisions and are denoted in the margin by an asterisk (\*). All others require a majority vote for amendment and a two-thirds vote for suspension. The amendment and suspension procedures are covered in Article 5.3 of the SEC Constitution.

Supplementary information about policies and procedures for coordination of officiating and administration of championships, meets and tournaments may be found in the Commissioner's Regulations. The Commissioner's Regulations shall be amended by the following procedure: Sport and/or officials committees forward the proposed changes to the Athletics Directors for final action. No revision shall become effective until approved by the Athletics Directors.

This manual applies to both men's and women's athletics, except where NCAA waivers exist for women.



## *History of the* **SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE**

A pioneer in the integration of higher education and athletic competition, the Southeastern Conference is a leader on the national landscape for intercollegiate athletics in the 21st century.

Since its formation in 1933, the SEC has achieved stature and stability by designating governing/voting power to the presidents of the member institutions. These university leaders determine the policies of the conference and through the years this involvement has been the principal source of strength in the evolution of the SEC. Throughout its 82-year history, the SEC has provided leadership on the vital issues facing intercollegiate competition.

**Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, LSU, Mississippi, Mississippi State, Tennessee** and **Vanderbilt** have been in the SEC since its formation in 1933. The league has expanded twice, adding **Arkansas** and **South Carolina** in 1991, then **Missouri** and **Texas A&M** in 2012.

### **Organization, Contraction and Expansion**

SEC schools began athletic competition with one another more than 100 years ago as members of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Seven institutions (Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, Georgia Tech, North Carolina, Sewanee and Vanderbilt) attended the SIAA organizational meeting of faculty representatives, called by Dr. William L. Dudley of Vanderbilt, in Atlanta Dec. 22, 1894.

Student teams from the schools began meeting in various sports with little pattern to their contests. The American adaptation of the English game rugby, called "football," was drifting down from the East and Midwest. Southerners were quickly attracted to this sport formalized in 1869.

The first football game in the Southeast was played April 9, 1880, on the ground now called Old Stoll Field at the University of Kentucky. Kentucky A&M (now UK) organized a team and in November 1881, played Transylvania College in a three-game series. By 1895, 11 current SEC members were playing football.

Basketball moved quickly to the South as Vanderbilt was playing at the Nashville YMCA in 1893, just two years after Dr. James Naismith originated the game at Springfield (Mass.) College.

Track was organized on a conference level at the 1895 SIAA meeting presided over by President Dudley who served until his death in 1914. The first championship meet was held at Vanderbilt May 15, 1896. By 1900, eight of the 13 charter SEC members were participating.

The seven-member SIAA expanded to 19 institutions in 1895 (Alabama, Auburn, Central, Clemson, Cumberland, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Kentucky, LSU, Mercer, Mississippi

State, Nashville, North Carolina, Sewanee, Southwestern Presbyterian, Tennessee, Texas, Tulane and Vanderbilt) and by 1920 there were 30 members.

The larger schools reorganized as the Southern Conference at a meeting in Gainesville Dec. 12-13, 1920. Professor S.V. Sanford of Georgia called the meeting and served as the first president. Charter members of the Southern Conference included: Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi State, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Tennessee, Virginia, Virginia Tech and Washington & Lee.

Despite an original limit of 16, the membership grew to 23 by 1928. In 1922 Florida, Louisiana State, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tulane, Vanderbilt and Virginia Military joined, while Sewanee and Duke became members in 1923 and 1928 respectively. At one time or another, the SIAA and the SC included most of the Southern colleges from Virginia to Texas.

The 13 members west and south of the Appalachian Mountains reorganized as the Southeastern Conference at the annual SC meeting of Dec. 8-9, 1932, in Knoxville. The 10 coast members remained in the Southern Conference. Dr. Frank L. McVey of Kentucky was elected president of the new conference whose charter members were: Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Kentucky, Louisiana State, Mississippi, Mississippi State, Sewanee, Tennessee, Tulane and Vanderbilt. (Sewanee withdrew Dec. 13, 1940, Georgia Tech on June 1, 1964 and Tulane on June 1, 1966). McVey held an informal meeting of the school presidents in Birmingham Feb. 16, 1933, then the first full meeting in Atlanta Feb. 27.

Faced with the task of conference realignment after competing with 10 members since 1966, the SEC welcomed the University of Arkansas on Aug. 1, 1990, and the University of South Carolina on Sept. 25, 1990. Both joined the SEC on July 1, 1991.

Fully incorporated into conference competition by 1992, Arkansas and South Carolina participated in SEC championships for all sports except football during the 1991-92 academic year. The SEC was again at the forefront, introducing football, basketball and baseball divisional play and the nation's first-ever Division I football championship game.

The conference welcomed Texas A&M University on Sept. 25, 2011, and University of Missouri on Nov. 6, 2011, in the only other expansion in SEC history. Both joined the SEC on July 1, 2012 and competed in their first year in all conference sports in 2012-13.

## Office of The Commissioner

The office of the commissioner was formed in 1940 in Jackson due to the great amount of detail work developing, especially in recruiting and eligibility.

**Martin S. Conner**, former governor of the state of Mississippi, took office as Commissioner Aug. 21, 1940. Conner later became ill and the secretary of the conference, Dean N.W. Dougherty of Tennessee, served as Acting Commissioner during the fall of 1946.

**Bernie H. Moore** became the second full-time Commissioner on Feb. 21, 1948, when the office moved to Birmingham. Moore, a former LSU coach, guided the SEC to national respect in his 18-year tenure.

**A.M. (Tonto) Coleman** succeeded Moore as Commissioner upon his retirement April 1, 1966. The Alabama native, who was experienced in athletic coaching and administration, served six and a half years.

**Dr. H. Boyd McWhorter**, then Dean of Arts and Sciences at Georgia and secretary of the league since 1967, accepted the position of Commissioner upon the retirement of Coleman Aug. 1, 1972. Under his leadership the SEC experienced unparalleled growth. In McWhorter's first year the SEC distributed \$1.57 million and 14 years later, his final year as Commissioner in 1986, the league distributed \$15 million in revenue to the member institutions.

**Dr. Harvey W. Schiller**, an Air Force colonel and faculty chair at the U.S. Air Force Academy, followed McWhorter upon his retirement, taking office as Commissioner on Sept. 15, 1986. Under his guidance the SEC established itself as a leader in the areas of athletic scholarship and marketing.

**Roy F. Kramer** succeeded Schiller on Jan. 10, 1990. Kramer, who served on numerous NCAA committees, joined the league office after spending 12 years as athletic director at Vanderbilt. Kramer was Commissioner for more than 12 years before retiring in 2002. The SEC expanded by two schools during his tenure, he created the ultra-successful SEC Football Championship Game and was instrumental in the creation of the Bowl Championship Series.

**Michael L. Slive**, who served as Commissioner of Conference USA for seven years, was appointed the seventh Commissioner of the Southeastern Conference on July 2, 2002. Serving in the position for 13 years, he created a new culture of NCAA compliance in the league, oversaw the expansion of the SEC by two schools, negotiated landmark television agreements and engineered the birth of the SEC Network in a partnership with ESPN. He also played a key role in the development of the College Football Playoff.

**Gregory A. Sankey**, a former Commissioner of the Southland Conference and 13-year veteran of the SEC Office, became the eighth commissioner of the Southeastern Conference on June 1, 2015. Sankey served under Slive as Associate Commissioner for Compliance and then Executive Associate Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer, playing a central role in crafting the new Autonomy structure of the NCAA that was adopted in January 2015.

## Sport Sponsorship

The first SEC champions were crowned in 1933 in baseball, basketball, football and outdoor track. The league's inaugural championship event was a basketball tournament in Atlanta, Feb. 24-28, 1933. Records show the first men's team title for cross country was awarded in 1935, while golf and swimming were added in 1937. The league later began hosting championships in tennis (1938) and indoor track (1957).

In the 1979-80 academic year SEC championships for women were recognized in basketball, tennis and volleyball. The following year golf, gymnastics, swimming and track & field were added. Soccer was added in 1993 and softball began SEC play in 1997. The administration of women's athletics officially came under the auspices of the conference office on Sept. 1, 1984.

In 1993, the member institutions adopted The Principles of Gender Equity. Committed to increasing the quantity and quality of women's athletic opportunities, each school provides at least two more women's intercollegiate programs than the number of men's teams on each campus.

The conference approved equestrian as its 21<sup>st</sup> sponsored sport for the 2012-13 academic year.

The SEC currently regulates nine men's sports and 12 women's sports:

### MEN'S SPORTS

**Baseball**  
**Basketball**  
**Cross Country**  
**Football**  
**Golf**  
**Swimming**  
**Tennis**  
**Track & Field (Indoor)**  
**Track & Field (Outdoor)**

### WOMEN'S SPORTS

**Basketball**  
**Cross Country**  
**Equestrian**  
**Golf**  
**Gymnastics**  
**Soccer**  
**Softball**  
**Swimming**  
**Tennis**  
**Track & Field (Indoor)**  
**Track & Field (Outdoor)**  
**Volleyball**

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CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 1

# Name, Purposes and Fundamental Policy

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1.1	Name .....	1
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**\*1.1 NAME**

The name of this association shall be the Southeastern Conference.

**\*1.2 PURPOSES**

The purpose and mission of the Southeastern Conference is educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Intercollegiate athletics programs provide fundamental lessons in leadership and teamwork, and about winning and losing that have an irreplaceable role in the greater world of business, government, military, and academic pursuits. In no event shall the Conference engage in any activity or take any action inconsistent with its educational purpose and mission, and nothing in this Constitution, or in the Bylaws or Regulations, shall authorize any such activity or action.

To further its educational purpose and mission, the Conference shall direct and organize interscholastic athletic competitions, conduct tournaments, and prescribe eligibility rules for contestants. The Conference shall also facilitate and assist its member institutions in maintaining intercollegiate athletic programs compatible with the highest standards of education and competitive sports. Through the orderly enactment and enforcement of legislation, the Conference aims:

- (a) To encourage sound academic practices for student-athletes;
- (b) To foster strong competition among the teams of its member institutions in a broad spectrum of amateur sports and championships;
- (c) To assure proper emphasis on the funding of athletic activities;
- (d) To stimulate good sportsmanship;
- (e) To provide leadership and a voice in the development of public attitudes toward intercollegiate sports generally; and
- (f) To address the future needs of athletics in a spirit of cooperation and mutual benefit of the member institutions and their student-athletes. *[Adopted: 6/15/06]*

CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 2

# **Principles for the Conduct of Intercollegiate Athletics**

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The Southeastern Conference subscribes to the principles for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics set forth in Article 2 of the NCAA Constitution and assists its member institutions in promoting these principles.

CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 3

# SEC Membership

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## 3.0 GENERAL PRINCIPLE

The SEC is both a competitive body and a legislative body, as defined in Articles 3.02.1 and 3.02.2 of the NCAA Constitution.

## 3.1 MEMBERSHIP, TERMINATION, SUSPENSION

**\*3.1.1 Number of Members.** The number of members of the Conference shall be set by the Chief Executive Officers. [*Revised: 5/30/91*]

**\*3.1.2 Granting of Membership.** Membership may be granted by invitation of the Conference at a meeting of the Chief Executive Officers. A vote of at least three-fourths of the members is required to extend an invitation for membership. [*Revised: 5/30/91*]  
[*Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11*]

**\*3.1.3 Suspension of Membership.** Membership may be suspended at a meeting of the Chief Executive Officers. A member may be suspended at any time by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members, either indefinitely or for a stated period, for any conduct deemed to be incompatible with membership. [*Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11*]

**\*3.1.4 Termination of Membership.** Membership may be terminated voluntarily by the resignation of a member or involuntarily at a meeting of the Chief Executive Officers. A vote of at least two-thirds of the members is required to terminate membership. Any motion to terminate membership shall specify the effective date of the proposed termination. [*Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11*]

CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 4

# Organization

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## 4.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

**\*4.1.1 Chief Executive Officers.** The President or Chancellor of each member shall be a Chief Executive Officer of the Conference. Accordingly, there shall be one Chief Executive Officer for each member. The Chief Executive Officers shall act at the regular annual meeting of the Conference or at specially called meetings of the Conference, as set forth in Article 5. *[Clarified/Conformed/Renumbered 6/1/11]*

**\*4.1.2 Powers and Duties.** The Chief Executive Officers shall have plenary power and authority with respect to all affairs of the Conference of any type or nature whatsoever, subject only to any specific provisions and restrictions imposed by the Constitution and Bylaws. Without limitation, the Chief Executive Officers may: *[Revised/Clarified/Conformed/Renumbered 6/1/11]*

- (a) Take all actions specified and contemplated in Article 3, in their sole discretion.
- (b) Place on probation until the next regular annual meeting of the Conference any member that violates any provision of the Constitution, Bylaws, or other rules, regulations, legislation or policies of the Conference or of the NCAA (which probation shall be on such terms, conditions, restrictions, and pursuant to such other parameters as may be deemed appropriate under the circumstances);
- (c) Prohibit any member’s team from being recognized as Conference champion;
- (d) Prohibit any member’s team from participating in Conference sponsored games, events, meets or tournaments;
- (e) Prohibit any member’s team from participating in pre-season or post-season athletic events, including Conference championships;
- (f) Prohibit any institution from participating in the distribution of Conference funds (including funds from bowls, television or tournaments);
- (g) Impose any other penalty which they consider appropriate; and
- (h) Hear and decide appeals from decisions and actions of the Commissioner and the Executive Committee in disciplinary and enforcement matters under procedures specified in the Bylaws.

## 4.2 CONFERENCE OFFICERS

**4.2.1 Composition.** The three officers of the Conference shall be a President and a Vice-President, who shall be selected from the Chief Executive Officers, and a Secretary, who shall be a Faculty Athletics Representative. *[Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11]*

**\*4.2.2 Election/Term of Office.** The three officers shall be elected by the Chief Executive Officers at each regular annual meeting of the Conference, to take office immediately. They shall be elected to serve for a period of one year, and the President and Vice-President shall not be eligible to serve for more than two terms in succession. The Secretary shall serve unlimited terms if so elected. Each officer shall be elected from a different member institution. *[Revised: 5/30/91] [Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11]*

### 4.2.3 Powers and Duties. *[Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11]*

**4.2.3.1 President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee, may call a meeting of the Conference or of the Executive Committee, shall be the official representative of the Conference in all its business and other relations with persons or organizations concerning intercollegiate athletics, and, in conjunction with the

Commissioner, shall take such other actions and have such other authority as shall be directed/conferred by the Conference or the Executive Committee.

