

# SEC BYLAWS AND COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS 2018-2019



# **2018-2019 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**

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**CONSTITUTION  
OPERATING BYLAWS  
ADMINISTRATIVE BYLAWS**

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## 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  
1.2 Purposes..... 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 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.

CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 6

# 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

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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** All institutional staff members and student-athletes of a member institution, 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, Revised: 6/1/18]*

**10.5.2** 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]*

**10.5.3** 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]*

**10.5.4** 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]*

# 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*]

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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, Revised: 6/1/18]*

- (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) Core courses have been taken out of sequence by the PSA;
- (4) 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
- (5) The PSA has completed more than one core course through nontraditional means (e.g., virtual high school or a correspondence course) after his or her junior year of high school. *[Revised: 6/1/18]*
  - (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 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*]

**14.1.17 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.

**14.1.18 Serious Misconduct.** A prospective student-athlete, including a transfer, who has been convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to a felony involving serious misconduct, or has been subject to official school disciplinary action at any time during enrollment at any previous educational 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 prospective

student-athlete's background that at least satisfies the Conference's minimum due diligence expectations (see [Appendix B](#)) prior to providing the prospective student-athlete athletically-related financial aid or allowing him/her to participate or compete. Incidents of serious misconduct involving an enrolled student-athlete shall not be subject to these provisions.

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, Revised: 6/1/18 effective 10/15/18]

## 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]

**14.5.5.1.1 Exception – Graduate Transfer.** A transfer student who has been admitted to and is enrolled in a graduate or professional school at a member institution other than the member institution from which he or she previously received a baccalaureate degree, may be eligible for intercollegiate competition provided the student is immediately eligible for competition under all other Conference and NCAA rules and all applicable waivers are complete. [Adopted: 6/1/18]

**14.5.5.1.2 Exception – Postseason Competition Prohibition.** A transfer student from a member institution that is prohibited by the NCAA or the SEC from participating in postseason competition may be eligible for intercollegiate competition provided the student is immediately eligible for competition under all other Conference and NCAA rules and all applicable waivers are complete. [Adopted: 6/1/18]

**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 Annual Limits.** 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.

**15.01.2.1 Release from SEC Financial Aid Agreement.** An individual who has requested and received a release from a signed SEC Financial Aid Agreement as approved by the Director of Athletics at the signing SEC institution shall no longer be subject to the terms of Bylaw 15.01.2 or the SEC Financial Aid Agreement. *[Adopted: 6/1/18]*

**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*]

# Awards, Benefits and Expenses For Enrolled Student-Athletes

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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. [Revised: 6/2/17]

### 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 \$20,000 scholarship. The SEC Postgraduate Scholarship Award recipients shall each receive a \$10,000 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; Revised 6/2/17*]
- (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 puts a hand on 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 puts a hand on the football until the officials whistle the play dead. Bands shall not play from the time the offensive center puts a hand on 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, Revised: 6/1/18]*
- (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.

# Executive Regulations

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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 \$1,050,000, 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, Revised: 6/1/18]

- (b) For bowl games providing receipts which result in a balance between \$1,500,000 and \$3,999,999, the participating institution shall retain \$1,325,000, 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, Revised: 6/1/18]
- (c) For bowl games providing receipts which result in a balance between \$4,000,000 and \$5,999,999, the participating institution shall retain \$1,525,000, 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, Revised: 6/1/18]
- (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 \$2,050,000 (\$2,050,000 if the SEC team is a participant in the College Football Playoff semi-finals game; an additional \$2,150,000 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, Revised: 6/1/18]
- (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 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 prospective student-athlete, including a transfer, 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 prospective student-athlete prior to the individual 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 educational institution? If yes, please explain.
4. At the time you left your previous educational 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 prospective 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 prospective 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 prospective 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 prospective student-athlete to practice or compete. [*Adopted: 6/3/16, Revised; 6/1/18*]

**2018-2019**

**COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS**

**(Updated: August 15, 2018)**

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**GOVERNING CONFERENCE COMPETITION,  
CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TOURNAMENTS**

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# INTRODUCTION

Competition between Conference members during the regular season, as well as in Conference post-season championships and tournaments, is one of the fundamental purposes of the Southeastern Conference. The commitment to Conference competition dates back to 1894 when ten universities organized as members of the Southeastern Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Although the number of member institutions and sports has varied since the turn of the century, the basic principles of equitable competition and achievement of common competitive goals have remained as cornerstones of the Southeastern Conference.

The Commissioner's Regulations governing Conference competition, championships and tournaments are written as a guide for all SEC competition between its members, and are considered the standard source of information on policies and procedures for the conduct of Conference competition. These Regulations are divided into two parts: 1) general administrative policies and procedures that apply to SEC competition as a whole, and 2) specific regulations for each sport.

These regulations are intended for use in conjunction with current SEC Bylaws. If a policy appears in the SEC Bylaws, it is not reproduced in the Commissioner's Regulations; however, the specific reference to that policy is cited in the regulations under the appropriate topic heading.

These regulations are approved by the appropriate Southeastern Conference governing bodies and reviewed each year.

**Access to Competition Area.** In all sports, institutions shall limit access to the competition area to participating student-athletes, coaches, officials, support personnel, and properly-credentialed or authorized individuals at all times. For the safety of participants and spectators alike, at no time before, during or after a contest may spectators enter the competition area. It is the responsibility of each member institution to implement procedures to ensure compliance with this policy.

Institutional penalties against individuals who improperly enter the competition area must include, but are not limited to, expulsion from the facility, arrest for trespassing, and the loss of future ticket privileges. In addition to these penalties, violators who are students must be subject to institutional student disciplinary measures.

Each institution shall publicize this policy, as well as the penalties associated with violations, through appropriate means, such as ticket back statements, public address announcements, video/matrix announcements, facility signage, and other means available. In addition, each head coach shall publicly discourage spectators from entering the playing area at any time.

**Penalties for Institutional Violations.** For the safety of participants and spectators alike, the Commissioner may (in his or her sole discretion) impose the following penalties: 1<sup>st</sup> offense: an institutional fine of \$50,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: an institutional fine of up to \$100,000; 3<sup>rd</sup> or subsequent offense: an institutional fine of up to \$250,000. The Commissioner may also impose additional penalties as he or she deems appropriate.

**Amendments.** The Commissioner's Regulations may be amended in the following manner: *[Revised: 7/25/17]*

Those regulations that are a part of the SEC Bylaws may only be amended by vote of the Presidents and Chancellors at a regular or called meeting of the Conference.

Those regulations that are not part of the SEC Bylaws, but may have philosophical, financial, and/or competition format implications may be amended by a majority vote of the Athletics Directors or, for items relating to men's and women's Olympic sports and women's basketball that do not have a significant financial impact, by a majority vote of the Senior Woman Administrators. The Athletics Directors may request review of any formal action taken by the Senior Woman Administrators at any future meeting.

Amendments may be proposed by the Commissioner, coaches groups, Senior Woman Administrators, and Athletics Directors. Proposals from coaches of men's and women's Olympic sports and women's basketball will be sent directly to the Senior Woman Administrators, unless the proposal has a significant financial impact in which case it will be sent to the Senior Woman Administrators first, then to the Athletics Directors with a report of action taken by the Senior Woman Administrators. Proposals from coaches of all other sports will be forwarded directly to the Athletics Directors.

Those regulations that are editorial in nature or do not have ramifications as noted above may be amended by a majority vote of the coaches of that sport.

Prior to any revision in Regular Season Competition/Scheduling policies or the adoption of any proposal that may have an academic impact, the Faculty Athletics Representatives group must review the proposal during its next regularly scheduled meeting.

**Artificial Noisemakers and Sound Systems (Team).** **[SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5(d)]** Except as otherwise provided in SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5 and the Commissioner's Regulations of each sport, artificial noisemakers, and sound systems brought to competition sites by participating teams and team personnel are restricted to the locker and training room areas only.