**4.2.3.2 Vice-President.** The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence or disability and shall assist the President in the performance of Conference business when called upon to do so.

**4.2.3.3 Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee.

## 4.3 COMMITTEES

**4.3.1 Executive Committee.** There shall be an Executive Committee of the Conference. The members of the Executive Committee shall be the three officers of the Conference and four individuals elected at the regular annual meeting of the Conference. The four elected members shall be from different institutions and from institutions other than those of the three officers. The four elected members shall serve staggered terms of no more than three years, as determined by the Conference, with at least one member rotating off each year. One and only one of the elected members shall be a Chief Executive Officer who is not an officer of the Conference. One and only one of the elected members shall be a Director of Athletics. One and only one of the elected members shall be a Senior Woman Administrator or shall have primary responsibility for the administration of women's athletics. One and only one of the elected members shall be a Faculty Representative. *[Clarified/Conformed/Revised: 6/1/11]*

**4.3.1.1 Powers and Duties.** The powers and duties of the Executive Committee shall be as follows: *[Clarified/Conformed: 6/1/11]*

- (a) It shall meet at the regular annual meeting of the Conference and at other times on the call of the President or the Commissioner;
- (b) It shall fix the times and the places of the regular annual meeting of the Conference;
- (c) It shall hear and decide appeals from Adverse Actions of the Commissioner in disciplinary and enforcement matters as is provided in Bylaw 19;
- (d) Between regular annual meetings, it shall fill any vacancy which may occur in any of the three officer positions or in its own membership;
- (e) Unless the Constitution or Bylaws require action by the Chief Executive Officers, and unless a meeting of the Chief Executive Officers is called, it shall, as necessary or appropriate, approve all contracts and agreements of the Conference, authorize or ratify actions of the Commissioner and otherwise determine and direct the policy of the Conference on any matter which may arise between regular annual meetings, if such matter cannot be disposed of satisfactorily by an existing rule or precedent;
- (f) It shall approve the annual operating budget of the Conference, and shall oversee all financial and fiscal affairs of the Conference as administered by the Commissioner; and
- (g) It shall take such other actions and make such other decisions as may be specified in other provisions in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Commissioner's Regulations.

**\*4.3.3 Special Committees.** The Conference may create other regular or special committees from time to time. *[Clarified/Conformed/Revised: 6/1/11]*

## \*4.4 COMMISSIONER

**4.4.1 Election.** The Commissioner shall be elected by a majority vote of the Chief Executive Officers at a regular or called meeting for a term not to exceed six years. *[Revised: 5/30/91] [Clarified/Conformed: 6/1/11]*

**4.4.2 Authority, Duties and Responsibilities.** *[Revised/Clarified/Conformed: 6/1/11]*

- (a) The Commissioner shall be responsible for and have authority for the administration and operations of the Conference;
- (b) The Commissioner shall be charged with the duty of implementing, administering and enforcing the Constitution, Bylaws, and other rules, regulations, and legislation of the Conference and the NCAA, and shall be vested with broad discretionary authority to carry out the duties of the position, including the authority to assess penalties and sanctions as contemplated and authorized in the Constitution and Bylaws;
- (c) The Commissioner shall have authority to determine whether any student-athlete is eligible for intercollegiate athletic competition, athletically-related aid, and for practice in each sport in which a member institution sponsors a varsity or junior

varsity team (whether the Conference declares a Champion in that sport or not), which authority shall include the power to declare a student-athlete ineligible as a result of a violation of any of the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, and other rules, regulations, and legislation of the Conference and the NCAA, as well as the power and discretion to restore the eligibility of a student-athlete;

- (d) When it comes to the attention of the Commissioner that a student-athlete may be guilty of committing a flagrant, disqualifying foul on the field of play or at a contest site, or may be guilty of any unsportsmanlike act, the Commissioner may rule the student-athlete ineligible permanently or for a fixed period, or the Commissioner may, with or without publicity, warn the student-athlete and the student-athlete's coach and member institution that, if there is a repetition of such conduct, the student-athlete could be ruled ineligible permanently;
- (e) The Commissioner is the official Conference interpreter of Constitution, Bylaws, Commissioner's Regulations, and other rules, regulations, legislation and policies of the Conference and the NCAA;
- (f) The Commissioner shall present an operating budget to the Executive Committee each year for approval and shall act as custodian of all Conference funds;
- (g) The Commissioner shall furnish each member with copies of the Constitution and Bylaws annually and shall provide to all members copies of the minutes of all meetings of the Conference and Executive Committee as soon after the meetings as may be practicable;
- (h) The Commissioner shall arrange suitable accommodations for all in-person meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee, and attend to such other details with reference thereto as may be necessary;
- (i) With the approval of the Executive Committee, the Commissioner may appoint and employ such personnel as may be necessary to the performance of the functions of the Conference office;
- (j) The Commissioner may call meetings of the Executive Committee or, after consultation with the President, of the Conference;
- (k) The Commissioner may enter into contracts and agreements on behalf of and to bind the Conference, either in specific instances as authorized by, or pursuant to authority generally granted by, the Chief Executive Officers or the Executive Committee; and
- (l) The Commissioner shall have authority to issue such interpretations, rules, regulations, memoranda, instructions, forms and procedures as may be necessary or appropriate in the performance of these duties, and in standardizing practices of the Conference, including memoranda or guidance to provide direction and information concerning the enforcement of the Constitution, Bylaws, and rules and regulations of the Conference and of the NCAA.

**4.4.3 Penalties and Sanctions.** Without limitation, the Commissioner shall have the following powers and authority with respect to penalties and sanctions: *[Revised/Clarified/Conformed: 6/1/11]*

- (a) The Commissioner may impose a fine or other penalties or sanctions appropriate under the circumstances, in his or her discretion, against any member institution that violates any of the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, or other rules, regulations, or legislation of the Conference or the NCAA.
- (b) The Commissioner may impose a fine or other penalties or sanctions appropriate under the circumstances, in his or her discretion, against any Athletic Director, coach, or other member of the athletics department of a member institution who violates any of the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, or other rules, regulations, or legislation of the Conference or the NCAA. The penalties that the Commissioner may impose include but are not limited to, singly or in combination:
  - (1) Suspension from contests or other athletically related activities;
  - (2) Limiting coaching duties, including those related to recruiting; and
  - (3) Public or private reprimands.
- (c) The Commissioner may declare ineligible, either permanently or for such shorter period as the Commissioner in his or her discretion may determine to be appropriate, any student-athlete or prospective student-athlete who violates (or who was actively involved in a violation of) any of the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, or other rules, regulations, or legislation of the Conference or the NCAA.
- (d) The Commissioner shall not impose the penalties/sanctions or take the actions contemplated or specified in Article 3 or in Article 4.1.2 (b) – (e), with respect to which authority is specifically reserved to the Chief Executive Officers.

# Legislative Authority and Process

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## \*5.0 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

**5.01.1 Governance.** The Conference shall be governed by the Constitution, Bylaws, and other rules, regulations, and legislation of the Conference and the NCAA.

**5.01.2 Legislative Authority.** All sports sponsored by members of the Southeastern Conference shall be subject to the applicable academic provisions of the Conference’s Constitution and Bylaws, including those sports in which the SEC does not sponsor a championship. *[Revised: 5/30/03 effective for student-athletes first entering a member institution on or after August 1, 2003]*

### 5.1 MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE *[Article 5.1 -- Revised/Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11]*

**5.1.1 Voting.** Each member of the Conference shall be entitled to one vote at meetings of the Conference; provided, however, that a member may not vote if the member is not in good standing. A vote of a majority of the members present and voting at a duly convened meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute action of the Conference unless a supermajority vote is otherwise required by the Constitution or Bylaws. A member shall not be in good standing if the member has been suspended from membership or if a vote has been taken at which its membership has been terminated. The vote of each member shall be cast by the Chief Executive Officer who is the President or Chancellor of the member; provided, however, that a Chief Executive Officer may designate another representative of the member to attend or participate in meetings of the Conference and vote on behalf of the member. References in the Constitution and Bylaws to action or a vote of the “Conference” indicates that an action or vote of the Chief Executive Officers, or their designees, is contemplated and required. References in the Constitution and Bylaws to action being taken by the Conference indicate that action has been or shall be taken by the Chief Executive Officers, or their designees.

**5.1.2 Regular Annual Meeting.** The Conference shall hold one regular annual meeting each calendar year. This meeting shall be held in conjunction with the spring meeting of the Directors of Athletics. The exact time and place shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

**5.1.3 Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Conference may be held from time to time, as necessary or appropriate. Special meetings may be conducted/attended in person, by telephone/conference call, or by use of video-conferencing services if such services are arranged by the Commissioner.

**5.1.4 Authority to Call Special Meetings.** The President or the Commissioner (acting in consultation with the President) may call a special meeting of the Conference. In addition, upon the request of the Executive Committee or upon written request of at least a majority of the Chief Executive Officers of the Conference, the Commissioner shall call a special meeting of the Conference.

**5.1.5 Notice of Special Meetings.** The President or Commissioner, as the case may be, shall provide notice of each special meeting that is reasonable under the circumstances giving rise to the meeting. The notice shall, to the extent practicable, specify the nature of the matters to be considered at the meeting.

**5.1.6 Quorum.** A majority of the members entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Conference.

**5.1.7 Parliamentary Procedure.** Upon request, the parliamentary procedure of the Conference shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

**5.1.8 Order of Business.** The usual order of business at regular annual meetings of the Conference shall be determined by the President in consultation with the Commissioner.

**5.1.9 Nature of all Meetings.** All meetings of the Conference shall be transacted in executive session.

## **5.2 MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** *[Clarified/Conformed/Renumbered 6/1/11]*

**5.2.1 Meetings of the Executive Committee.** The President or the Commissioner may call a meeting of the Executive Committee. Any member of the Committee employed by a member directly interested in any matter submitted to the Committee or under consideration by it shall be disqualified to participate in consideration of or vote with respect to the matter, and it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to appoint a disinterested representative to act in place of the party disqualified.

**5.2.2 Nature of Meetings of the Executive Committee.** Open meetings of the Executive Committee may be held with the approval of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee, but all business of the Executive Committee shall be transacted in executive session.

**5.2.3 Quorum.** A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of not less than four members, provided that one of the members must be a Chief Executive Officer. Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to one vote. The Executive Committee shall act in accordance with votes of a majority of its members unless a greater vote is otherwise required by the Constitution or Bylaws.

**5.2.4 Notice of Meetings of the Executive Committee.** The President or Commissioner, as the case may be, shall provide notice of each Executive Committee meeting that is reasonable under the circumstances giving rise to the meeting. The notice shall, to the extent practicable, specify the nature of the matters to be considered at the meeting.

## **5.3 AMENDMENT AND SUSPENSION** *[Clarified/Conformed/Renumbered/Revised: 6/1/11]*

### **5.3.1 Amendment Process.**

**\*5.3.1.1 Amendment.** The provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws may be amended only at a meeting of the Conference. All proposed amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws must be submitted to all members in writing by the Commissioner not less than 21 calendar days prior to the meeting.

**\*5.3.1.2 Amendment to Amendment.** A proposed amendment to a provision of the Constitution or Bylaws may be amended at any meeting.

**\*5.3.1.3 Voting Requirements.** An amendment (or amendment to amendment) of a dominant provision (denoted by an asterisk in the margin of the provision) requires a two-thirds vote of all of the members of the Conference in good standing, whether all of the members of the Conference are present at or participating in the meeting or not. All other amendments require a vote of a majority of all of the members of the Conference in good standing, whether all of the members of the Conference are present at or participating in the meeting or not.

**\*5.3.1.4 Effective Date.** All amendments shall become effective immediately unless a different date is specified.

# Institutional Control and Responsibility

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## **\*6.1 INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The Chief Executive Officer of each member of the Conference is charged with full responsibility for enforcing the Constitution, Bylaws, and other rules, regulations, and legislation of the Conference and the NCAA at his or her respective member institution.

## BYLAW, ARTICLE 10

# Ethical Conduct (Code of Ethics)

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The Southeastern Conference embraces the principles of ethical conduct stated in the NCAA Manual.

### 10.1 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The members of the Southeastern Conference subscribe to the principle that intercollegiate athletics is a legitimate and important part of higher education, is regarded as a significant part of the university culture, and shall be administered and conducted in a manner consistent with the institution's educational policies. It is the function of the Conference to encourage intercollegiate athletics on an amateur basis with effective institutional control and to establish and promote the highest possible standards of personal conduct by all those who administer and participate in the events that provide the competitive experience.

Therefore, the Southeastern Conference sets forth this code to maintain intercollegiate athletics in harmony with the essential educational purposes of the institution. A spirit of mutual trust and cooperation is fundamental to the successful application of the rules of the Conference and this code of ethical behavior.

**10.1.1** Each coach shall annually, prior to October 1 of each academic year, provide a written certification to the Commissioner that (a) he or she has read the Constitution, Bylaws, and the Commissioner's Regulations governing his or her sport, as well as all provisions in the NCAA Manual applicable to his/her sport and (b) he or she is aware of no unreported violations of the Constitution, Bylaws, and other rules, regulations, and legislation of the Conference or of the NCAA. Failure to execute such a certification may subject the individual to penalties or sanctions from the Commissioner. *[Revised: 6/1/96 and 6/1/11]*

### 10.2 RECRUITING

**10.2.1** Coaches shall comply with and promote compliance with all rules and regulations of the Conference and the NCAA and are accountable for the highest standards of honesty and integrity in order to provide a fair and equitable opportunity for each prospective student-athlete to make an informed and properly-considered commitment to the university of his/her choice. *[Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11]*

**10.2.2** The right of a prospective student-athlete to obtain accurate information to aid in the decision process must be respected. Thus, no coach shall provide false or misleading information, or offer inducements that are violations of the rules or regulations of their member institution, the Southeastern Conference or the NCAA. *[Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11]*

**10.2.3** Coaches and other member personnel shall advocate the positive advantages and attributes of their university and its intercollegiate athletics program and shall avoid making any derogatory statements concerning another member institution's athletics program, facilities or educational opportunities.

**10.2.4** Coaches shall strictly adhere to all applicable rules related to the involvement of alumni and boosters in the recruiting of prospective student-athletes.

**10.2.5** A request by a prospective student-athlete to be subjected to no further recruitment shall be respected.

### 10.3 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

**10.3.1** Coaches shall only recruit prospective student-athletes who have the necessary academic background to succeed as students at his/her member institution. *[Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11]*

**10.3.2** In determining a prospective student-athlete's initial eligibility status, each member institution shall be responsible for making every effort to assure that credentials utilized to determine eligibility are accurate and authentic. [*Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11*]

**10.3.3** Each member institution shall provide student-athletes access to sufficient academic support services and counseling to meet their academic needs. [*Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11*]

**10.3.4** Each member institution shall ensure that its coaches provide student-athletes the necessary time and resources to succeed academically in a meaningful degree program. [*Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11*]

**10.3.5** Each coach, in conjunction with the appropriate academic authorities, shall monitor each student-athlete's academic performance to ensure satisfactory progress and timely graduation with a meaningful college degree. [*Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11*]

## **10.4 GAME MANAGEMENT**

**10.4.1** Each contest shall be played and administered according to the prescribed rules set forth by the Conference and the NCAA.

**10.4.2** The host member institution shall ensure that the visiting team has an equal opportunity to compete successfully. The host member institution is solely responsible for providing adequate and appropriate crowd control, bench safety, access for press box communication and locker room security. [*Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11*]

## **10.5 SPORTSMANSHIP**

**10.5.1** Coaches and administrators shall refrain from public criticism of other member institutions, their staffs or players. Coaches and administrators shall also refrain from making public statements and accusations with regard to infractions concerning member institutions and their personnel. In response to questions by the media, it is appropriate to state that infractions are reported, investigated and addressed in accordance with established Conference and NCAA procedures. [*Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11*]

**10.5.2** Coaches and administrators shall make every attempt to promote the Conference and its members in a positive manner.

**10.5.3** Coaches and administrators shall make every effort to promote a cooperative environment with the media, providing them with reasonable access to players, injury information and staff interview opportunities.

**10.5.4** Coaches, players and support personnel shall refrain from all public criticism of officials, which shall include making public any specific communications with the Conference office related to officiating. [*Revised: 6/1/07*]

**10.5.5** Coaches and support personnel shall provide favorable examples in appearance, conduct, language and sportsmanship and shall refrain from personal conduct that may incite spectators. [*Revised: 6/2/94*]

**10.5.6** Coaches and support personnel shall exhibit respect and courtesy toward opposing players and coaches. [*Revised: 6/2/94*]

**10.5.7** Each member institution shall ensure that all students involved in athletics activities -- including student-athletes, band members, cheerleaders, mascots and students as fans -- are informed of the standards of behavior and sportsmanship that are expected of them. [*Revised: 6/2/94*] [*Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11*]

**10.5.8** Coaches and student-athletes of a member institution, as well as individuals employed by or associated with that institution, including alumni, fans, patrons and boosters, shall conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their behavior shall at all times reflect the high standards of honor and dignity that characterize participation in the collegiate setting. For intercollegiate athletics to promote the character development of participants, to enhance the integrity of higher education and to promote civility in society, coaches, student-athletes and all others associated with these athletics programs and events should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. These values should be manifest not only in athletics participation but also in the broad spectrum of activities affecting the athletics program.

It is the responsibility of each member institution to establish policies for sportsmanship and ethical conduct in intercollegiate athletics consistent with the educational mission and goals of the institution. Furthermore, member institutions are responsible for educating all constituencies about these policies on a continuing basis. [*Adopted: 6/4/0; effective 8/1/04*]

# Amateurism

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## 12.3 INTERACTION WITH SPORTS AGENTS

**12.3.1 Limitation on Access.** SEC institutions shall not issue to a sports agent regular season or postseason game credentials in any sport that provide the individual with access to the sideline, locker rooms, or any area where contact with student-athletes may be possible. [*Adopted: 6/4/04; effective 8/1/04*]

BYLAW, ARTICLE 13

# Recruiting

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In general, the Conference rules and regulations governing recruiting shall be the rules and regulations of the NCAA as set forth in the NCAA Manual and official interpretations thereof.

## 13.9 LETTER OF INTENT PROGRAMS, FINANCIAL AID AGREEMENTS

**13.9.1 Annual Reporting.** Each member institution shall annually submit a written report to the Conference office for the purpose of detailing the enrollment and scholarship status of all scholarship football student-athletes and all prospective student-athletes signed to a National Letter of Intent, Conference Financial aid agreement or institutional financial aid agreement. Each member institution’s annual report shall be reviewed by the Conference Chief Executive Officers and Athletics Directors. *[Adopted: 6/3/11, effective August 1, 2011; Revised: 6/2/17]*

## 13.11 TRYOUTS

**13.11.1.8 Non-Scholastic Football Events.** SEC member institutions may not host, sponsor, or conduct non-scholastic football events (e.g., 7-on-7 football events) at any location, on or off campus. *[Adopted: 6/3/11; effective August 1, 2011]*

**13.11.1.9 On-Campus Evaluations.** In all sports, it shall be impermissible to conduct on-campus evaluations of prospective student-athletes. *[Adopted: 6/1/12; effective August 1, 2012]*

# Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements

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## 14.01 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

**14.01.1 Compliance With Other NCAA and Conference Legislation.** Each student-athlete of each member institution who competes in, or is on the roster of a team that competes in, intercollegiate varsity or junior varsity athletic competition must comply with the Constitution, Bylaws, and other rules, regulations, and legislation of the Conference and the NCAA applicable to his/her sport in order to be eligible for athletically-related aid, for practice, and for competition. *[Renumbered/Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11]*

**14.01.2 Uniform Limitations for Ineligible Student-Athletes.** A student-athlete who is ineligible for competition shall be precluded from dressing out in his/her team's uniform for any contests. *[Revised: 6/1/97] [Renumbered/Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11]*

## 14.1 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

**14.1.1 Regular-Season and Postseason Competition.** Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, regular-season and postseason eligibility rules for the Southeastern Conference are the same as the eligibility rules for NCAA championships.

**14.1.2.2 Validity of Academic Credentials.** Each SEC member institution bears primary responsibility for reviewing and ensuring the validity of the NCAA Eligibility Center certification of initial eligibility and the institution's certification of transfer eligibility for each prospective student-athlete ("PSA") who has been offered an athletics scholarship in accordance with this Bylaw 14.1.2.2. *[Revised: 6/5/99; Revised: 6/2/06; Revised 6/1/2007; Revised 5/31/2013; effective August 1, 2013; for student-athletes initially enrolling full-time at a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2013; Revised 6/3/16; Revised 6/2/17; effective 8/1/17]*

(a) Each SEC member institution must review and ensure that all academic credentials (including but not limited to transcripts and standardized test scores) (herein the "Credentials") supplied by a PSA to the NCAA Eligibility Center for initial eligibility certification, or to the institution for transfer eligibility certification are valid, accurate, and fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA, whether the NCAA Eligibility Center challenges or specially reviews those Credentials or not. *[Revised: 6/1/11; Revised: 6/2/17 effective 8/1/17]*

(b) Each SEC member institution shall establish and maintain its own process for the review of Credentials required by subsection (a) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2. The guidelines and policies governing such process shall be reduced to writing, and periodically revised and updated as appropriate. A copy thereof shall be provided annually (on or about July 1) by each member institution's President or Chancellor to the SEC Commissioner.

(c) For PSAs who enroll at a member institution as an entering freshman with no previous full-time collegiate enrollment, even if an SEC member institution has admitted a PSA and determined in accordance with its own process that the NCAA Eligibility Center certification of eligibility is based upon valid and accurate Credentials that fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA, the member institution shall provide a special written report (the "Special Report") to the SEC Commissioner, in accordance with subsections (d) and (e) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2, concerning such PSA if: *[Revised: 6/2/17; effective 8/1/17]*

- (1) Any one or more of the PSA's college entrance examination scores or subscores earned after September 1 of the PSA's junior year in high school varied (higher or lower) from any other college entrance examination score earned after September 1 of the PSA's junior year in high school in an amount equal to or greater than the Southeastern Conference Test Score Review Standard;
  - (i) The Southeastern Conference Test Score Review Standard is: A composite or subscore variance of one-sixth or more of the maximum possible score for that test. An institution may establish a more restrictive test score variance review standard at its discretion. *[Revised: 6/3/16]*
  - (ii) An institution is not required to provide a Special Report to the SEC Commissioner for a PSA due to Bylaw 14.1.2.2 (c) (1) if:
    - a. The PSA is a qualifier without the use of the examination score (or subscore) that triggers Bylaw 14.1.2.2 (c)(1);
    - b. The PSA is an Early Academic Qualifier, pursuant to NCAA legislation or NCAA Eligibility Center policies; or
    - c. The variance between the PSA's highest triggering examination score (or subscore) and the PSA's next highest corresponding score (or subscore) is less than the Southeastern Conference Test Score Review Standard.
- (2) The PSA transfers or withdraws from high school in his or her senior year;
- (3) The number of core courses taken during the PSA's senior year is disproportionate to the number of core courses completed prior to the PSA's senior year;
- (4) The PSA has been enrolled in sequential courses in a single academic year or term;
- (5) Core courses have been taken out of sequence by the PSA;
- (6) Revisions (other than to correct clerical errors) are made to the PSA's transcript that raise the PSA's grade in one or more core courses; or
- (7) The PSA has completed core coursework through nontraditional means (e.g., virtual high school or a correspondence course).
  - (i) An institution is not required to provide a Special Report to the SEC Commissioner due to Bylaw 14.1.2.2 (c) (7) if the PSA is an Early Academic Qualifier, pursuant to NCAA legislation or NCAA Eligibility Center policies.
- (d) Each Special Report to be submitted to the Commissioner as required by subsection (c) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2 shall:
  - (1) Specify which of the numbered subparagraphs of subsection (c) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2 triggered the requirement for a Special Report;
  - (2) Attach complete and correct copies of all of the PSA's Credentials supplied to the NCAA Eligibility Center and to the SEC member institution;
  - (3) Set forth in detail the review made by the member institution to determine whether the Credentials are valid, accurate, and fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA;
  - (4) Include such supporting material as is reasonably necessary and appropriate under the circumstances to establish that the PSA's Credentials are valid, accurate, and fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA;
  - (5) Be submitted no later than August 15 prior to the PSA's initial full time enrollment in a fall academic term, or not later than February 1 immediately following the PSA's initial full time enrollment in a spring academic term, or prior to the PSA's initial participation in intercollegiate competition, whichever is earlier. Waiver of this deadline may be granted by the Commissioner based on extenuating circumstances that prevent the report from being submitted in accordance with the deadline; *[Revised: 5/29/2009; Effective 8/1/2009]*
  - (6) Include a certification by the President or Chancellor of the member institution affirming that he or she has personally reviewed and approved the Special Report and the decision made by the member institution concerning the admission of and eligibility of the PSA; and

- (7) The current street address and telephone number of the PSA.
- (e) The supporting material required by subparagraph (4) of subsection (d) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2 shall include the following, to the extent applicable:
- (1) If, but only if, the requirement for a Special Report is triggered in whole or in part by numbered subparagraph (1) of subsection (c) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2, the Special Report shall include verification of college entrance examination scores from the testing authority (i.e., College Board or the ACT, Inc.);
  - (2) If, but only if, the requirement for a Special Report is triggered in whole or in part by numbered subparagraph (2) of subsection (c) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2, the Special Report shall include a full and complete explanation of the circumstances and cause for the withdrawal or transfer, and verification that the transfer was not for the purpose of avoiding inadequate grades in core course(s) or for the purpose of securing adequate grades in core course(s) without actually meeting the academic requirements of such course(s); and
  - (3) If, but only if, the requirement for a Special Report is triggered in whole or in part by any of numbered subparagraphs (3) – (7) of subsection (c) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2, the Special Report shall include verification that the PSA in fact properly completed and satisfied the academic requirements of all core courses and that the PSA's grades in those courses are valid, accurate, and fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA.
- The member institution may also include in the Special Report such additional information and materials as may be of assistance to the Commissioner in making the determination required under subsection (h) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2.
- (f) The Special Report shall specifically call to the attention of the Commissioner and provide full and complete information concerning any known disabilities identified by the PSA that might bear on the validity of the Credentials of the PSA, or on the PSA's academic abilities and qualifications. Prospective student-athletes with disabilities are subject to and must comply with the standards and procedures set forth in this Bylaw 14.1.2.2; provided, however, that (i) in satisfying such standards, such students may take advantage of any applicable NCAA or SEC Bylaws that have the purpose or effect of providing reasonable accommodation to disabled individuals, and (ii) the Commissioner may waive or modify the standards in this Bylaw 14.1.2.2, in his or her sole discretion, if and as necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable laws or regulations. *[Revised: 6/1/08; effective 8/1/2008]*
- (g) Prior to the Commissioner determining pursuant to subsection (h) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2 that a PSA is not eligible for intercollegiate athletic competition at a member institution, the Conference shall provide the PSA with a copy of the Special Report by overnight courier service (to the address of the PSA specified in the Report), along with a copy of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2. The PSA may then submit any and all reasonable materials to the Commissioner that the PSA wants the Commissioner to consider, provided that the PSA's submission must be received by the Conference office within fifteen (15) calendar days after the Special Report is deposited with the overnight courier service for delivery to the PSA. If the PSA submits materials to the Commissioner, the PSA shall simultaneously provide a copy of the entire submission to the SEC member institution at which the PSA proposes to participate in intercollegiate athletics. In such event, the SEC institution may, at its option, provide a supplemental submission of its own to Commissioner addressing any matter in the PSA's submission; provided that such supplemental submission must be furnished to the Commissioner, with a copy to the PSA at the address specified in the Report (or such other address as may be specified in the PSA's submission), within thirty (30) calendar days after the Special Report is deposited with the overnight courier service for delivery to the PSA.
- (h) As expeditiously as is reasonably feasible after receiving the Special Report and any submissions pursuant to subsection (g) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2., the Commissioner shall issue a determination of the PSA's eligibility to compete in intercollegiate athletic competition, based on the following criteria:
- (1) The burden of demonstrating to the reasonable satisfaction of the Commissioner that the PSA's Credentials are valid, accurate, and fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA shall be on the SEC member institution. If the SEC member institution fails to meet that burden, the Commissioner shall determine that the PSA is ineligible.
  - (2) The Commissioner shall not conduct an independent review, but shall base his or her determination on the Special Report and on any submission the PSA may choose to make pursuant to subsection (g) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2.
  - (3) The Special Report must adequately address and resolve all material factual issues concerning the validity and accuracy of the Credentials, or concerning whether those Credentials fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA.
  - (4) The Commissioner shall take into account and comply with any applicable legal requirements concerning the rights of persons with disabilities in making his or her determination.