**Awards.** The Conference sponsors an awards program for each sport, as well as programs for each championship and tournament. General guidelines for the voting processes are outlined below: (See Supplement A of this section for a complete list of sport-specific awards)

1. **Guidelines.** These guidelines are in place to ensure fair treatment of all student-athletes and coaches, and are to be followed in all voting processes. All votes are submitted on behalf of the institution and thus, if a coach does not follow procedure the Athletics Director or his/her designee will replace that coach's vote. Deadlines set by the SEC office must be adhered to in both the nomination process, as well as the final ballot. It is understood that all nominations and ballots are the responsibility of the institution. If the coach misses a specific deadline set by the SEC office, such forms become the responsibility of the athletics director or his/her designee. Institutions that miss nomination and/or voting deadlines set by the SEC office are subject to dismissal of that institution's forms.

- A. Coaches may not vote for themselves or their student-athletes for awards determined by a vote of the head coaches.
  - B. A ballot must be completely filled out to be counted.
  - C. A coach must vote for post-season awards.
  - D. Only nominated student-athletes may receive votes for post-season awards. In all cases, a coach may only nominate his/her own student-athletes.
  - E. An institution may nominate more than one student-athlete for an individual award, including Scholar-Athlete, Freshman, and Athlete of the Year.
  - F. On a coach's ballot, his/her vote for Player of the Year must be listed among his/her All-SEC votes.
  - G. On a coach's ballot, his/her vote for Freshman of the Year must be listed among his/her All-Freshman votes.
2. **Roy F. Kramer Athlete of the Year Awards.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.4a]
  3. **H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of the Year Awards.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.4b]
  4. **Brad Davis Community Service Leader of the Year Awards.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.4c]
  5. **Michael L Slive Distinguished Service Award.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.4d]
  6. **SEC Sportsmanship Awards.** Each institution may nominate one male and one female student-athlete for consideration based on criteria provided by the SEC office. The Athletics Directors will select one male and one female recipient from those nominated at the SEC Spring Meeting.
  7. **SEC Academic Honor Roll.** The following criteria will be used to determine recipients of the SEC Academic Honor Roll award:
    - A. Any student-athlete who participates in a Southeastern Conference championship sport or a student-athlete who participates in a sport listed on his/her institution's NCAA Sports Sponsorship Form is eligible for nomination to the Academic Honor Roll.
    - B. The following criteria will be followed:
      - (1) A student-athlete must have a grade point average of 3.00 or above for either the preceding academic year (two semesters or three quarters) or have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or above at the nominating institution.
      - (2) If a student-athlete attends summer school, his/her grade point average during the summer academic term must be included in the calculation used to determine eligibility for the Academic Honor Roll.
      - (3) Student-athletes eligible for the Honor Roll include those receiving an athletics scholarship, recipients of an athletics award (i.e., letter winner), and non-scholarship student-athletes who have been on a varsity team for two seasons.
      - (4) Prior to being nominated, a student-athlete must have successfully completed 24 semester or 36 quarter hours of non-remedial academic credit toward a baccalaureate degree at the nominating institution.
      - (5) The student-athlete must have been a member of a varsity team for the sport's entire NCAA Championship segment.
      - (6) The SEC Academic Honor Roll shall be compiled and released following each sport's championship event, as follows:
        - a. Cross Country, football, volleyball, soccer – Honor Roll recipients shall be announced by the Conference office during the first week of February, based on the student-athletes' preceding fall, summer, and spring terms. [Revised: 11/18/15]
        - b. Basketball, equestrian, gymnastics, swimming and diving – Honor Roll recipients shall be announced by the Conference office during the third week of April, based on the student-athletes' preceding fall, summer, and spring terms.
        - c. Track and field, golf, tennis, softball, baseball – Honor Roll recipients shall be announced by the Conference office during the third week of June, based on the student-athletes' preceding spring, fall, and summer terms.
        - d. First year student-athletes – First year student-athletes in all sports may be named to the Honor Roll at the conclusion of their first full academic year in residence (spring, fall and summer

terms) through an announcement issued by the Conference office during the second week of July.

8. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. The recipient in each sport will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote during the All-SEC process for their particular sport. Each vote is worth one point. The criteria for nominating a student-athlete for the Scholar-Athlete of the Year are as follows:
  - A. Nominee must be a starter or important reserve with legitimate athletic credentials.
  - B. Nominee must have participated in at least 50 percent of team's games for the nominating year.
  - C. Nominee must have at least a 3.2 cumulative grade point average for his or her collegiate career.
  - D. Nominee must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at the participating institution (True freshmen, redshirt freshmen and ineligible athletic transfers are not eligible.).
  - E. Nominee must have completed one full academic year at the participating institution.
9. **All-SEC Teams**. Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
10. **All-Freshman Teams**. Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
11. **Athletes of the Year**. Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
12. **Freshmen of the Year**. Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
13. **Coaches of the Year**. Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
14. **Athletes of the Week**. The Conference Communications staff will select an "Athlete of the Week" from nominations submitted by the sports information offices of the member institutions.
15. **Freshmen of the Week**. The Conference office will select a "Freshman of the Week" from nominations submitted to the Conference office by the sports information directors of the member institutions.
16. **Community Service Teams**. Each institution selects one student-athlete per sport sponsored by the Conference. Selection is based on community service performed by the student-athlete. The cross country, indoor track and outdoor track "Community Service Team" will be selected during the outdoor track season.

**Bands, Banners, Cheerleaders and Mascots**. Specific policies regarding bands, banners, cheerleaders, and mascots are addressed in the SEC Bylaws or Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.

**Coaches Committees and Meetings**. [SEC Bylaw 21.8 and 21.9]

**Championship Manuals**. For on-campus championships, the host institution shall provide appropriate information packets to each participating institution as specified in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport. The Conference championship staff shall provide appropriate information packets to each participating institution for neutral-site championships.

**Championship Sites**. The SEC Executive Committee must approve all championship or tournament sites, unless otherwise specified in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport. Such sites may be proposed by the Commissioner, coaches groups, Senior Woman Administrators, or Athletics Directors. Site proposals from coaches must be reviewed by the Senior Woman Administrators and/or Athletics Directors prior to submission to the SEC Executive Committee. Exceptions to this policy are specified in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.

**Crowd Control and Game Management**. The Presidents and Chancellors of the Southeastern Conference member institutions are committed to excellent crowd control at all athletic events. They have passed several resolutions stating their aims and objectives for promoting mutual trust and friendly relations between Conference members and other institutions by emphasizing the need for spectator and athlete sportsmanship at athletic contests.

The Athletics Director of the host institution shall assure that crowd control and game management are exercised in the best interests of safety and fair play for the participants, as well as for spectators. The Athletics Director shall designate a full-time staff person (or persons) to serve as game management director; however, ultimate responsibility remains with the Athletics Director. The home institution shall supply the visiting coach and game officials with the name and location of the individual responsible for game management and crowd control.

The Athletics Directors of each institution are expected to communicate with their student-athletes, coaches and fans to encourage enthusiastic support within the confines of good sportsmanship. Host institutions must provide adequate security and ushers, preferably in uniform, for effective crowd management. Attention should be given to seating

arrangements that will alleviate crowd-control problems. In addition, evacuation and emergency plans should be in place and reviewed on a regular basis.

**Divisional Scheduling.** [SEC Bylaw 17.1.9e]

**Eligibility.** [SEC Bylaws 14.10.1 and 30.22.1.3b] The SEC office will supply an eligibility list for review prior to the start of a Conference championship or tournament.

**Equal Access to Locker Rooms.** Equal access must be given to all media representatives, regardless of gender, at any time interviews with coaches and/or student-athletes are conducted, including after competition. Equal access is defined as access to coaches and/or student-athletes at the exact same time and at the exact same place. Bringing players to a separate area for reporters of the opposite gender is not considered equal access. The exact method of ensuring equal access shall be determined by the institution.