The Commissioner's determination shall be final and not subject to appeal or review.

- (i) A PSA for whom a Special Report is required to be submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2 shall not be eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletic competition at a member institution unless and until the Commissioner has determined that the PSA is eligible as contemplated by subsection (h).

### **14.1.3 Student-Athlete Statement.**

**14.1.3.1 Content and Purpose.** Each student-athlete must, as a condition of eligibility, sign a statement annually certifying that he/she has (i) not made any materially false, misleading or incomplete statements or documents concerning or relating to his or her eligibility, and (ii) not received any extra benefit whatsoever, from any unauthorized source, beyond the grant permitted by the applicable provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws and other rules, regulations, and legislation of the Conference or the NCAA. In the statement, the student-athlete must pledge that he or she will not accept any such extra benefit in the future.

**14.1.15 Two-Year Eligibility.** A student-athlete who, upon enrollment at the certifying institution, has less than two years of eligibility remaining shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition at a member institution until the student has fulfilled a residence requirement of one full academic year (two full semesters) at the certifying institution. A member institution may request a waiver from the Conference office for a student-athlete transferring from an institution discontinuing a sport, provided that the student-athlete cannot complete his or her eligibility at the institution discontinuing the sport, or for a student-athlete transferring for the purpose of enrolling in an academic program not offered at the institution from which he or she is transferring. [Adopted: 6/3/93; effective for those student-athletes matriculating to the certifying institution subsequent to August 1, 1994; Revised: 6/3/05; Revised: 6/2/06; Revised: 6/1/07; Clarified/Conformed/Revised: 6/1/11; Revised: 6/2/17]

**14.1.15.1 Graduate Student Exception.** A student-athlete with less than two years of eligibility remaining upon enrollment at the certifying institution may receive financial aid, practice, or compete at a member institution, provided the following criteria are met [Adopted: 5/30/2014 Revised: 6/2/17]:

- (a) The student-athlete has completed all requirements for and has been awarded a baccalaureate degree from his or her previous institution;
- (b) The student-athlete has been admitted to and is enrolled in a graduate or professional school at the member institution;
- (c) The student-athlete is immediately eligible for financial aid, practice, and competition under all other Conference and NCAA rules (e.g., transfer requirements, progress towards degree, etc...), and all applicable waivers are complete, and
- (d) The student-athlete has not been subject to official university or athletics department disciplinary action at any time during enrollment at any previous collegiate institution (excluding limited discipline applied by a sports team).

**14.1.15.2 Graduate Student Exception Conditions and Penalties.** A student-athlete using the graduate student exception set forth in SEC Bylaw 14.1.15.1 must earn all possible APR points applicable for each term of enrollment. If the student-athlete does not earn all possible APR points, the certifying institution may not use the SEC Bylaw 14.1.15.1 graduate student exception in the particular sport during the next full academic year (e.g. following summer, fall, and spring terms. [Adopted: 5/30/2014, Revised: 6/2/17]:

**14.1.16 Postseason Competition.** To be eligible to compete for a member institution in postseason competition and an SEC championship event a student-athlete must pass six hours of degree credit in the academic term that concluded immediately prior to the postseason competition, regardless of whether the competition occurs at the end of the term or during the subsequent term. The requisite credit hours must be earned during the academic year. If a student-athlete is declared ineligible to represent a member institution in an SEC championship pursuant to this rule, the student-athlete shall not be eligible to represent the member institution in postseason competition. [Adopted: 6/2/00; Revised: 6/1/02 effective January 2003; Clarified/Conformed 6/1/11]

**14.1.16.1 Acceptable Credit Hours.** Credit hours earned to fulfill the six hour requirement must be degree credits acceptable towards any degree the institution offers and are not limited to the student-athlete's specific baccalaureate degree; however, it shall not be permissible to use hours earned for participation in the student-athlete's sport to fulfill the six hour requirement. [Adopted: 6/3/05 effective 8/1/2005; Applicable to credit hours earned following 8/1/2005]

**14.1.16.1.2 Final Semester.** A student-athlete enrolled in less than six hours of studies as permitted in NCAA Bylaw 14.2.2.1.3 (Final Semester/Quarters) is exempt from the credit hour requirement of SEC Bylaw 14.1.16, provided the student-athlete successfully completes all hours necessary to complete degree requirements. Any student-athlete enrolled in fewer than six hours per NCAA Bylaw 14.2.2.1.3 (Final Semester/Quarters) who fails to successfully complete all hours

necessary to finish his/her degree requirements shall not be eligible to represent the member institution in postseason competition. [Adopted: 5/30/03 effective 8/1/2003]

**14.1.17 Class Attendance Policies.** Southeastern Conference athletics departments shall establish class attendance policies for student-athletes. Each athletics department has discretion as to the nature and scope of the policy. Each athletics department shall provide a reasonable means for supervision and enforcement. These policies shall provide appropriate sanctions when the policy is violated. The applicable athletic sanctions shall include suspension from competition. The policy shall annually be filed with the Conference office by October 1. [Adopted: 6/1/2007 effective 8/1/2007]

**14.1.18 Disciplinary Standards.** Each SEC member institution bears primary responsibility for monitoring the behavior of its current and prospective student-athletes and for establishing appropriate disciplinary standards in accordance with this bylaw. [Adopted: 5/29/2015]

- (a) Each SEC member institution shall establish and maintain policies and procedures for monitoring student conduct issues.
- (b) Each SEC member institution shall establish and maintain appropriate disciplinary standards for current student-athletes involved in student conduct issues.

**14.1.19 Serious Misconduct.** A transfer student-athlete who has been convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to a felony involving serious misconduct, or has been subject to official university or athletics department disciplinary action at any time during enrollment at any previous collegiate institution (excluding limited discipline applied by a sports team or temporary disciplinary action during an investigation) due to serious misconduct (as defined herein) shall not be eligible for athletically-related financial aid, practice or competition at an SEC member institution. An institution shall conduct an appropriate inquiry into a transfer student-athlete's background that at least satisfies the Conference's minimum due diligence expectations (see Appendix B) prior to providing athletically-related financial aid to a transfer or allowing him/her to participate or compete.

For purposes of this provision, "serious misconduct" is defined as sexual assault, domestic violence, other forms of sexual violence, dating violence or stalking; or conduct of a nature that creates serious concerns about the safety of others. [Adopted: 5/29/2015, Revised: 6/3/16]

## 14.2 SEASONS OF COMPETITION: FIVE-YEAR RULE

**14.2.4 Hardship Waiver.** In accordance with NCAA Bylaw 12.8.4, upon application to the Commissioner by a member institution, a student-athlete may be granted an additional year of varsity competition in accordance with the NCAA hardship rule. An application for hardship must be endorsed by the team physician, trainer and the Director of Athletics (or by a person acting for the Director of Athletics as his or her designee).

## 14.3 FRESHMAN ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

### 14.3.2 Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition.

#### 14.3.2.1 Non-Qualifiers [Revised: 6/1/95; Revised: 6/1/2008; effective 8/1/2008]

- (a) A non-qualifier (as defined by NCAA Bylaw 14.3.2.1) who initially enrolls at a member institution subsequent to August 1, 1993, shall not be eligible for athletically-related financial aid, or for practice or competition during his or her first year in residence. Such a student shall be eligible for non-athletics institutional financial aid that is not from an athletics source and is based on financial need only, consistent with institutional regulations. [Revised: 6/1/95; Revised: 6/1/08; effective 8/1/08]
- (b) A limited number (see limits in subsection 14.3.2.1(c) below) of student-athletes who enroll at a member institution as freshmen or as 4-4 transfer students and who are non-qualifiers (or were non-qualifiers at the time of their original enrollment in college) may become eligible for athletically-related financial aid, practice, and competition after their freshman year. Student-athletes who enroll at a member institution as freshman may become eligible for athletically related financial aid, practice, and competition after their freshman year, provided that (i) each such student presents an average high school GPA of at least 2.0 (as confirmed and certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center) in at least twelve core courses, and (ii) the Commissioner issues a favorable determination with respect to such student in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection 14.3.2.1(g) below. Even though such non-qualifier may not receive athletically-related financial aid, the non-qualifier shall count in the institution's overall team financial aid limits. In equivalency sports, such non-qualifier shall count as one-half of a full athletic grant-in-aid the first year; in subsequent years, the actual grant-in-aid value shall count. 4-4 transfer students who were non-qualifiers at the time of their original enrollment in college may become eligible for athletically related financial aid, practice, and competition after their freshman year, provided that each

such student meets the requirements of SEC Bylaw 14.5.5.6. [Revised: 6/1/96 effective June 1, 1997 for those student-athletes first entering a member institution on or after Fall semester/quarter, 1997; Revised: 6/1/08; effective 8/1/2008]

- (c) There shall be an annual limit on the number of student-athletes who are non-qualifiers and who may become eligible after their freshman year for athletically-related financial aid, practice, and competition, whether such student-athletes are enrolled as freshmen or as 4-4 transfer students. (These limits do not apply to two-year college transfer students, see Bylaw 14.5.4.2.) The limits, which are applied on an annual basis with no carry-over of unused numbers to following years, are set forth as follows: [Adopted: 6/5/99; Revised: 5/30/03; Revised: 6/1/08; effective 8/1/2008]

For men's sports a total of four non-qualifiers enrolled in a particular academic year (either as first year students or 4-4 transfers) may become eligible to receive athletically-related financial aid, or for practice or competition. Of these four, no more than two are permitted to become eligible in football, and no more than one may become eligible in any other sport.

For women's sports, a total of four non-qualifiers enrolled in a particular academic year (either as first year students or 4-4 transfers) may become eligible to receive athletically-related financial aid, or for practice or competition. Of these four, no more than one may become eligible in any one sport. [Revised: 5/30/03 effective 8/1/2003]

- (d) The annual limits set forth in subsection 14.3.2.1 (c) shall not apply to any student-athlete who has been certified by the NCAA as learning disabled and who is otherwise eligible hereunder. [Adopted: 6/5/99]
- (e) In the event that a member institution enrolls a student-athlete as a freshman who is a non-qualifier and who does not present an average high school GPA of at least 2.0 (as confirmed and certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center) in at least twelve core courses, or in the event that the Commissioner issues an unfavorable determination with respect to any such student in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection 14.3.2.1(g) below, such student may never become eligible for athletically-related financial aid, or for practice or competition, at such institution. Before enrolling a student who may be affected by this Bylaw 14.3.2.1(e), the member institution should inform the student that SEC Bylaw 14.5 may afford the student a path to possible eligibility, in the event, for example, that the student chooses to attend a two year college. If and to the extent otherwise allowed by NCAA Bylaws, a transfer student from a two year college may be eligible for athletically-related financial aid, practice, and competition for up to four years. [Adopted: 6/1/08]
- (f) Prospective student-athletes with disabilities are subject to and must satisfy the eligibility standards set forth in this Bylaw 14.3.2.1; provided, however, that (i) in satisfying such standards, such students may take advantage of NCAA Bylaws 14.3.1.2.1.2 and 14.3.1.2.5, and any other applicable NCAA or SEC Bylaws that have the purpose or effect of providing reasonable accommodation to disabled individuals, and (ii) the Commissioner may waive or modify the standards in this Bylaw 14.3.2.1, in his or her sole discretion, if and as necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable laws or regulations. [Adopted: 6/1/08; effective 8/1/2008]
- (g) For each non-qualifier admitted pursuant to subsection 14.3.2.1(b) above other than 4-4 transfer students, at or before the time of the non-qualifier's enrollment, the member institution must submit a Special Report to the Commissioner with all of the information, data, and documentation listed in subsections (d)(2) - (d)(4) and (d)(6) - (d)(7) of Bylaw 14.1.2.2 (except that the President or Chancellor need make no certification concerning eligibility as is contemplated by the last phrase in subsection 14.1.2.2(d)(7)), as well as all of the information, data, and documentation listed in subsections 14.1.2.2(e)(2) and (3) if and to the extent applicable. The Special Report shall also include the information described in subsection 14.1.2.2(f) if applicable. The Commissioner shall review such Special Report under the standards and procedures set forth in subsection 14.1.2.2(g) and (h), and shall issue a determination whether the non-qualifier shall be allowed to become eligible for athletically-related financial aid, practice, and competition after completion of his or her freshman year in the event that the non-qualifier meets or exceeds all applicable academic performance requirements (and all other requirements) for eligibility [Adopted: 6/1/0; effective 8/1/2008]
- (h) The June 1, 2008 amendments to Article 14 (primarily including but not limited to the amendments to this Bylaw 14.3.2.1) shall be effective immediately for all prospective and current students; provided, however, that any requirements, conditions, or standards newly imposed by such amendments shall be waived by the Commissioner if and to the extent that the application of such new requirements, conditions, or standards would adversely affect the current or future eligibility (for athletically-related aid, practice or competition) of any student enrolled at a member institution as of September 15, 2007. [Adopted: 6/1/08; effective 8/1/2008]

#### **14.3.5 Determination of Freshman Eligibility.**

**14.3.5.1 Participation Prior to Certification.** If a student-athlete reports for athletics participation before his or her qualification status has been certified, the student may practice, but not compete, during a 45-day period, provided the student

meets all other requirements to be eligible to practice. An institution shall not provide athletically related financial aid to the student during this period. After the 45-day period, the student shall have established minimum requirements (as certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center) to continue practicing or to compete and receive athletically related financial aid. An institution is not required to count such a student in its annual non-qualifier limits or overall team financial aid limits under Bylaw 14.3.2.1, even if the NCAA Eligibility Center determines the student to be a non-qualifier, so long as the student does not practice after expiration of the 45-day temporary certification period or the date on which the NCAA Eligibility Center determines the student to be a non-qualifier, whichever is earlier. [Adopted: 5/31/2013; effective 8/1/2013]

**14.3.7 Two-Year Eligibility.** See SEC Bylaw 14.1.15.

## **14.4 PROGRESS-TOWARD-DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

**14.4.10 Nontraditional Courses from Another Institution.** A total of not more than nine semester or 12 quarter hours of nontraditional course work (e.g., distance-learning, correspondence, extension, Internet/visual courses, independent study or any other course or credit that is not earned in a face-to-face classroom environment with regular interaction between the instructor and the student) that is completed at another institution in any given twelve-month period may be used to fulfill the minimum satisfactory-progress requirements. (See NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.5.3) [Revised: 6/2/17 effective 8/1/17]

## **14.5 TRANSFER REGULATIONS**

### **14.5.4 Two-Year College Transfers.**

**14.5.4.2 Non-qualifiers.** A non-qualifier, who initially enrolls at a two-year college and transfers to an SEC member institution, shall not be eligible for financial aid, practice or competition unless each of the following requirements have been met: [Revised: 6/3/93; Revised: 6/1/08; Revised: 6/1/12]

- (a) Attended the two-year college that granted the Associate or equivalent degree as a full-time student for the last three semesters or four quarters immediately prior to graduation from the institution granting the two year degree (excluding summer terms); [Revised: 6/1/02]
- (b) Correspondence, extension and distance learning courses used to fulfill the transferable English, Math and/or Science (when applicable) requirements of NCAA Bylaw 14.5.4.2, may only be completed at a two-year college where the individual is enrolled as a full-time student in pursuit of an Associate or equivalent degree.

### **14.5.5 Four-Year College Transfers.** See NCAA Bylaw 14.5.5.

**14.5.5.1 Transferring within the Southeastern Conference.** A transfer student from a member institution shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition at another member institution until the student has fulfilled a residence requirement of one full academic year (two full semesters) at the certifying institution. Further, a transfer student-athlete admitted after the 12<sup>th</sup> class day may not utilize that semester for the purpose of establishing residency. Student-athletes meeting the terms of NCAA Bylaws 14.5.5.2.1, 14.5.5.2.2, 14.5.5.2.3, 14.5.5.2.4, 14.5.5.2.5, 14.5.5.2.6, 14.5.5.2.7, 14.5.5.2.8 and 14.5.5.2.9 may seek a waiver of the provisions of this bylaw. [Revised: 6/2/00; effective 8/1/2001; Revised: 6/1/08]

**14.5.5.6 Non-qualifiers.** A non-qualifier who initially enrolls at any other four-year institution and transfers to a member institution, shall not be eligible for financial aid, practice or competition unless each of the following requirements have been met: [Adopted: 6/3/93; Revised: 5/29/97 effective 8/1/1997; Revised: 6/1/08; Revised: 6/1/12]

- (a) The student must be in good academic standing at an accredited institution;
- (b) The student must have either completed satisfactorily a minimum of 48 semester or 72 quarter hours with a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 of transferable degree credit accepted toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution, or earned a baccalaureate degree from the previous institution;
- (c) The student must have attended the four-year institution for at least three semesters or four quarters (excluding summer terms) as a full time student; and
- (d) The student must have at least two seasons of competition remaining.

**14.5.5.6.1** A non-qualifier who initially enrolls at any other four-year institution and transfers to an SEC member institution shall be counted in the annual limits of non-qualifiers as specified in SEC Bylaw 14.3.2.1 [Revised: 8/1/97; Revised: 6/1/08]

**14.5.5.6.1.1 Graduated Student Exception.** A student-athlete who has earned a baccalaureate degree shall be exempt from the annual limits in SEC Bylaw 14.3.2.1 (c). *[Adopted: 6/1/2007; effective 8/1/2007 for student-athletes first enrolling at a member institution on or after 8/1/2007]*

**14.5.6 “4-2-4” College Transfers–Non-qualifiers.** A non-qualifier, regardless of sport, who initially enrolls at a non-SEC four-year institution, transfers to a junior college and then transfers to an SEC member institution, shall not be eligible for financial aid, practice or competition unless the junior college transfer requirements listed in SEC Bylaw 14.5.4 have been met. *[Revised: 6/3/93]*

**14.5.7 Waivers.** Prospective student-athletes with education impacting disabilities are subject to and must satisfy the eligibility standards set forth in this Bylaw 14.5; provided, however, that (i) in satisfying such standards, such students may take advantage of any applicable NCAA or SEC Bylaws that have the purpose or effect of providing reasonable accommodation to disabled individuals, and (ii) the Commissioner may waive or modify the standards in this Bylaw 14.5, in his or her sole discretion, if and as necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable laws or regulations. *[Adopted: 6/1/08; effective 8/1/2008] [Renumbered 6/1/11]*

## **14.7 ADDITIONAL WAIVERS FOR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

### **14.7.2 Residence Requirement.**

To be read in conjunction with NCAA Bylaw 14.7.2 (c):

- (c) **Transfer from Institution on Probation.** A student-athlete granted a waiver of the one-year residence requirement by the NCAA under NCAA Bylaw 14.7.2 (c) shall be eligible for aid, practice and participation at the time of transfer, provided all other Conference and NCAA requirements are met, but only if the transfer is from a non-Conference institution.

## **14.10 CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY**

### **14.10.1 Institutional Responsibility for Eligibility Certification.**

**14.10.1.2 Certification of Eligibility Form.** Before a student-athlete may compete in any intercollegiate contest, his/her eligibility must be certified to the Commissioner on the squad list form furnished by the Conference. The appropriate institutional official shall certify the student-athlete’s initial eligibility (freshman academic requirements or transfer requirements), continuing eligibility (progress toward degree), and financial aid. In addition, the process for confirming and certifying eligibility shall be approved by the Athletic Director and the Faculty Athletics Representative. *[Revised: 6/1/11]*

**14.10.1.3 Certification of Eligibility Deadline.** Each student-athlete must be initially certified prior to his/her first contest each academic year, whether or not this contest occurs prior to the academic term designated as the regular season for that sport.

**14.10.1.4 Certification of Continuing Eligibility in Additional Terms.** The Commissioner shall be advised by the institution of the continuing eligibility of each student-athlete who will participate in sports during additional terms of the academic year after the initial annual certification. (NOTE: A list of those with continuing eligibility is sufficient.)

BYLAW, ARTICLE 15

# Financial Aid

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## 15.01 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

**15.01.1 Institutional Financial Aid Permitted.** Any scholarship or financial aid to a student-athlete must be awarded in accordance with all NCAA and SEC regulations. Full records detailing the source and distribution of all financial aid awarded to student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics shall be kept for a minimum of seven years.

**15.01.2 Eligibility of Student-Athletes for Institutional Financial Aid.**

- (a) A student-athlete who has signed an SEC Financial Aid Agreement with a member institution and is eligible to receive the athletic scholarship on the institution’s first day of classes of the academic year specified on the financial aid agreement, but who does not enter that institution or who does enter and withdraws from that institution before fully completing-his/her first semester or quarter (except when the recipient of an athletic scholarship award enters military service before enrolling in the awarding institution and remains in military service for a period of eighteen months or more), shall not be eligible to receive an athletics grant-in-aid during the student-athlete’s first two years in residence at the second SEC institution. *[Revised: 6/2/06; effective 8/1/2006]*
- (b) Participation by the institution in a representative Conference schedule is a prerequisite to the awarding of financial aid in any sport regulated by the Conference.
- (c) If a student-athlete is awarded financial aid in a sport recognized by the NCAA but not regulated by the Conference and desires to participate in a sport which is regulated by the Conference, the student-athlete must be counted as though he/she were given the same aid in the sport in which the student-athlete wishes to participate. Further, the student-athlete cannot practice or participate in the sports of football or men’s basketball until he has met the provisions of NCAA Bylaws 15.5.1 and/or 15.5.9.

**15.01.3 Cost of Attendance Transparency.** No later than July 15 of each year, each member institution shall provide a written report to the Conference office identifying the value of the institution’s “other expenses related to attendance at the institution” for the upcoming academic year and describing the methodology used to determine such value (including the amounts that make up any miscellaneous amounts). This report must include a certification by the President or Chancellor and senior financial aid officer of the member institution affirming that both individuals have reviewed and approved the report. *[Adopted: 5/29/15]*

**15.01.4 Consistency of Application.** A member institution must calculate the cost of attendance for student-athletes in accordance with the cost of attendance standards, policies, and procedures for all other students. At the end of each semester (or other academic unit, if an institution is on a quarter, trimester or other system), the member institution must submit to the Conference office a written report providing the following information for each student who, through a budget appeal or otherwise, is provided an increase to his or her calculated cost of attendance as compared to the published standard or average cost of attendance for the institution: *[Adopted: 5/29/15]*

- (a) Amount of variance;
- (b) Summary of reason(s) for variance;
- (c) Whether the student is a scholarship student-athlete; and
- (d) Demonstration that an increase in the student-athlete’s budget meets institutional policies applicable to all students.
- (e) The names of student-athletes shall not be published.

## 15.2 ELEMENTS OF FINANCIAL AID

**15.2.1 Summer Financial Aid** A prospective student-athlete must be certified as a qualifier by the NCAA Eligibility Center prior to being awarded financial aid by a member institution for the summer term preceding initial collegiate enrollment at such member institution. The student-athlete awarded the aid must have also been awarded aid for the upcoming fall term by the member institution. The aid award must be to allow the student-athlete to become acclimated to the university setting and to advance academically prior to initial full-time enrollment at the certifying member institution. The student-athlete must enroll in a minimum of six hours of academic course work (other than physical education activity courses) that is acceptable degree credit toward any of the member institution's degree programs. Remedial, tutorial and noncredit courses may be used to satisfy the minimum six-hour requirement, provided the courses are considered by the member institution to be prerequisites for specific courses acceptable for any degree program and are given the same academic weight as other courses offered by the institution. [*Portions 6/3/05; Revised: 6/3/05; Revised: 6/1/11*]

**15.2.2 Waivers.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Bylaw 15.2.1, a prospective student-athlete not certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center may be provided with financial aid for the summer term preceding initial collegiate enrollment at the certifying member institution if the prospective student-athlete has:

- (a) Graduated from high school;
- (b) Successfully completed the required minimum number of core courses as required by NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.1 or 14.3.1.2, and reported on the prospective student-athlete's high school transcript;
- (c) Achieved a high school core grade point average and standardized test score for a qualifier as required by NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.1.2 or 14.3.1.2.1, and reported on the prospective student-athlete's high school transcript or testing agency score report;
- (d) Registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center;
- (e) Presented these credentials to the certifying institution prior to enrollment in the summer term; and
- (f) The certifying institution submits a written report to the SEC office by August 1 that lists all student-athletes receiving this waiver and the date the student-athlete was officially certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

**15.2.3 Forms.** Each member institution must have student-athletes receiving athletic aid execute either the official Conference financial aid form, provided by the Conference office, or an institutional financial aid form that provides full and complete disclosure of the terms pursuant to which the aid is awarded, to ensure that each student-athlete is fully and properly informed concerning the terms of the grant-in-aid.

**15.2.3.1 Mid-Year Enrollment.** A prospective student-athlete who intends to enroll at a member institution for the spring term directly following high school graduation during or after the preceding fall academic term shall not be permitted to sign an SEC Financial Aid Agreement (per SEC Bylaw 15.2.3) until the prospective student-athlete has either enrolled as a full-time student and attended classes at the certifying institution, or has signed a valid National Letter of Intent during the fall early signing period. [*Adopted: 6/3/11; effective 8/1/11*]

## 15.5 MAXIMUM INSTITUTIONAL GRANT-IN-AID LIMITATIONS BY SPORT

**15.5.1.3 Counter Who Becomes Injured or Ill.** In accordance with NCAA Bylaw 15.5.1.2, upon application to the Commissioner by a member institution, the exemption of an athletic scholarship counter from team limits may be granted by the Commissioner. An application for hardship must be endorsed by the team physician, trainer and the Director of Athletics (or by a person acting for the Director of Athletics as his or her designee). [*Adopted: 6/3/11*]

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## 16.2 COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSIONS AND TICKET BENEFITS

### 16.2.1 Permissible Procedures.

#### 16.2.1.1 Institutional Events in the Student-Athlete’s Sport.

**16.2.1.1.2 Exceptions – SEC Championships, NCAA Championships and Bowl Games.** Complimentary admissions for an SEC Championship, NCAA Championship or Bowl Game shall be provided only through a pass list for individuals designated by the student-athlete. SEC member institutions may provide six complimentary admissions to each individual listed as a member of the official traveling squad for an SEC Championship, NCAA Championship or Bowl Game. No more than two admissions may be provided to non-traveling members of the squad. *[Revised: 5/30/03; effective August 1, 2003; Revised: 6/4/2010; effective 8/1/2010]*

**16.2.1.2 Regular Season Complimentary Admissions and Ticket Benefits: Men’s Basketball and Football.** Complimentary admissions for regular season contests shall be provided only through a pass list for individuals designated by the student-athlete. “Hard tickets” shall not be issued. The institution shall be responsible for this administrative procedure, and the student-athlete’s eligibility shall be affected by involvement in action contrary to the provisions of NCAA Bylaws 16.2.1 and 16.2.2 (i.e., receipt of more than the permissible four complimentary admissions or the sale or exchange of a complimentary admission for any item of value). *[Adopted: 6/2/94; Revised: 6/4/04 effective August 1, 2004; Revised: 6/4/2010; effective 8/1/2010]*

# Playing and Practice Seasons

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## 17.1 GENERAL PLAYING-SEASON REGULATIONS

**17.1.9 Southeastern Conference Limitation on Practice, Playing Season, Number of Contests and Squad Sizes.** Practice, playing seasons, number of contests and squad sizes are governed by the following: *[Revised: 5/31/2013; effective 8/1/2013]*

- (a) In sports regulated by the Southeastern Conference, limitations on practice, playing seasons, maximum contests, championships and tournaments, and squad sizes (home and travel) shall be governed by the Commissioner’s Regulations and any modifications to such limitations shall be reported at the next regular meeting of the Chief Executive Officers; *[Revised: 5/29/15]*
- (b) An institution shall not schedule contests of any kind during a period beginning with the first scheduled final exam through the last scheduled final exam. This bylaw does not apply to games scheduled by the Conference; *[Adopted: 6/4/04]*
- (c) In sports other than football, basketball and women’s rowing, extended trips (more than seven calendar days including travel) are not permitted during an institution’s Christmas holiday period;
- (d) In the sport of football, all practices, including intra-squad games, must be held on campus, or in the immediate campus community, except that this restriction does not apply to: (1) practices held in conjunction with postseason games or regular in-season games to be played away from home; or (2) spring practices and spring games held in a facility used at least twice during the applicable academic year for regular season home competition. In all other sports, the site of practice, including squad games, will be in accordance with NCAA rules; and
- (e) When regular season competition is conducted by divisional play, the divisions shall be as follows:

<u>EASTERN</u>	<u>WESTERN</u>
Florida	Alabama
Georgia	Arkansas
Kentucky	Auburn
Missouri	LSU
South Carolina	Ole Miss
Tennessee	Mississippi State
Vanderbilt	Texas A&M

## 17.30 PLAYING RULES

In the sports for which the NCAA develops playing rules, member institutions shall conduct all their intercollegiate contests under the official playing rules specified by the NCAA. In the sports for which the NCAA does not develop playing rules, member institutions shall conduct all contests under the rules stated in the Commissioner’s Regulations for each sport, as well as all NCAA rules modifications approved for NCAA championships.