**Financial Responsibilities.** [SEC Bylaw 31.20, 31.21, 31.22, and 31.23] The method of distributing net receipts is specified in the SEC Bylaws. Host institutions shall file a financial report with the SEC office not later than 60 days after the event.

**Interrupted Game Procedures.** All personnel, including Athletics Directors, game management personnel, game officials, coaches, players, and Conference office staff, shall use their best effort to ensure each Conference contest is played to its conclusion. The Conference recognizes, however, emergencies may arise that make a contest's completion impossible or inadvisable. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, severe inclement weather, natural or man-made disasters, power failures and spectator interference.

Contests should be delayed, relocated, suspended, canceled, postponed or terminated (see definitions below) when circumstances exist such that commencement or continuation of play would pose a threat to the safety of game participants. The following procedures shall apply to any sport which does not have sport-specific Inclement Weather or Interrupted Game Procedures.

1. **Definitions.**

- A. **Delay** - To delay a contest is to delay the start of a contest until a later time on the same date.
- B. **Relocate** - To relocate a contest is to change the location of the competition.
- C. **Suspend** - To suspend a contest is to temporarily halt play for a short duration after the contest begins.
- D. **Cancel** - To cancel a contest is to nullify it either before or after it begins and to make no provision for rescheduling it or for including its score or other performance statistics in Conference records.
- E. **Postpone** - To postpone a contest is to (a) defer its starting time to a later date, or to (b) suspend it after play has begun and make provision to resume it at a later date with all scores and other performance statistics up to the point of postponement added to those achieved in the resumed portion of the contest.
- F. **Terminate** - To terminate a contest is to end it short of a full-designated duration of play, officially record it as a completed contest, and make no provision to resume it at a later date.

2. **Authority.** Authority to delay or relocate a contest is vested with the home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator. Authority to suspend a contest is vested with the officials. Authority to cancel, postpone or terminate a contest is vested *only* with the Commissioner or his/her designee.

3. **Guidelines.**

- A. The home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator shall have the authority to determine whether a contest should, prior to its start, be temporarily delayed until a later time on the same date. Once a contest has started, the decision to suspend play is the responsibility of the game officials.
- B. If extenuating circumstances occur that necessitate the relocation of the contest site within the same city, the home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator shall have the authority to determine whether and where the contest should be relocated. The decision should be made in consultation with the visiting team. The alternate site must be in full compliance with all NCAA playing rules and regulations governing that particular sport.
- C. If a contest is postponed prior to its start for any reason, the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall attempt to reschedule the game at a later time or date. If the contest cannot be rescheduled, the Commissioner shall cancel the contest.
- D. If a contest is suspended for any reason after play has begun, the contest must be resumed as soon as

- conditions are deemed safe by the officials in consultation with the home team game management personnel.
- E. A suspended contest may not be resumed after midnight local time, or two hours following the point of suspension, whichever is later.
  - F. If a contest is suspended after play has begun and cannot resume before midnight local time, the two institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall attempt to declare the game postponed, and resume it at a later date.
  - G. In the event a contest cannot be resumed at a later date, the following will apply:
    - (1) If the contest is suspended prior to the completion of one half of play (halftime), the Commissioner shall declare the contest *canceled*.
    - (2) If the contest is suspended after the completion of one half of play (halftime), the Commissioner shall declare the contest *terminated*.

In the event a contest is delayed or suspended and it does not appear play will be resumed on that date, the Athletics Directors (or designated representatives) of both participating institutions, game management personnel and the Conference office representative (if available) shall meet with the game officials in the officials' dressing room, or another suitable location nearby. The Conference office representative shall communicate with the Commissioner, who has the sole authority to declare a game canceled, postponed or terminated. If the Conference office representative is not on site, the home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator shall contact the appropriate Conference staff liaison. The home team game management, in consultation with the Conference office representative, is responsible for disseminating information regarding such a decision to the teams, media and general public.

**Lightning Policy.** Each member institution must have the capability of determining when lightning strikes are within specified distances of the competition site for all outdoor events.

When lightning is detected within a minimum of 10 miles from the competition site, home team management shall utilize the public address system to inform those in attendance that inclement weather including lightning is within 10 (or more) miles and that should patrons vacate the facility for safe shelter, they will be allowed to re-enter with a ticket stub.

When lightning is detected within eight (8) miles of the competition site, competition shall be suspended. Competition may be resumed after 30 minutes of no detected lightning strikes within an eight mile radius. A 10 minute warm-up period may be granted following this 30 minute suspension.

Additionally, the home institution shall notify the head referee/umpire when lightning is detected within 15 miles of the competition site.

In cases of severe weather being detected prior to the start of competition: A maximum of 10 minutes may be used, at the discretion of the home institution, for the marching band, national anthem and introductions, immediately following the 30 minute time period of no detected lightning strikes.

**Lodging.** It is the responsibility of the host to ensure that adequate housing is available to all participating institutions. Each institution is responsible (unless otherwise noted in the Commissioner's Regulations or championship/tournament manual) for finalizing its own lodging arrangements.

**Marketing/Sponsorship Policies.** Any agreements and contracts that result in corporate sponsorship of a Conference championship or tournament must be approved by the Commissioner. This does not preclude a host from obtaining nominal sponsorship and trade-outs from local businesses that are interested in supporting the event. The Commissioner has the right of final approval of all commercial sponsorship, exhibitors and merchandisers at a Conference championship or tournament.

**Medical Policies.** Adequate medical personnel must be present or on call at all sessions of the event (practice and competition). The host is responsible for obtaining the necessary medical staff and supplies. Additional policies may be specified in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.

**New Coaches Orientation.** Upon initial employment at an SEC member institution, each head or assistant coach shall attend a New Coaches Orientation conducted at the SEC office. Attendance at a New Coaches Orientation session should occur as soon as possible following employment of a coach, but is required to occur not later than October following employment of each coach. A coach who fails to attend a New Coaches Orientation session within

the prescribed time frame may not participate in any off-campus recruiting activities until the coach attends a New Coaches Orientation session. New Coaches Orientation sessions shall be conducted in May, July and October. A coach who discontinues employment within the SEC shall be required to attend New Coaches Orientation if four calendar years lapse between dates of employment at an SEC member institution.

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20] Officials and officiating fees/travel expenses for all Conference tournaments and championships shall be approved by the Commissioner. Unless otherwise approved and noted in the Commissioner's Regulations, the expenses and fees shall be the responsibility of the host.

**Penalties for Violations of Specified NCAA Bylaws.** The Conference has established the following minimum penalties for violations of specified NCAA Bylaws. 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.).

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. [Revised: 12/13/16]

**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 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.

**Playing Conditions.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5] Policies regarding playing conditions are addressed in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.

**Playing Rules.** [SEC Bylaw 17.30]

**Post-Game Interviews.** Following each contest of a Conference tournament or championship, participating institutions shall make coaches and student-athletes available for interviews. These interviews are designed to provide the media with championship or tournament information required for thorough coverage of the event and to limit the demands placed upon coaches and student-athletes. The sports information department of the host institution (unless otherwise designated) shall coordinate and supervise post-game interviews. Interview policies for specific sports are contained in the Commissioner's Regulations for those sports. Also refer to Equal Access to Locker Rooms, as noted above.

**Practice and Number of Contests.** [See Supplement D of the General Administration section]

**Professional Competition.** [SEC Bylaws 30.22.1.6]

**Programs and Promotional Materials.** The Conference shall provide a complete program for the baseball, men's and women's basketball, football, gymnastics, soccer, and softball championships. For other tournaments and championships, host institutions shall produce an informational supplement to be provided to fans.

**Results and Statistics.** Host institutions shall: (1) record the official results and statistics of all conference and non-conference contests; (2) forward a copy of such official results and statistics to the Conference office immediately following the conclusion of the contest; and (3) forward a copy of such official results and statistics to each participating institution in a timely manner.