# Championships and Tournaments

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## 18.8 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TOURNAMENTS

**18.8.1 General Regulations.** Conference championships and tournaments are subject to the following:

- (a) Unless otherwise specified in the sections dealing with individual sports, Conference championships and tournaments shall be held in accordance with the Commissioner’s Regulations for each sport;
- (b) Institutions participating shall assume full financial responsibilities;
- (c) It shall be the duty of the Conference member or members to which championships or tournaments are awarded to make all local arrangements for conducting the championships or tournaments. The host institution shall keep a complete record of the contest and report to the Conference office;
- (d) All Conference championships and tournaments shall be open to only Southeastern Conference teams;
- (e) In the sports of football, baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, gymnastics and soccer, a detailed financial report shall be made to the Conference office. In all other championships and tournaments that are administered by a member institution, the host institution will assume full financial responsibilities and file a financial report with the Conference office; [*Revised: 6/3/93*]
- (f) The Southeastern Conference office will provide trophies and awards for all sports in accordance with the Commissioner’s Regulations governing each sport;
- (g) All Conference championships shall be scheduled during a time period that does not conflict with the final examination periods of any member institution. A waiver of this bylaw shall be granted only upon the majority approval of the Executive Committee; and [*Revised: 6/1/96*]
- (h) All rules regarding selection of participants and seeding for the Conference championships shall be included in the Commissioner’s Regulations for each sport. [*Adopted: 6/1/02*] [*Clarified 6/1/11*]

# Compliance and Enforcement

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## 19.8 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

### 19.8.1 General Provisions

**19.8.1.1 General Principles.** The primary objective of the Conference compliance program is to help member institutions achieve compliance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and other rules, regulations, and legislation of the Conference and the NCAA (referred to collectively in this Article 19 as the “Rules”) primarily through the exercise of educational programs and monitoring procedures. Although a compliance program provides no guarantees of avoiding violations, it can help to ensure that problems that arise remain limited in scope and place the member institution in a better position to take appropriate self-corrective measures.

It is the goal of the SEC compliance program to eradicate willful violations of the Rules and to reduce, as much as possible, inadvertent violations of the Rules. To achieve that end, the Conference will provide support services as appropriate to assist institutional staff members at member institutions in achieving a working knowledge of the Rules. The Conference will also define standards of expected conduct and consequences for failure to comply with the Rules. It should be emphasized that the provision of technical support and other resources by the Conference office does not relieve the member institutions from responsibility for Rules enforcement and compliance. It is the obligation of each member institution to enforce and comply with the Rules.

Absent Conference approval to make a submission directly to the NCAA, member institutions shall submit all requests for interpretations of NCAA rules and regulations to the NCAA through the Commissioner’s office.

**19.8.1.2 Hiring Practices.** Member institutions shall exercise best efforts to hire individuals committed to rules compliance. In connection with this requirement, member institutions shall thoroughly evaluate an individual’s record of rules compliance prior to offering employment for any coaching position or noncoaching position with sport-specific responsibilities. While each member institution makes its own hiring decisions, member institutions shall, at a minimum, request specific information from each candidate concerning his/her rules compliance record and communicate with NCAA enforcement and the Conference office regarding the same prior to offering employment to any candidate.

In addition, where a member institution considers hiring an individual who has engaged in unethical conduct as defined under NCAA Bylaws or who has participated in activity that resulted, or may result, in a Level I, Level II or major infraction, the President or Chancellor of that member institution is expected to consult directly with the Commissioner prior to offering employment to the individual.

Each member institution must include in each contract with every athletic director, coach, senior woman administrator, and other employee of its athletic department a specific provision obligating the employee to comply with the Rules and specifying that the employee agrees to be bound by and will comply with the enforcement, penalty, and other disciplinary provisions and procedures of the NCAA and of the Conference, including but not limited to the provisions of Article 4 of the Constitution and of this Bylaw 19.8.

### 19.8.2 Enforcement and Compliance Procedures

#### 19.8.2.1 Reports of Alleged Violations.

- (a) Each member institution, and all employees of the member institution, shall comply with procedures developed and published by the Commissioner, with approval of the Chief Executive Officers, as such procedures shall be revised from time to time, concerning reporting violations and alleged violations of the Rules to the Conference. In compliance with and if required to do so by such procedures, a member institution associated with any violation or alleged violation of the Rules must furnish report(s), including a full and complete final report, concerning such violation or alleged violation (and of any required investigation relating thereto) to the Commissioner.
- (b) Each member institution shall comply with procedures developed and published by the Commissioner, with approval of the Chief Executive Officers, as such procedures shall be revised from time to time, concerning reporting violations and alleged violations of the Rules to the NCAA.

- (c) The Conference office shall not conduct its own investigations but may recommend, among other options, outside resources to work with a member institution in developing necessary information.

#### **19.8.2.2 Action by the Commissioner.**

- (a) Upon receipt of the final report required by Bylaw 19.8.2.1(a), the Commissioner shall determine:
  - (1) If the member institution conducted a thorough investigation;
  - (2) If the determination made by the member institution is consistent with the information developed in its review of the allegations;
  - (3) If the information substantiates that a violation of the Rules has occurred; and,
  - (4) What, if any, penalties or sanctions should be imposed by the Conference, and whether any student-athlete should be suspended or ruled ineligible.
- (b) If the Commissioner determines that penalties or sanctions should be imposed or that a student-athlete should be suspended or ruled ineligible, the Commissioner shall proceed to impose the penalties or sanctions, or issue notice that the student-athlete is suspended or ineligible, as authorized by and provided in Article 4 of the Constitution.
- (c) The Commissioner, in his or her discretion, may postpone or decline to take action pending or subsequent to completion of an NCAA investigation and/or pending a decision by the NCAA concerning imposition of penalties or sanctions or determination of eligibility.

#### **19.8.2.3 Reinstatement of Eligibility.**

- (a) A student-athlete, or the member at which a student-athlete is enrolled, may petition the Commissioner to reinstate the student-athlete's eligibility.
- (b) The Commissioner may, in his or her discretion, restore a student-athlete's eligibility if, under all the facts and circumstances, the Commissioner concludes that reinstatement is appropriate.

#### **19.8.2.4 Appeals.**

**19.8.2.4.1** Unless the Commissioner in his or her discretion stays or delays the effective date, all penalties, sanctions, eligibility determinations, and other enforcement or eligibility decisions or actions of the Commissioner shall become effective immediately upon notification to (i) the Athletic Director and the Chief Executive Officer of the member institution involved, and (ii) any student-athlete, coach, or other athletic department representative or employee affected thereby.

**19.8.2.4.2** A member institution and any student-athlete, coach, or other athletic department representative or employee affected by a penalty, sanction, adverse eligibility determination, reinstatement determination, or other adverse enforcement or eligibility decision or action (all referred to collectively in the Constitution and Bylaws as an "Adverse Action") has the right to appeal the decision of the Commissioner to the Executive Committee and to further appeal any decision of the Executive Committee to the Conference (*i.e.*, to the Chief Executive Officers).

**19.8.2.4.3** To appeal from an Adverse Action of the Commissioner as provided in Bylaw 19.8.2.4.2, the member institution or individual pursuing the appeal must:

- (a) Submit a written notice of intent to appeal to the Commissioner within five calendar days after the date on which the Commissioner notifies the appellant of the Adverse Action; and
- (b) Submit to the Commissioner (for distribution to the Executive Committee), within ten calendar days after submission of the written notice of intent to appeal, any written statements, documents, or other evidence or materials that the appellant wants the Executive Committee to consider.

Unless good cause exists for denying or limiting an extension, the Commissioner, upon request, may extend, for no more than twenty calendar days, the time for submission of any written statements, documents, or other evidence or materials that the appellant wants the Executive Committee to consider.

**19.8.2.4.4** To appeal from a decision of the Executive Committee as provided in Bylaw 19.8.2.4.2, the member institution or individual pursuing the appeal must:

- (a) Submit a written notice of intent to appeal to the Commissioner within five calendar days after the date on which the appellant receives the decision of the Executive Committee; and

- (b) Submit to the Commissioner (for distribution to the Chief Executive Officers), within ten calendar days after submission of the written notice of intent to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee, any written statements, documents, or other evidence or materials that the appellant wants the Chief Executive Officers to consider.

Unless good cause exists for denying or limiting an extension, the Commissioner, upon request, may extend, for no more than twenty calendar days, the time for submission of any written statements, documents, or other evidence or materials that the appellant wants the Executive Committee to consider.

**19.8.2.4.5** The Executive Committee and the Chief Executive Officers shall resolve appeals after considering the submissions of the appellant and after considering any submissions or information provided by the Commissioner, either upon his or her own initiative or upon request.

**19.8.2.4.6** Unless the Commissioner in his or her discretion stays or delays the effective date after receiving notice of an appeal, any penalty, sanction, adverse eligibility determination, or other adverse enforcement or eligibility decision or action shall continue in effect pending appeals.

**19.8.2.5 Compliance Reviews and Legislative Services.**

- (a) The Conference office may conduct compliance reviews of member institutions. Each member institution must file a written response with the Conference office following receipt and review of a compliance review report. This written response shall address the issues identified in the report, and will be required for submission to the Commissioner within 90 calendar days of receiving the report.
- (b) The Conference office will provide legislative services, including but not limited to:
  - (1) Rules interpretations;
  - (2) Distribution of written legislative interpretation updates as well as other rules education materials;
  - (3) On-campus educational presentations to coaches and administrators; and
  - (4) Education seminars and programs, as necessary.

Member institutions should be aware that Conference office interpretations of the NCAA's Bylaws, and other rules, regulations, and legislation of the NCAA, are not binding upon the NCAA.

*[Article 19 was substantially revised on 6/1/11 to conform to practices and procedures previously adopted by the Conference.]*

# Committees, Meetings, Events

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## 21.8 COACHES' MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS

**21.8.1 Attendance.** Each head coach in the Southeastern Conference is required to attend the following to the extent applicable to their sport:

- (a) Annual Coaches' Meeting;
- (b) Winter Meeting of Head Football Coaches;
- (c) Press Conferences at Conference Championships;
- (d) Coaches Luncheon at SEC Football Championship; and
- (e) Conference Media Day Event.

**21.8.2 Penalty.** Should a coach not attend any of the events listed above, without the prior approval of the Commissioner, his or her member institution shall pay a \$10,000 fine to the Southeastern Conference. [*Adopted: 6/4/04; Revised: 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009; Renumbered, Relocated and Clarified 6/1/11*]

## 21.9 SPORTS COMMITTEES

**21.9.20 Southeastern Conference Sports Committees.** Men's and women's sports committees are subject to the following:

- (a) There shall be a sports committee for each men's and each women's sport sponsored by the Southeastern Conference. The committee shall be composed of the head coaches of each institution sponsoring the sport. The chair of the committee will be selected by the head coaches each year; [*Revised: 6/1/95*]
- (b) The sports committees make recommendations to the Athletic Directors and/or Senior Woman Administrators on all aspects of their sport; and
- (c) The format and site of all coaches' meetings are to be determined by the Conference office, and each institution shall be represented by only the head coach. No alternative representation shall be permitted absent prior approval of the Commissioner. In track where there are two coaches, one representing men's teams and one representing women's teams, each institution shall be represented by at least one head coach. Additionally, in swimming, the diving coach of the host institution for the championship may attend the meeting. [*Revised: 6/5/99*]

# Media and Related Agreements

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## 22.1 MEDIA AND RELATED AGREEMENTS

**22.1.1 Conference Agreements Govern.** Each member shall include provisions in each of its television, media, internet and digital rights agreements specifying that the member’s agreements are subject and subordinate to all past, present, and future television, media, internet and digital rights agreements to which the Conference is or becomes a party, and further specifying that if any provision in the member’s agreement is inconsistent or conflicts with any Conference agreement, the Conference agreement shall supersede the provision in the member’s agreement, such that the superseded provision shall be of no effect to the extent of any such inconsistency or conflict. [*Clarified 6/1/11*]

**22.1.2 Games and Telecasts.** Each member must fully conform to and comply with all current broadcast guidelines and broadcast agreements of the Conference. [*Moved and Clarified 6/1/11*]

**22.1.3 Football Video.** No member of the Conference shall make video recordings of football teams of other members except in games in which the member’s team is participating. [*Moved and Clarified 6/1/11*]

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## 30.20 OFFICIATING

### 30.20.1 Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball Officiating.

**30.20.1.1 Compensation of Officials for Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball.** The Athletic Directors will set the travel expenses and the maximum fees for officials for Conference varsity baseball, basketball, soccer, and softball and volleyball games and for regular-season football games. *[Revised: 6/1/01]*

**30.20.1.2 Approval, Evaluation and Assignment of Officials.** The retention and assignment of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball officials shall be under the control of the Commissioner. The official records, assignments, and all reports on officiating and officials shall be kept in the Conference office. The coordinators of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball officials shall be appointed by and under the direction of the Commissioner. The coordinators shall provide information concerning rule interpretations and mechanics of officiating; and approve, assign and evaluate officials for these sports. *[Revised: 6/1/01]*

**30.20.1.3 Commissioner’s Regulations for Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball Officiating.** The Commissioner shall publish and keep current the Commissioner’s Regulations for baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball officiating in the Southeastern Conference. After approval by the Athletic Directors, these regulations shall establish the procedures for officiating the aforementioned sports. Recommendations for revisions shall be received by the Commissioner from the officials, the coaches and other institutional representatives. No substantive revisions, however, shall become effective until approved by the Athletic Directors. *[Revised: 6/1/01]*

### 30.20.2 Officiating for Sports Other than Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball.

**30.20.2.1 Regular-Season Competition.** The approval and assignment of officials for regular-season competition of all sports, other than baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball shall be the responsibility of the host institution. *[Revised: 6/1/01]*

**30.20.2.2 Conference Championships.** The approval and assignment of officials for Conference championships and tournaments shall be coordinated between the responsible coaches’ committee and the host institution. Final approval for the assignment and selection of the officials for these championships and tournaments must be received from the Commissioner’s office.