**Scheduling.** Scheduling of Conference competition takes precedence over scheduling of non-conference competition in all sports.

**Sponsored Sports.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1] [See Supplement B of the General Administration section]

**Sports Committees.** [SEC Bylaw 21.9]

**Sportsmanship.** Consistent with SEC Bylaw 10.5, all individuals employed by or associated with a member institution, including institutional staff members, student-athletes, boosters, and fans, are expected to conduct themselves with honesty, integrity, and good sportsmanship, and shall therefore exhibit respect and courtesy towards opposing student-athletes, coaches, and game officials. In addition, all individuals shall also adhere to the following principles of good sportsmanship: [Revised: 8/7/18]

- A. **Public Comments.** All individuals shall make every attempt to promote the Conference and its members in a positive manner.
- B. **Media Access.** All individuals shall make every effort to promote a cooperative environment with the media by providing reasonable access to interview student-athletes and staff.
- C. **Student Conduct.** Each institution shall ensure that all students involved in athletics activities, including student-athletes, band members, cheerleaders, mascots, and general students attending as fans, are informed of the appropriate standards of behavior and good sportsmanship.
- D. **Promoting Sportsmanship.** Each institution shall aggressively address the issue of sportsmanship through various forms (e.g., video spots, public address announcements, radio spots, television spots and print ads in game day programs).
- E. **Throwing Items onto the Playing Surface.** Each institution shall adopt a policy prohibiting fans from throwing items onto the playing surface. Such policy must specify (without limitation) that violators who are clearly identified will be ejected from the playing facility.

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.

**Squad Sizes.** [See Supplement D of the General Administration section]

**Television, Radio and Media Services.** All television and radio agreements for Conference championships and tournaments must be approved by the Commissioner. The media services associated with the event generally are the responsibility of the sports information department of the host institution, although it is understood that sports information personnel from participating institutions shall assist as needed. Specific policies for each sport are described in the Commissioner's Regulations or championship and tournament manuals.

**Tickets.** A host institution shall provide the visiting team (at its request) with up to 50 complimentary admissions for any regular-season competitive event for which the host institution charges admission. (Additional information is provided in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.)

**Tobacco-Related Products.** The use of tobacco-related products by players, coaches, support personnel (i.e., managers and trainers), game personnel (officials, chain crews and table crews) and staff in all sports during practice, Conference competition and Conference championships and tournaments (including banquets, press conferences, post-game interviews, and at all stadiums, arena facilities and competition grounds) is prohibited. This prohibition is applicable to all activities at the athletic competition and practice, including press box areas and locker rooms.

**Uniforms and Apparel.** The uniforms and apparel of all participants in Conference tournaments and championships must conform to appropriate standards of safety and good taste. All student-athletes shall wear uniforms that identify their institution by school name or school colors. This policy applies to regular-season and post-season play. All student-athletes shall conform to NCAA regulations governing the appearance of commercial identification on uniforms, equipment and apparel. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in ineligibility to continue participation in the sport.

**SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE AWARDS PROGRAM**

Sport	Team Awards	Individual Championship Awards	All-Conference Teams	Other Awards & Honors	Academic Honor Roll	Media Honors
<b>Baseball</b>	1 team award for the Conference Champion. 2 team awards given for Divisional Champions (trophy). 1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.	12 All-Tournament Team (trophy). 1 Tournament MVP given trophy.	12 First Team All-SEC (plaque) 12 Second Team All-SEC (plaque) 12 All-Freshman Team (certificate) 9 All-Defensive Team (certificate)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Pitcher of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.	Player of the Week (certificate) Pitcher of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)
<b>Men's &amp; Women's Basketball</b>	1 team award for the Conference Champion. 1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.	5 All-Tournament Team (trophy). 1 Tournament MVP given trophy.	8 First Team All-SEC (plaque) 8 Second Team All-SEC (plaque) 8 All-Freshman Team (certificate) 5 All-Defensive Team (certificate)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) 6 <sup>th</sup> Man/Woman of the Year (trophy) Defensive Player of the year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.	Player of the Week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)

<b>Men's &amp; Women's Cross Country</b>	1 team award for the Conference Champion.	3 top place finishers for each event given medallions.	7 First Team All-SEC given to finishers 1-7 (plaque) 7 Second Team All-SEC given to finishers 8-14 (plaque) 7 All-Freshman Team (certificate)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Athlete of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.	Athlete of the Week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)
<b>Equestrian</b>	1 team award for the Conference Champion.	4 All-Championship Team (one per event) Most Outstanding Performers (16 – one per competition per day)	20 All-SEC (top 5 athletes in each event voted by the coaches) 20 All-Freshman Team (top 5 freshmen in each event voted by the coaches)	Coach of the Year (trophy) 4 Athletes of the Year (trophy) 4 Freshman Athletes of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.	4 Athletes of the Month given to one athlete from each event (certificate)
<b>Football</b>	1 team award for the Conference Champion. 2 team awards given for Divisional Champions (trophy).	1 Championship MVP given trophy.	25 (number varies) First Team All-SEC (plaque) 25 (number varies) Second Team All-SEC (plaque) 24 (number varies) All-Freshman Team (certificate)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Offensive Player of the Year (trophy) Defensive Player of the Year (trophy) Special Teams Player of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.	Offensive Player of the Week (certificate) Defensive Player of the week (certificate) Special Teams Player of the week (certificate) Offensive Lineman of the week (certificate) Defensive Lineman of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)

<p><b>Men's and Women's Golf</b></p>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion.</p>	<p>2 top finishers given trophy.(Stroke Play Champion and Runner Up) Each member of winning team receives medal (5)</p>	<p>8 First Team All-SEC (plaque) 8 Second Team All-SEC (plaque) 5 Male All-Freshman Team 8 Female All-Freshman Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.</p>	<p>Athlete of the Week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>
<p><b>Gymnastics</b></p>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion. 1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.</p>	<p>3 top place finishers for each event given medallions.</p>	<p>All-SEC team given to top 2 scores (including ties) in each event and top 2 scores (including ties) in the all-around from each session. (plaque) All-Freshman Team given to the freshman with the top score (including ties) in each event and top score (including ties) in the all-around from each session. (certificate)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy) Gymnasts of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Specialist of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.</p>	<p>Gymnast of the Week (certificate) Event Specialist of the Week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>
<p><b>Women's Soccer</b></p>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion. 1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.</p>	<p>11 All-Tournament Team (trophy). 1 Tournament MVP (trophy).</p>	<p>14 First Team All-SEC (plaque) 14 Second Team All-SEC (plaque) 11 All-Freshman Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy) Offensive Player of the Year (trophy) Defensive Player of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.</p>	<p>Offensive Player of the week (certificate) Defensive Player of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>

<p><b>Softball</b></p>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion. 1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.</p>	<p>11 All-Tournament Team (trophy). 1 Tournament MVP (trophy).</p>	<p>14 First Team All-SEC (plaque) 14 Second Team All-SEC (plaque) 14 All-Freshman Team (certificate) 9 All Defensive Team</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Pitcher of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.</p>	<p>Player of the week (certificate) Pitcher of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>
<p><b>Swimming &amp; Diving</b></p>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion</p>	<p>3 top place finishers for each event given medallions. Swimmer of the Meet Diver of the Meet Commissioner's Trophy</p>	<p>First Team All-SEC given to winner in each event (plaque) Second Team All-SEC given to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner in each event (plaque) All-Freshman Team given to top Freshman finisher in each event (certificate)</p>	<p>Swimming Coach of the Year (trophy) Diving Coach of the Year (trophy) Swimmer of the Year (trophy) Diver of the Year (trophy) Freshman Swimmer of the Year (trophy) Freshman Diver of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.</p>	<p>Swimmer of the week (certificate) Diver of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>

<p><b>Men's &amp; Women's Tennis</b></p>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion. 1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.</p>	<p>6 All-Tournament Team (trophy). 1 Tournament MVP (trophy).</p>	<p>12 First Team All-SEC (plaque) 12 Second Team All-SEC (plaque) 6 All-Freshman Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.</p>	<p>Player of the Week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>
<p><b>Men's &amp; Women's Indoor Track &amp; Field</b></p>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion.</p>	<p>3 top place finishers for each event given medallions. Cliff Harper Trophy (MVP of Meet)</p>	<p>First Team All-SEC given to winner in each event (plaque) Second Team All-SEC given to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner in each event (plaque) All-Freshman Team given to top Freshman finisher in each event, excluding relays (certificate)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy) Runner of the Year (trophy) Field Event Athlete of the Year (trophy) Freshman Runner of the Year (trophy) Freshman Field Event Athlete of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy)</p>	<p>Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.</p>	<p>Track Athlete of the week (certificate) Field Athlete of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>
<p><b>Men's &amp; Women's Outdoor Track &amp; Field</b></p>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion.</p>	<p>3 top place finishers for each event given medallions. Commissioner's Trophy</p>	<p>First Team All-SEC given to winner in each event (plaque) Second Team All-SEC given to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner in each event (plaque) All-Freshman Team given to top Freshman finisher in each event, excluding relays (certificate)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy) Runner of the Year (trophy) Field Event Athlete of the Year (trophy) Freshman Runner of the Year (trophy) Freshman Field Event Athlete of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy)</p>	<p>Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.</p>	<p>Track Athlete of the week (certificate) Field Athlete of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>

				Community Service Team (certificate)		
<b>Volleyball</b>	1 team award for the Conference Champion.	N/A	18 All-SEC (plaque) 7 All-Freshman Team (certificate)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Defensive Player of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate) Libero of the Year (Trophy)	Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.	Player of the Week (certificate) Offensive Player of the week (certificate) Defensive Player of the week (certificate) Setter of the Week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)

## 2018-2019 INSTITUTIONALLY SPONSORED VARSITY SPORTS

	ALA	ARK	AUB	UF	UGA	UK	LSU	MISS	MSU	MIZZ	USC	UT	TAMU	VU	TOTAL
Number M/W Sports	9/11	8/11	9/12	9/12	9/12	10/12	9/12	8/10	7/9	9/11	9/12	9/11	9/11	6/10	
<b>MEN'S SPORTS</b>															
Baseball	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
Basketball	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
Football	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
Golf	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
Swimming	X	----	X	X	X	X	X	----	----	X	X	X	X	----	10
Tennis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	----	X	X	X	X	13
Track -- Cross Country	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	----	X	----	X	X	X	12
Track – Indoor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	----	13
Track – Outdoor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	----	13
<b>WOMEN'S SPORTS</b>															
Basketball	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
Equestrian	----	----	X	----	X	----	----	----	----	----	X	----	X	----	4
Golf	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
Gymnastics	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	----	----	X	----	----	----	----	8
Soccer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
Softball	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	----	13
Swimming	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	----	----	X	X	X	X	X	12
Tennis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
Track -- Cross Country	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
Track – Indoor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
Track – Outdoor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
Volleyball	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	----	13
Women's Rowing*	X											X			2
Women's Lacrosse*				X										X	2
Men's/Women's Rifle*						X		X							2
Men's Soccer*						X					X				2
Women's Sand Volleyball*							X				X				2
Women's Bowling*														X	1
Men's Wrestling*										X					1

\* Denotes varsity sports not sponsored by the Conference

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP SITES BY SPORT (2018-2027)

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
<b>BASEBALL</b>	Hoover, AL	Hoover, AL	Hoover, AL						
<b>MEN’S BASKETBALL</b>	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Tampa, FL	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN		
<b>WOMEN’S BASKETBALL</b>	Greenville, SC	Greenville, SC	Greenville, SC	Nashville, TN				Nashville, TN	
<b>CROSS COUNTRY</b>	Auburn	Kentucky	LSU	Missouri	Ole Miss	South Carolina	MSU	Tennessee	Texas A&M
<b>EQUESTRIAN</b>	Texas A&M	Georgia	Auburn	South Carolina	Texas A&M	Georgia	Auburn	South Carolina	Texas A&M
<b>FOOTBALL</b>	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA
<b>MEN’S GOLF</b>	Sea Island Golf Club, St. Simons Island, GA								
<b>WOMEN’S GOLF</b>	Greystone Golf & Country Club, Birmingham, AL	Greystone Golf & Country Club, Birmingham, AL							
<b>GYMNASTICS</b>	New Orleans, LA	Duluth, GA	Birmingham, AL						
<b>SOCCER</b>	Orange Beach, AL	Orange Beach, AL							
<b>SOFTBALL</b>	Texas A&M	Alabama	Florida	Arkansas	Georgia	Auburn	Kentucky	LSU	Missouri
<b>SWIMMING/ DIVING</b>	Georgia	Auburn	Missouri	Tennessee					
<b>MEN’S TENNIS</b>	Florida	Arkansas	Georgia	Auburn	Kentucky	LSU	Ole Miss	South Carolina	MSU
<b>WOMEN’S TENNIS</b>	Texas A&M	Alabama	Florida	Arkansas	Georgia	Auburn	Kentucky	LSU	Missouri
<b>INDOOR T/F</b>	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas
<b>OUTDOOR T/F</b>	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Ole Miss	Georgia	Florida	Kentucky	Auburn	Missouri	LSU
<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>	Tournament not Conducted								

**SEC Squad Size Policies**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>In all sports other than football, the home team shall have the ability to determine (under NCAA Bylaws) pre-game and post-game expenses provided to student-athletes permitted to dress, but not participate in a contest. The home and visiting squad size limits apply only to SEC-sponsored competition, rather than applying to any competition in which two SEC teams participate. SEC squad size limitations are not applicable to NCAA Championship events.</b>	<b>SEC Championship Squad Size Limits</b>
Baseball	<p>The home team may dress 35 eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 27 student-athletes shall be allowed to participate in a series. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 27 eligible student-athletes. The 27 participating student-athletes for both the home and visiting team must be declared prior to the first game of a Conference series and may not be changed during the course of the series.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.2.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.2.5</b></p>	<p>Only 30 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but 35 eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team’s Championship contests.</p>
Basketball	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 15 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 15 eligible student-athletes, except during an institutional vacation period when there shall be no limit on the number of eligible student-athletes who may travel.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.3.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.3.5</b></p>	<p>Only 15 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team’s Championship contests.</p>
Cross Country	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 12 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 12 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.5.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.5.5</b></p>	<p>10 in men’s cross country 12 in women’s cross country</p>
Equestrian	<p>All eligible student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. There is no travel squad size limit.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.6.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.6.5</b></p>	<p>Only 28 student-athletes (20 competitors and eight non-competing alternates) will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to the SEC Championship event.</p>
Football	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 80 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. (The non-participating student-athletes shall dress out at no additional cost to the institution. Non-participating student-athletes shall not receive pre-game meals, overnight lodging or additional game tickets, but may receive a post-game meal provided the post-game meal is served at the stadium. No cash stipend may be provided to non-participating student-athletes for post-game meals away from the stadium.) The visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 70 eligible student-athletes. The squad size limit for neutral site games (no more than one game annually) is 70 eligible student-athletes for both participating teams. The squad size for junior varsity teams is 55 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.9.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.9.5</b></p>	<p>85</p>
Golf	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 6 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 6 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.10.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.10.5</b></p>	<p>6</p>
Gymnastics	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 18 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 18 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.11.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.11.5</b></p>	<p>Only 18 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team’s Championship contests.</p>