**30.20.3 Professional Sport Officials.** An official who is connected in any manner with a professional sport or sports organization shall not be assigned by the Conference office or its coordinators to officiate in an intercollegiate athletic contest in the same sport in which the official is professionally affiliated. If an official is assigned to officiate and then becomes affiliated with a professional sport or sports organization in the same sport in which he/she was assigned to officiate, the individual will immediately be removed from the eligible list of officials. Any request for a waiver of this restriction should be addressed to the Commissioner.

## 30.22 PROVISIONS AND STANDARDS FOR CONFERENCE SPORTS

### 30.22.1 General Information.

**30.22.1.1 Regulated Sports.** At least one-fourth (25%) of the member institutions of the Conference must sponsor teams in a sport for that sport to be regulated by the SEC and for a Conference champion to be declared. The sports currently regulated by the SEC are: Men’s sports--baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, indoor track, outdoor track, swimming and tennis; Women’s sports--basketball, cross country, equestrian, golf, gymnastics, indoor track, outdoor track, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis and volleyball. *[Revised: 6/1/12]*

**30.22.1.2 Varsity and Junior-Varsity Sports.** Varsity and junior-varsity sports must satisfy the following:

- (a) Varsity and junior-varsity teams in all sports may be composed of freshmen and/or upper-classmen;

- (b) A student-athlete who participates on a team of one classification may not participate on a team of a different classification on the same day; and
- (c) An institution shall organize no more than one freshman or junior varsity team in any given sport.

**30.22.1.3 Conference Championships.** Conference championships are subject to the following:

- (a) A Conference champion shall be determined annually in each of the sports listed in Bylaw 30.22.1.1. The method of determining the Conference champion for each of these sports shall be provided for in the Commissioner's Regulations of each sport. When two institutions tie for a championship and no championship play-off is held, these institutions shall be declared co-champions; and
- (b) A member institution's team or teams, prohibited by the Southeastern Conference or the NCAA from participating in postseason competition in a given sport, shall not be eligible for a Conference championship and participation in a Conference season-ending event (e.g., game, tournament, meet) in that sport for the duration of this prohibition. *[Revised: 6/1/12]*

**30.22.1.4 Athletes-of-the-Year, Scholar-Athletes-of-the-Year and Community Service Leaders of the Year.**

- (a) **Male and Female, Roy F. Kramer Athlete-of-the-Year Awards.** There shall be an award for the SEC Male and Female Athlete-of-the-Year. Each institution's Athletic Director will submit one nomination for each award. Each Athletic Director will receive one ballot for the male and one ballot for the female athlete-of-the-year. Each institution will cast one ballot for the male and one ballot for the female, and will not be allowed to vote for its own nominee. The SEC shall pay travel expenses for each Roy F. Kramer Athlete-of-the-Year award recipient and two members of each award recipient's family to attend the award presentation held in conjunction with the SEC Football Championship. *[Revised: 6/3/05]*
- (b) **Male and Female, H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar Athlete-of-the-Year.** There shall be a postgraduate scholarship award for the SEC Male and Female Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year. Each institution shall nominate one male and one female student-athlete for the award, with the ultimate selection of the two winners being made by the Faculty Athletics Representative Selection Committee. Twenty-six additional awards, entitled SEC Postgraduate Scholarship Awards, shall be given each academic year to the institutional nominees not selected as the SEC Male and Female Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year. The SEC Male and Female Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year shall each be awarded a \$15,000 scholarship. The SEC Postgraduate Scholarship Award recipients shall each receive a \$7,500 scholarship. The SEC shall pay travel expenses for each H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar Athlete-of-the-Year award recipient and two members of each award recipient's family to attend the award presentation held in conjunction with the SEC annual spring meetings. *[Revised: 6/3/05; Revised: 5/29/98 effective June 1, 1998]*
- (c) **Male and Female, Brad Davis Community Service Leaders of the Year.** There shall be a postgraduate scholarship award for the SEC Male and Female Community Service Leaders of the Year who demonstrate the most outstanding and meritorious community service achievements during their entire college careers. Each institution shall nominate one male and one female student-athlete for the award, with the ultimate selection of the two winners being made by the Faculty Athletics Representatives Selection Committee. Twenty-six additional awards shall be given each academic year to the institutional nominees not selected as the SEC Brad Davis Community Service Leaders of the Year. The Male and Female SEC Brad Davis Community Service Leaders of the Year shall each receive a \$10,000 scholarship. The Community Service Scholarship recipients shall each receive a \$5,000 scholarship. The SEC shall pay travel expenses for each Brad Davis Community Service Leader of the Year award recipient and two members of each award recipient's family to attend the award presentation held in conjunction with the SEC annual spring meetings. *[Revised: 6/1/01; Revised: 6/3/05; Revised: 6/3/11; effective 8/1/11]*
- (d) **Michael L. Slive Distinguished Service Award.** Awarded on special occasions when an outstanding candidate(s) emerges, the Michael L. Slive Distinguished Service Award will be recognized as one of the Southeastern Conference's most prestigious honors. The recipient, a former student-athlete, coach, graduate or administrator of an SEC institution or the Conference office, must be a person of exemplary character and outstanding accomplishment who has maintained a lifetime of interest in college athletics and who, over a significant period of time, has exhibited superior leadership qualities and made a significant impact to the betterment of the mission of the Southeastern Conference. Administrative groups associated with the Southeastern Conference, such as Presidents and Chancellors, Faculty Athletics Representatives, Athletics Directors, and Senior Woman Administrators, as well as individuals, such as former recipients, coaches, administrators, and other campus leaders may provide nominations to the Commissioner. Selection of the recipient shall be made by unanimous approval of a special five-member committee appointed by the Commissioner. The award shall be presented to deserving candidates at the SEC annual spring meetings. *[Revised: 12/13/16]*

**30.22.1.5 Playing Conditions.** Playing conditions at SEC contests are governed by the SEC Game Management Manual and by the following:

- (a) The host institution is charged with the responsibility of providing satisfactory playing conditions, providing the best possible protection for the public and officials, and using its facilities for producing an atmosphere of good sportsmanship. The Commissioner will periodically distribute information regarding crowd-control procedures;
- (b) Contests televised under Conference television contracts shall have game times established in accordance with those contracts. For all other contests, except as noted in the Commissioner's Regulations, the host institution shall set the starting times of contests and so notify the visiting team well in advance;
- (c) At football games, artificial noise makers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions, other than contests played on the campus of an institution with a traditional institutional noise maker. Each institution should have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas. Penalties for violations of this provision are set forth in the Commissioner's Regulations; *[Revised: 6/1/02; Revised: 6/4/2010; Effective 6/4/2010; Revised: 6/1/12; Revised: 5/29/15]*
- (d) At football games the use of amplifiers, microphones, and megaphones shall be restricted to the cheerleaders of the institutions participating, directed only toward the stands and shall not be used from the time the offensive center takes his place over the football until the football has been snapped. Additionally, the use of institutionally controlled computerized sound systems (including music), institutionally controlled artificial noisemakers and any traditional institutional noise maker shall not play from the time the offensive center takes his place over the football until the officials whistle the play dead. Bands shall not play from the time the offensive center takes his place over the football until the football has been snapped. In no case may music be played which may be construed to be derogatory toward the visiting team or the game officials. Physical distractions (e.g., artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or the main stadium public address) shall not be used by cheerleaders while either team is on the field (warm-ups or competition). An institution shall submit to the Commissioner an annual use plan explaining how traditional institutional noise makers shall be governed to ensure compliance with SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5 (d). Penalties for use of traditional institutional noise makers in violation of this provision or failure to adhere to the institution's management plan for traditional institutional noise makers shall be set forth in the Commissioner's Regulations governing the sport of football; and *[Revised: 6/4/2010; effective 6/4/2010; Revised: 6/1/12; Revised: 5/30/14; effective 8/1/14]*
- (e) In sports other than football, the use of artificial noisemakers shall be governed by the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport. Penalties for violations of this provision are also set forth in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport. *[Revised: 5/29/15]*

**30.22.1.6 Professional Competition.** Other than baseball, teams of member institutions shall not engage in games with professional teams.

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The Southeastern Conference Executive Committee has issued the following policy statement relative to these revenues: All basketball and football revenues received by the member institutions which are to be sent to the Conference office for further distribution should be received in the Conference office within 40 calendar days of receipt by the institution or by April 1 whichever is earlier. Any such revenue received after April 1 shall be remitted within 10 calendar days after receipt by the institution.

## 31.20 REVENUE DISTRIBUTION - BASKETBALL

**31.20.1 Distribution of Revenue Generated by Basketball.** The following basketball revenue received by the Conference office for distribution each year shall be divided into 15 equal shares with one share being retained by the Conference office and one share being distributed to each member institution.

- (a) Basketball Television - All revenue derived from national network and national cable basketball telecasts will be divided by the following formula: *[Revised: 6/1/95]*

All revenue shall be divided into 15 equal shares, with one share being distributed to each member institution and one share being distributed to the Conference. *[Revised: 6/1/995; Revised: 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009]*

- (b) NCAA Men’s Championship Basketball Tournament - Each member institution shall receive \$45 per mile one-way from its campus to the competition site for each round of the tournament in which they participate. In addition, each member institution shall receive one payment of \$100,000 for appearing in the Preliminary, First, and/or Second Round, an additional one payment of \$125,000 for appearing in the Regional Semifinals and/or Regional Finals, and an additional one payment of \$300,000 for appearing in the Final Four. Funds from the participation pool of the Men’s NCAA Basketball Tournament shall be used to provide these payments. All remaining revenue from the NCAA Basketball Tournament from the participation pool, shall be divided into 15 equal shares with one share to each member institution and one share to the Conference office. *[Revised: 5/29/98 effective June 1, 1998; Revised: 6/2/00; Revised: 5/30/03; Revised: 6/1/11; Revised: 10/3/14; Revised: 6/3/16; Revised: 6/2/17]*

- (c) Southeastern Conference Men’s Basketball Tournament. Revenues received by the Conference office each year for the Men’s Basketball Tournament shall be divided as follows: *[Revised: 5/29/98; effective 6/1/1998]*

Any revenue above full expenses of the participating teams as set forth in the Commissioner’s Regulations shall be divided into 15 equal shares, with one share to each member institution and one share to the Conference.

- (d) Southeastern Conference Women’s Basketball Tournament. Revenues received by the Conference office each year for Women’s Basketball shall be divided as follows: *[Revised: 6/1/98]*

Any revenue above full expenses of the participating teams as set forth in the Commissioner’s Regulations shall be divided into 15 equal shares, with one share to each member institution and one share to the Conference.

## 31.21 REVENUE DISTRIBUTION - FOOTBALL

**31.21.1 Distribution of Bowl Game Receipts.** Distribution of revenue (after allowable deductions) generated from member institutions participating in bowl games shall be reviewed on an annual basis and determined as follows: *[Revised: 6/1/95; Revised: 6/2/06; effective 8/1/2006; Revised: 5/31/2013; effective 8/1/2013; Revised: 6/2/17]*

- (a) For bowl games providing receipts which result in a balance of less than \$1,500,000, the participating institution shall retain \$1,025,000, plus a travel allowance as determined by the SEC Executive Committee. The remainder shall be remitted to the Commissioner and shall be divided into 15 equal shares with one share to the Conference and one share to each member

institution. [Revised: 6/1/02; Revised: 6/2/06; effective 8/1/2006; Revised: 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009; Revised: 5/31/2013; effective 8/1/2013; Revised: 5/30/14; effective 8/1/2014; Revised: 6/3/16; effective 8/1/2016]

- (b) For bowl games providing receipts which result in a balance between \$1,500,000 and \$3,999,999, the participating institution shall retain \$1,300,000, plus a travel allowance as determined by the SEC Executive Committee. The remainder shall be remitted to the Commissioner and shall be divided into 15 equal shares, with one share to the Conference and one share to each member institution. [Revised: 6/1/02; Revised: 6/2/06; effective 8/1/2006; Revised: 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009; Revised: 5/31/2013; effective 8/1/2013; Revised: 5/30/2014; effective 8/1/2014; Revised: 6/3/16; effective 8/1/2016]
- (c) For bowl games providing receipts which result in a balance between \$4,000,000 and \$5,999,999, the participating institution shall retain \$1,500,000, plus a travel allowance as determined by the SEC Executive Committee. The remainder shall be remitted to the Commissioner and shall be divided into 15 equal shares, with one share to the Conference and one share to each member institution. [Revised: 6/1/02; Revised: 6/2/06; effective 8/1/2006; Revised: 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009; Revised: 5/31/2013; effective 8/1/2013; Revised: 5/30/2014; effective 8/1/2014; Revised: 6/3/16; effective 8/1/2016]
- (d) For bowl games providing receipts which result in a balance of \$6,000,000 or more and all College Football Playoff games, the participating institution shall receive \$2,025,000 (\$2,025,000 if the SEC team is a participant in the College Football Playoff semi-finals game; an additional \$2,125,000 if the SEC team is also a participant in the College Football Playoff championship game, which determines the National Champion), plus a travel allowance as determined by the SEC Executive Committee. Institutions participating in a College Football Playoff game may also request additional travel expenses, which may be granted to such institution at the Commissioner's discretion. The remainder shall be remitted to the Commissioner and shall be divided into 15 equal shares, with one share to the Conference and one share to each member institution. [Revised: 6/1/02; Revised: 6/2/06; effective 8/1/2006; Revised: 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009; Revised: 5/31/2013; effective 8/1/2013; Revised: 5/30/2014; effective 8/1/2014; Revised: 6/3/16; effective 8/1/2016]
- (e) Bowl Revenue Protection Insurance shall be deducted prior to Conference distribution. [Adopted: 6/1/02; Revised: and Effective 6/4/2010; Revised: 5/31/2013; effective 8/1/2013; Revised: 5/30/2014; effective 8/1/2014; Revised: 6/3/16; effective 8/1/2016]
- (f) The cost of unused tickets up to the contractually guaranteed ticket purchase number shall be deducted prior to Conference distribution, except as provided in subsection (g) below. [Adopted: 6/2/17]
- (g) For bowl games in which a member institution participates as an "alternate" (e.g., 5-7 team) under NCAA Postseason Bowl Game requirements, the participating institution shall retain all revenue distributed by the bowl. The participating institution shall not receive a base retainage or travel allowance as set forth in subsections (a) through (d) above. The participating institution shall also be fully responsible for the contractually guaranteed ticket purchase number and any other expenses associated with participation in the bowl. [Adopted: 6/2/17]

**31.21.2 Distribution of Football Television Receipts.** Distribution of revenue generated from football television shall be as follows: [Revised: 6/1/96]

- (a) A member institution appearing in a non-conference home game or a conference vs. conference game played on a non-traditional playing date to meet contractual commitments or to accommodate a request by the Conference office shall receive an appearance fee of \$300,000 as the home team; and [Revised: 6/4/04; Revised: 6/1/2007; Revised: 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009; Revised: 6/3/11; effective 8/1/11]
- (b) All remaining revenue shall be divided into 15 equal shares with one share being distributed to each member institution and one share being distributed to the Conference.

**31.21.3 Football Championship Game Revenue.** All revenue remaining from the championship game after expenses of planning and conducting the event have been deducted shall be divided as follows: [Revised: 6/3/93]

- (a) Each participating institution shall be reimbursed for the actual cost of transporting an official party of 150 (including student-athletes, coaches, administrators, cheerleaders, bands, etc.) to the site (air or bus travel from campus to the site; local transportation is not included). This amount shall be approved in advance by the Conference office and must be supported by actual invoices. In addition, each participating institution shall receive \$275,000 to cover all costs associated with institutional lodging, meals, local transportation and all other expenses related to the championship. Each participating institution will be financially responsible for payment for 150 rooms for two nights at the designated team headquarters hotel; [Revised: 6/1/95; Revised: 6/1/96; Revised: 6/3/05; Revised: 6/1/12]
- (b) Each participating institution shall receive a band/cheerleader travel allowance of \$50 per mile, one-way from its campus to the site (according to Rand-McNally Mileage Chart). Each institution shall be financially responsible for 100 rooms for two nights at its designated band hotel; [Revised: 6/1/95; Revised: 6/1/96; Revised: 6/1/07]

- (c) Each participating institution shall be reimbursed for the actual cost of all player/guest admissions actually used by student-athletes (up to six per student-athlete) listed on the institution's official Championship traveling squad; [*Adopted: 6/3/16; effective 8/1/16*]
- (d) All remaining revenue shall be divided into 15 equal shares, with one share distributed to each member institution and one share to the Conference office; and
- (e) Institutions may petition to the Executive Committee prior to the game for an increase in the travel allowance only in the event actual expenses exceed the designated amount.

### **31.22 REVENUE DISTRIBUTION - BASEBALL**

**31.22.1 Distribution of Revenue Generated by Baseball.** Revenues received by the Conference office each year for baseball shall be divided as follows:

SEC Baseball Tournament - All guaranteed revenues shall be divided as follows:

- (a) Each participating institution will be provided a per diem of \$75 per day for up to 30 individuals for each day the institution plays a game. The per diem revenue will be paid on a percentage basis of available funds;
- (b) Each participating institution shall receive a travel allowance of \$30 per mile one-way. The travel allowance will be paid on a percentage basis of available funds; and
- (c) Any revenue above full expenses of the participating teams shall be divided into 15 equal shares, with one share to each member institution and one share to the Conference.

### **31.23 REVENUE DISTRIBUTION - ALL OTHER SPORTS**

**31.23.1 Distribution of Revenue Generated by Other Sports.** Revenues received by the Conference office each year for all other sports shall be divided as follows:

SEC – Net Revenues from SEC championships (other than football, men's and women's basketball, and baseball) either bid, or held at a neutral or off-campus site, shall be divided as follows: one share to the Conference office, remaining revenue shall be divided evenly among institutions which sponsor teams in that particular sport.

### **31.24 DISTRIBUTION OF NCAA SPORT SPONSORSHIP AND GRANTS-IN-AID FUNDS**

**31.24.1 Distribution of NCAA Sport Sponsorship and Grants-in-Aid Funds.** NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Grants-in-Aid funds shall be sent by the NCAA to the Conference office. The funds shall then be divided into 15 equal shares with one share to each member institution and one share to the Conference office. [*Adopted: 6/3/16; effective 8/1/16*]

### **31.25 AUTOMATIC RESTRICTION AGAINST PARTICIPATION IN DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCE FUNDS**

**31.25.1 Restriction Against Participating in Distribution of Conference Funds.** Member institutions prohibited by the NCAA or the SEC from appearing on television programs and/or from participating in postseason football or basketball competition shall not be entitled to participate in the distribution of respective Conference funds derived from these sources during the period of such prohibition.

**31.25.2 Escrow of Funds.** All funds, except for the provisions of Bylaws 31.22.1 and 31.23.1 hereof, which would otherwise have been paid to the member institution involved shall be held in escrow by the SEC until the end of the five-year repeat-violation provision of the NCAA. Thereupon, the institution involved will be restored an amount equal to 50% of the funds previously placed in escrow, provided the institution has not had a major violation within the past five years which has resulted in sanctions prohibiting the institution from sharing in the Conference's revenue distribution. Prior to such restoration, the Executive Committee may authorize the use of such portion of these funds as needed to compensate the other member institutions for any loss of revenue which results from contractual penalties that may be assessed against the Conference as a result of the involved member institution's inability to participate in Conference television or post-season events as a result of NCAA sanctions. The remaining 50% of the funds shall become the property of the SEC free and clear of all claims of the member institution involved and shall be distributed in equal shares to the remaining member institutions. An institution shall be permitted to defer the onset of revenue distribution withholding until the fiscal year following announcement of sanctions. [*6/1/96; Revised: 6/3/05*]

# **Enforcement Policies and Procedures**

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The Southeastern Conference adheres to the enforcement policies and procedures specified in this bylaw of the NCAA Manual.

**Southeastern Conference Penalties for Violations of Specified NCAA Bylaws****Impermissible activity by noncoaching staff member (NCAA Bylaw 11.7.1.1 and 11.7.6)**

The involved institutional staff member shall be prohibited from attending all countable and required athletically related activities involving student-athletes (e.g. practice, competition, and team meetings involving student-athletes) for a seven-day period following discovery of the violation.

**Contact with a prospect during either an evaluation or quiet period. (NCAA Bylaws 13.02.5.2 and 13.02.5.4)**

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting activity for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited until 30 days following the discovery of the violation or the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact with the prospect, as deemed appropriate. In sports that permit off-campus contact prior to the prospect's senior year, the institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect during his/her junior year and no more than one additional off-campus contact during the prospect's senior year. In sports that do not permit off-campus contact prior to the prospect's senior year, the institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

**Contact with a prospect during a dead period. (NCAA Bylaw 13.02.5.5)**

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting activity for the 90 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for six calendar months. Further telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member ~~to~~ and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for the 60 days following discovery of the violation (or the first permissible date for telephone calls/electronic correspondence with the prospect).

**Impermissible evaluation of a prospect during a quiet or dead period. (NCAA Bylaw 13.02.5.4 and 13.02.5.5)**

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting activity for the 60 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation.

**Contact with a prospect prior to the permissible time period. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.1)**

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited until 30 days following the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact. The institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

**Impermissible off-campus contacts with prospective student-athletes by an impermissible recruiter. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.2.1)**

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any recruiting activity (on or off-campus) for the 14 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. The involved institutional staff member(s) shall also not be permitted to make or receive telephone calls or send electronic correspondence to any prospective student-athlete for the 14 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 30 days following discovery of the violation or the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact, as deemed appropriate. Further telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for the 30 days following the date of discovery of the violation (or the first date for permissible phone calls/electronic correspondence with the prospect). In sports that permit off-campus contact prior to the prospect's senior year, the institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect during his/her junior year and no more than one additional off-campus contact during the prospect's senior year. In sports that do not permit off-campus contact prior to the prospect's senior year, the institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

**Impermissible on-campus contacts with prospective student-athletes by an impermissible recruiter. (Applicable to situations in which the institution fails to demonstrate that it took appropriate steps to prevent such contact or where an institution has a history of similar violations) (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.2.1).**

In-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 14 days following discovery of the violation or the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact, as deemed appropriate. Further telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for the 14 days following discovery of the violation (or the first date for permissible phone calls/electronic correspondence with the prospect).

**Telephone calls to prospective student-athletes. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.3.1)**

If a coach telephones a prospective student-athlete prior to the first permissible time period, the involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to make or receive telephone calls or send electronic correspondence to any prospective student-athlete for the 14 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for the next 30 days following the first date for permissible phone calls. If a coach or coaching staff telephones a prospective student-athlete twice within a period where it is otherwise permissible to call once, the coaching staff is prohibited from making or receiving calls and sending electronic correspondence to the involved prospective student-athlete for a two week period.

**Impermissible contact with a prospect on the day of competition. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.6.2)**

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. The institution shall be prohibited for 30 days from visiting the educational institution or attending any contests involving a team on which the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation participates. Further telephone calls from any institutional staff member to the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation.

**Provision of impermissible benefits to a prospective student-athlete. (NCAA Bylaw 13.2.1)**

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited until 90 days following discovery of the violation or the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact, as deemed appropriate. In sports that permit off-campus contact prior to the prospect's senior year, the institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect during his/her junior year and no more than one additional off-campus contact during the prospect's senior year. In sports that do not permit off-campus contact prior to the prospect's senior year, the institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

**Provision of recruiting materials (including electronic correspondence) to a prospect prior to the permissible date. (NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1)**

The institution shall be prohibited from providing additional recruiting materials (including questionnaires and general correspondence, but not including a camp brochure) to the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation until 60 days following the first permissible date for distributing recruiting materials.

**Provision of impermissible recruiting materials to a prospective student-athlete. (NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1.4)**

Telephone calls or electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for the 60 days following the discovery of the violation (or the first permissible date for phone calls/electronic correspondence with the prospect).

**Impermissible electronic transmissions/social media communication. (NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1.5 and 13.10.2)**

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to make telephone contact with any prospective student-athlete for the 14 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. The institution shall not be permitted to make telephone contact, send recruiting materials (per NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1), or send permissible electronic transmissions (per NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1.5) to the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation (or the first permissible date for phone calls/electronic correspondence with the prospect).

**Provision of impermissible entertainment to a prospective student-athlete or a person associated with a prospective student-athlete. (NCAA Bylaws 13.6.7, 13.7.2 and 13.8)**

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited until 90 days following discovery of the violation or the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact, as deemed appropriate. In sports that permit off-campus contact prior to the prospect's senior year, the institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect during his/her junior year and no more than one additional off-campus contact during the prospect's senior year. In sports that do not permit off-campus contact prior to the prospect's senior year, the institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

**Impermissible public comments made regarding a prospective student-athlete. (NCAA Bylaw 13.10.2)**

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited until 90 days following discovery of the violation or the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact, as deemed appropriate. The institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

**Application of the Minimum Penalty**

The institution shall apply the minimum penalty upon discovery of the violation and shall report the violations to the Conference in a timely manner. The minimum penalty may be increased at the Commissioner's discretion. In the event that a minimum penalty cannot be fully applied prior to the involved prospective student-athlete's written commitment to the institution, the Commissioner shall impose such other penalties to address the competitive or recruiting advantage gained by the institution (*e.g.*, prohibiting the issuance of a financial aid agreement, restrictions on recruiting activities, etc.).

**Relief of the Minimum Penalty**

Prior to application of the minimum penalty, the involved institution may request relief from the minimum penalty if the institution establishes that: 1) the violation was clearly attributable to extenuating circumstances; and 2) the violation did not produce a recruiting or competitive advantage. If an institution that commits a violation seeks relief from the minimum penalty and there is a reasonable basis for consideration of the relief request, the penalty is stayed pending the Commissioner's determination.

**Southeastern Conference Minimum Expectations for Due Diligence Inquiries**

SEC member institutions are required to use diligent efforts to gather pertinent information regarding the prior conduct of any transfer student-athlete, including a graduate student, who seeks to enroll and participate in intercollegiate athletics at an SEC institution. While institutions should use their discretion in doing so based upon the particular circumstances of each situation, at a minimum, SEC institutions shall ask the following questions of each potential transfer student-athlete prior to the transfer student-athlete practicing, competing, or receiving institutional financial aid:

1. Do you have criminal charges pending against you?
2. Have you been convicted of, pled guilty to, or pled no contest to any crime involving:
  1. Acts of a violent or sexual nature in the past?
  2. Possession or use of a firearm?
  3. Dating violence?
  4. Stalking?
  5. Other felony crime?
3. Have you been disciplined, suspended or placed on probation for any reason (excluding limited discipline applied by a sports team) at any previous collegiate institution? If yes, please explain.
4. At the time you left your previous institution, were you the subject of a pending proceeding of any sort that could have resulted in disciplinary measures, suspension, expulsion or probation? Are you currently the subject of this kind of proceeding at your current institution?

These questions are intended to be a minimum to be asked where an institution has no independent reason to suspect that a transfer student-athlete might have engaged in conduct that triggered application of either SEC Bylaw 14.1.15.1 or Bylaw 14.1.19. Where an institution has such an independent reason to inquire into a prospective student-athlete's prior conduct, the institution is expected to conduct a thorough inquiry designed to gather all information needed to assess the situation. The institution is expected to ask the transfer student-athlete and others who might possess pertinent information to provide any such information, and where appropriate, to request authorization from such persons to obtain pertinent documents and information from third parties. Where a question exists whether the transfer student-athlete has triggered the application of SEC Bylaw 14.1.15.1 or Bylaw 14.1.19, the institution is expected to notify the Conference prior to providing aid or allowing the transfer student-athlete to practice or compete.