Soccer	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 24 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 24 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.19.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.19.5</b></p>	<p>Only 24 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in each Championship contest but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Institutions must designate 24 student-athletes who will participate in a specific Championship contest prior to such contest. Non-participating eligible student-athletes may access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team’s Championship contests but may not dress out.</p>
Softball	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 22 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 22 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.20.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.20.5</b></p>	<p>Only 22 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team’s Championship contests.</p>
Swimming	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 24 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 24 eligible student-athletes. For invitational meets, the host shall determine squad size.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.21.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.21.5</b></p>	<p>22 competitors with a maximum of 19 swimmers.</p>
Tennis	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 8 student-athletes in men’s tennis (10 in women’s tennis) may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 8 eligible student-athletes in men’s tennis (10 in women’s tennis).</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.22.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.22.5</b></p>	<p>10</p>
Track – Indoor	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 27 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 27 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.23.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.23.5</b></p>	<p>27</p>
Track – Outdoor	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 30 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 30 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.23.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.23.5</b></p>	<p>30</p>
Volleyball	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 17 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 17 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p><b>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.24.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.24.7</b></p>	<p>Only 17 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team’s Championship contests.</p>

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for baseball: Sport Administrator – Herb Vincent; Communications – Ben Beaty/Chuck Dunlap; Officiating – Paul Guillie/Sylvia Hagan.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Penalties for Violations** – The game umpires shall enforce the Conference ban on artificial noisemakers.

The first time the home plate umpire detects the significant use of artificial noisemakers by those in the crowd, he shall call a timeout and request that the public address (PA) announcer make a verbal warning through the public address system.

Thereafter, the home plate umpire will work with home game management to enforce the SEC Artificial Noisemaker policy and report any violations to the conference office.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The coaches select 12 players for the first team and 12 for second team. Each squad consists of the following - a first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, shortstop, catcher, three outfielders, designated hitter and three pitchers (one must be a relief pitcher). Each player receives two points for a first-team vote and one point for a second-team vote. The student-athlete with the most votes at each position will be named first-team All-SEC; while the next highest at each position will be named second-team All-SEC.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The coaches select 12 players for the team. Each squad consists of the following - a first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, shortstop (or four infielders if specific infield positions do not have a nominee), catcher, three outfielders, designated hitter and three pitchers (one must be a relief pitcher). The student-athlete with the most votes at each position will be named to the All-Freshman Team
3. **All-Defensive Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
4. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Player of the Year during All-SEC process. The player they vote for must be listed on their first-team All-SEC team ballot. Each vote is worth one point.
5. **Pitcher of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Pitcher of the Year during All-SEC process. The player they vote for must be listed on their first-team All-SEC team ballot. Each vote is worth one point.
6. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Freshman of the Year during All-SEC process. The player they vote for must be listed on their All-SEC ballot. Each vote is worth one point.
7. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Coach of the Year during All-SEC process. Each vote is worth one point.
8. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Pitcher of the Week.** See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.

**Barrel Compression Testing.** The regular season and the Conference tournament will be governed by a Barrel Compression Testing Protocol, which will be maintained at the Conference office.

**Baseballs.** The home team shall deliver a supply of official SEC baseballs to be prepared by the umpires prior to the start of the game. The official SEC baseball is an SEC stamped baseball that is consistent with the specifications used

for NCAA Championship competition.

**Batting Practice.** No team or any member of a team is permitted to take batting practice in any location while a game is in progress.

**Coaches Meeting.** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting held at the SEC Office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Vanderbilt serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Alabama (2019-2020), Arkansas (2020-21), and Auburn (2021-22). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Conference Championship/Tournament.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

1. The team with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared the Conference champion. The team in each division with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared division champions. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins, they will be declared division co-champions and/or Conference co-champions. Final division standings will be determined by the won-loss percentage in regular-season Conference competitions.
2. There will be a Conference tournament at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular season in order to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. The Conference tournament will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Contests - Maximum.** There shall be no more than 56 scheduled games during the traditional season, excluding play-off games in the Conference tournament and the NCAA Tournament, but including all other games played at both varsity and junior-varsity levels. The teams participating in the Conference tournament may have the option of scheduling additional games (within the NCAA limits and within the playing and practice session) prior to the NCAA Tournament, provided they are not scheduled on days when classes or final examinations are regularly scheduled (except that a game may be scheduled after all the institution's regularly scheduled classes and final examinations have been completed).

**Departure Time.** The visiting team shall make arrangements to depart the locale of the competition site following the final game of each Conference series via the last available flight, bus, etc. leaving that day and connecting to the visiting team's final destination.

Prior to the start of the regular season schedule, the visiting team shall notify the proper game management official (who will notify the umpire in chief) at the competition site and the Conference office of the visiting team's designated departure time from the competition site following the final game of each Conference series. If the visiting team is utilizing air travel and has set a departure time, a Sunday game may start no later than 1 p.m. local time unless dictated by television. If a contest is called due to travel arrangements, the following procedures will be used:

1. No half-inning shall start with less than 15 minutes remaining until the designated departure time.
2. If the contest is called and is a regulation game according to NCAA Rule 5.8, the contest and all averages shall count in the final playing record.
3. The contest will be considered a regulation tie game if it meets the conditions set forth in NCAA Rule 5.10 and all averages shall count in the final playing record.
4. If the contest is called prior to reaching regulation game status per NCAA Rule 5.8, the contest shall be considered "No Game" (NCAA Rule 5.12).
5. Teams shall not stay over Sunday night, in order not to miss classes on Monday, except during the final weekend of the regular season. A school may request a waiver from the Conference office in a situation when school is out of session. [Revised: 2/5/18]

In no case shall the departure time of umpires be a factor in completing games.

**Dugouts.** During a game, no one except players in uniform, coaches, managers, trainers, physicians, scorekeepers and bat persons shall occupy a team's dugout.

The visiting team shall have the right to utilize its choice of isotonic beverage (product and equipment) in the dugout area during SEC regular season competition. If the visiting team does not arrange to have its own product and equipment at a contest, the home team shall supply the isotonic beverage (product and equipment) of its choice in the

visiting team dugout area. Equipment utilized in the visiting team dugout area must be standard size.

**Electronic Equipment.** The use of telephones, cellular telephones, walkie-talkies, etc., is permitted for two-way communication between a team's dugout/bench and bullpen. Electronic communication between a coach in the dugout and the catcher shall also be permitted in accordance with NCAA rules. Any other form of communication and any other communication between other areas shall not be allowed.

**Game Clock.** The SEC follows the NCAA Game Clock protocol, with the exception that the clock will be located on the outfield wall in each SEC stadium. In addition, thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of each game, the individual responsible for the operation of the game clock must meet with the umpiring crew to review the protocol. Emphasis should be placed on in-game communication (signals, etc.) from the field to the individual operating the clock.

**Inclement Weather.** The inclement weather policy is as follows:

**A. Friday through Sunday Series**

1. If a game is postponed on Friday or Saturday due to inclement weather, the game shall be completed from the point of interruption on the following day prior to the regularly scheduled game.
2. In the event the regularly scheduled game is televised, the postponed game may be rescheduled, in consultation with the conference office, prior to, or following, the regularly scheduled game, whichever allows the best opportunity to complete such game without interruption.
3. Televised Games Affected by Weather

A. For games televised on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU

- (1) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game on Saturday, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning one hour prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
- (2) If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the Sunday regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning one hour prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.

B. For games televised on the SEC Network

- (1) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game on the SEC Network at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
- (2) If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game on the SEC Network at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
- (3) A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on the SEC Network Alternate Channel or on SEC Network+.

4. Length of Games

- A. All games played on Friday and Saturday should be scheduled for nine innings. If a postponed game is resumed on Sunday, the regularly scheduled game shall be seven innings.
- B. If weather prevents playing both the Friday and Saturday games, or if the Saturday game does not begin because of rain, there shall be two seven-inning games on Sunday. If a Friday game is postponed and no games are played on Saturday, the postponed game shall be resumed on Sunday, followed by a seven-

inning game.

- C. If a postponed game is unable to be completed because of inclement weather and has reached official game status (five innings or more per NCAA Rule 5.8), it shall be declared a game.
- D. Once a postponed game is resumed, the game shall be complete if one team has a lead of 10 or more runs after seven innings of play (NCAA Rule 5.8).

5. Restart Times

- A. In the event of rain on Friday or Saturday, no game may start after 10:00 p.m. local time or resume after midnight local time.
- B. In the event of a rain-delay prior to the beginning of play on Sunday, the game must begin at least two hours and thirty minutes prior to the visiting team's scheduled departure time from the field, but no later than 4:00 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game. (See Departure Time of this section.)
- C. If the game begins and is delayed (Sunday game), it must resume by 6:00 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game.

6. Travel Considerations

- A. In all instances, departure time takes priority. A team may not stay over until Monday to begin or complete a game or series.
- B. In the event the visiting team is not scheduled to leave the host city until Monday and there are no prior travel limitations for the game's umpires that would dictate departure to enact these deadlines, with Conference approval, it would be permissible to waive the 4:00 p.m. deadline for the start of a game and a 6:00 p.m. deadline for the resumption of the game.

7. Authority to Play Doubleheaders

- A. If weather forecasts on Friday or Saturday morning call for a high occurrence of inclement weather on Sunday, the home team with approval of the visiting team may request permission from the Conference office to play a doubleheader on Saturday.
- B. Approval of a prospective Saturday doubleheader may be given no earlier than Saturday morning and shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on the final day of the series. This does not apply for possible inclement weather on Friday or Saturday of a weekend series.

**B. Thursday through Saturday Series**

- 1. If a game is postponed on Thursday or Friday due to inclement weather, the game shall be completed from the point of interruption on the following day prior to the regularly scheduled game.
- 2. In the event the regularly scheduled game is televised, the postponed game may be rescheduled, in consultation with the conference office, prior to, or following, the regularly scheduled game, whichever allows the best opportunity to complete such game without interruption.
- 3. Televised Games Affected by Weather
  - A. For games televised on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU
    - (1) If a game is postponed on Thursday, and the regularly scheduled Friday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Friday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning one hour prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
    - (2) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning one hour prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
  - B. For games televised on the SEC Network
    - (1) If a game is postponed on Thursday, and the regularly scheduled Friday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Friday

game on the SEC Network at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.

- (2) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game on the SEC Network at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
  - (3) A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on the SEC Network Alternate Channel or on SEC Network+.
4. Length of Games
    - A. All games played on Thursday and Friday should be scheduled for nine innings. If a postponed game is resumed on Saturday, the regularly scheduled game shall be seven innings.
    - B. If weather prevents playing both the Thursday and Friday games, or if the Friday game does not begin because of rain, there shall be two seven-inning games on Saturday. If a Thursday game is postponed and no games are played on Friday, the postponed game shall be resumed on Saturday, followed by a seven-inning game.
    - C. If a postponed game is unable to be completed because of inclement weather and has reached official game status (five innings or more per NCAA Rule 5.8), it shall be declared a game.
    - D. Once a postponed game is resumed, the game shall be complete if one team has a lead of 10 or more runs after seven innings of play (NCAA Rule 5.8).
  5. Restart Times
    - A. In the event of rain on Thursday or Friday, no game may start after 10:00 p.m. local time or resume after midnight local time.
    - B. On Saturday, all curfew times will be waived in order to play the game on Saturday. No games will be continued to Sunday for the first nine weeks of the conference season, however, teams can stay over until Sunday to get the game completed on Saturday. On the final weekend of the conference season, if a game is postponed or interrupted on Saturday and weather does not allow its completion, the participating teams shall stay over until Sunday to play or complete the postponed or interrupted game if its outcome may affect the seeding of the SEC Tournament and/or the regular season Conference Champion. [Revised: 2/5/18]
    - C. In the event of Saturday doubleheaders, games will be seven innings each.
    - D. In the event of a rain-delay prior to the beginning of play on the final Sunday of the season (if necessary), the game must begin no later than 4:00 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game. If the game begins and is delayed (Sunday game), it must resume by 6:00 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game.
  6. Authority to Play Doubleheaders
    - A. If weather forecasts on Thursday or Friday morning call for a high occurrence of inclement weather on Saturday, the home team with approval of the visiting team may request permission from the Conference office to play a doubleheader on Friday.
    - B. Approval of a prospective Friday doubleheader may be given no earlier than Friday morning and shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on the final day of the series. This does not apply for possible inclement weather on Thursday or Friday of a weekend series.
- C. Other**
1. Authority to Rule on Game Stoppage. The umpire-in-chief has sole authority to suspend, postpone, or cancel the game if conditions become unfit for play.
  2. Lightning Strikes
    - A. Each member institution shall be responsible for having the capability to determine when lightning strikes are within specified distances from the competition site. When lightning is detected within 10 miles of the competition site, home team game management shall utilize the public address system to

inform those in attendance that inclement weather including lightning is within 10 miles and that should patrons vacate the facility for safe shelter, they will be allowed to re-enter with a ticket stub. When lightning is detected within eight miles of the competition site, the competition shall be suspended.

- B. Competition may be resumed after 30 minutes of no detected lightning strikes within an eight mile radius.
- C. A 10 minute warm-up period may be granted following this 30-minute suspension.

**Lights.** After a game has been started, the crew chief is to be the sole judge as to when field lights are to be turned on. In the event that the crew chief is not the plate umpire, and if the plate umpire so needs the lights turned on to avoid hazardous play, he may do so. The turning on of lights should be called for before the beginning of a full inning unless some extraordinary condition or abnormally long inning prompts otherwise.

**Mascots.** If a home or visiting team has a mascot, the following guidelines shall be observed:

- 1. Mascots may be on the field prior to the start of the game, but only when such action involves the team represented by said mascot.
- 2. Mascots may not be on the field at any time once the game begins, with the exception of between-inning promotions and only allowed to be in front of the team dugout that the mascot represents, or to participate in a seventh inning stretch promotion such as running the bases.
- 3. At no time are mascots allowed to direct uncomplimentary attention toward the opposing team, its fans, players, coaches or the umpires.
- 4. Mascots are not allowed in the dugout, once the game begins.
- 5. Mascots are allowed to be on top of the dugout (team mascot represents) as long as mascot's actions conform to policy.
- 6. If mascot's actions do not conform to SEC guidelines, the umpires have the authority to remove the mascot from the playing field area.

**Mounds.** At the beginning of each series, the umpires' crew chief shall measure the mound on the playing field, to ensure compliance with NCAA Baseball Playing Rules. Any variation from the required height must be reported immediately to the SEC office.

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference tournament champion will be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship.

**Officials.** The Conference office will assign umpires for all home Conference and non-conference contests. [*Revised: 8/18/15*]

- 1. Each institution shall provide a dressing room for umpires closely located to the baseball facility. Admittance to this room shall be limited to game officials and conference office representatives. No guests, visitors or institutional personnel (other than a trainer or manager upon request) shall be admitted. The officials' dressing room shall be set up with towels and soap, soft drinks and water and cups.
- 2. Once the line-up cards are exchanged at home plate, the umpires will then have all authority for cancellation or postponement due to weather. The crew chief will make the decision with input from the other umpires, coaches and game management director.
- 3. Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is prohibited. Comments on officiating are to be directed to the Conference office only. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed to the Conference office only. Public comments by officials, coaches or institutional personnel are prohibited.
- 4. Films, videotapes, and DVD's shall not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating (e.g., the use of game films to produce clips for television or newspapers depicting officiating calls). No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches' radio and/or television shows.
- 5. Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone, and all matters pertaining to officials or officiating will be directed to the Conference office only. Likewise, this policy precludes officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.
- 6. The list of game officials assigned to a game shall not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of pre-game information packets before a game.

7. *Compensation* – Payment of the game officials will be handled by a conference-developed pay system. Each institution will be invoiced for their share of the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials. The Conference office and Athletics Directors shall set the fees and travel/expense policies. [Revised: 6/3/16]
8. *Tickets* – Each official assigned to a game is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to that game. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the game.
9. Four umpires shall be assigned to each Conference and non-Conference regular season contest. [Revised: 6/3/16]

**Practice during Conference Series.** Weather permitting, visiting teams shall be permitted to practice on the field used for competition on either the night prior to, or the morning of, the first game of a conference series. It is the responsibility of the visiting team to notify the host institution prior to the start of a series to arrange for such a practice. The host institution shall determine whether weather and/or field conditions are acceptable for practice and the visiting team may be required to assist in the field preparation (e.g., removal or placement of the tarp). A practice the night before the first game of a series may last no more than two hours. A practice on the morning of the first game of a series may last no more than 30 minutes, must be concluded by no later than 12pm (noon) local time, and players may not wear spikes during the practice. [Revised: 12/13/16]

**Public Address.** The public address announcer plays a vital role in the management of a game. The following policies should be followed by the public address announcer:

1. Once the pitcher takes his place on the rubber, there shall be no P.A. announcements, music or other amplified sounds.
2. Once the hitter takes his place in the batters' box, there shall be no P.A. announcements, music or other amplified sounds.
3. The P.A. system is allowed to utilize encouraging music, supportive sounds and other positive P.A. responses between pitchers and hitters assuming their ready positions. Also, these actions are allowable after a play in the field, a hit ball or other plays that occur in a game.
4. At no time shall music, sounds or announcements on the P.A. be made that will incite or reflect negative actions towards players, coaches or umpires.
5. It is recommended that the host team's game management director, prior to the first game of a series (or game), meet with the umpire crew chief in the umpires dressing room. At this time, the game management director has an opportunity to preview the program, to be utilized during the game. If the material is deemed inappropriate at this time, it can be altered prior to the beginning of the game.

The SEC also follows NCAA policies for scoreboard, video board and audio operations (Appendix B of NCAA Rulebook).

**Regular-Season Competition/Schedule.** Regular-season competition and scheduling are subject to the following:

1. Each institution will play a 30-game Conference schedule. This schedule will include 3-game series with all five division members each year and five non-division members on a two-year rotation basis. The dates and sites for the 30-game Conference schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference.
2. Each game shall be scheduled for nine innings and shall be played at least nine innings except when inclement weather or travel constraints are taken into account. There is no 10-run rule in effect for Conference vs. Conference games. In non-conference games, by mutual consent of both head coaches, a game may be stopped only after seven innings if a team is ahead by at least 10 runs.
3. Conference series will be played with single games on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, unless the stadium does not have lights, and in which case there will be two games on Saturday and a single game on Sunday. The final Conference series of the season shall be played with single games on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, unless the stadium does not have lights, and in which case there will be two games on Friday and a single game on Saturday. One series during the second weekend of the Conference season will be a Thursday-Saturday series. Two series per weekend beginning on the third weekend of the Conference season will be a Thursday-Saturday series. All inclement weather and curfew policies will remain for these series with the exception of the following:
  - A. On Saturday (get-away day), all curfew times will be waived in order to get the game in on Saturday. No games will be continued to Sunday, however, teams can stay over until Sunday to get game completed

- on Saturday.
- B. On Saturday, game start times may be set for evening based on request from SEC and institutional television partners.
  - C. In the event of Saturday doubleheaders, these will continue to be seven innings each.
4. A team may not stay over to Monday to start or complete a Conference game or series, except on the final weekend of the regular season, if necessary. *[Revised: 2/5/18]*
  5. Conference doubleheaders may only be played on Saturday and Sunday. Sunday doubleheaders shall be seven inning games and shall only be played if games on Friday and/or Saturday are rained out.
  6. For regular season contests scheduled by the Southeastern Conference, when the visiting team will be on spring break during the weekdays immediately prior to a series, the participating teams may mutually request the series begin on Thursday and conclude on Saturday. Revisions to a Conference schedule that are associated with spring break require the approval of the Commissioner.
  7. Non-Conference games, which are not played because of inclement weather, may be rescheduled by the member institution, or a different non-Conference opponent may be scheduled, provided all NCAA minimum scheduling requirements are met.
  8. Non-Conference games may be scheduled to replace Conference games not played due to inclement weather, provided all NCAA minimum scheduling requirements are met. These games shall not count as Conference games in league standings.

**Seating Behind Dugouts.** The home institution shall not seat its students closer than four rows behind the visiting team's dugout.

**Starting Times.** The home team shall establish the starting time for all Conference games. Friday games shall start no earlier than 6 p.m. local time, unless approved by the Conference Office. Sunday games shall start no later than 2 p.m. local time unless dictated by television. If the visiting team is utilizing air travel and has set a departure time, a Sunday game shall start no later than 1 p.m. local time unless dictated by television.

**Squad Size.** The home team may dress 35 eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 27 student-athletes shall be allowed to participate in a series. The participating squad for the series must be declared prior to the first series game and shall not be changed during the course of the series. The visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 27 eligible student-athletes and may only dress 27 eligible student-athletes in uniform. No other student-athletes in uniform will be allowed on the playing field within two hours prior to the start of the game. Further, the number of coaches dressed out on the playing field and/or in the dugout area must conform to NCAA regulations. Coaches shall exchange eligibility rosters before the start of a series. There may be no additions to the list once the rosters have been exchanged. The umpire crew chief will receive a copy of each team's list.

**Suspension/Ejection Policy.**

1. Any game official may eject a student-athlete, coach or team representative for misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. If an individual is ejected from the contest, the ejected individual shall leave the dugout and field area immediately without further communication with the teams or game officials. The ejected individual shall remain out of sight and sound of the contest for the remainder of the contest. "Out of sight and sound" means that the ejected individual(s) may not view the contest, communicate with his or her team, or be in a location where the game officials can hear him or her. The ejected individual may not return to the dugout, field, or grandstands until all game officials are escorted to their dressing area by security or game management. In the event that an ejected individual does not comply with the ejection policy set forth in this subparagraph 2 in a timely manner (as determined in the game officials' sole discretion), the game will be forfeited.
3. Upon first offense, a head coach ejected for misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct shall receive a written warning cautioning further like conduct. Upon second and subsequent offense(s) in the same academic year, a head coach ejected for misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be suspended for the team's next previously scheduled and completed contest. If a previously scheduled contest is postponed or halted, that make-up contest against the originally scheduled opponent will count as a regularly scheduled contest. Contests may not be added after the incident in order to fulfill the requirements of this policy. End of season suspensions will be carried forward to the next season.
4. A suspended individual shall remain out of sight and sound of the applicable contest (as defined in subparagraph 2). Additionally, a suspended individual may not:

- A. Be dressed in game uniform;
- B. Communicate with any team personnel or umpires;
- C. Take part in any pregame activities at the site of competition; or
- D. Be in the stadium or on the field once pregame activities have started.

In the event that a suspended individual does not comply with the suspension policy set forth in this subparagraph 4 in a timely manner (as determined in the game official's sole discretion), the game will be forfeited. In the event that a suspended individual participates in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game will be forfeited.

5. This policy is in effect for all regular season games and the Southeastern Conference Tournament only.

**Tickets.** The home team shall provide up to 75 complimentary tickets to the visiting team for each game in a Conference series. The visiting team must notify the home team of its needs no later than 3 p.m. on the Monday prior to the weekend series.

**Uniforms.** All student-athletes must wear numbers on batting practice tops. [*Adopted 12/13/16*]

**Video Boards/Replays.** Institutions are not limited in the use of replays (including number of replays shown), except as set forth in NCAA Baseball Rules (See Appendix B - Rules for Scoreboards, Video and Audio). The time during which permissible replays may be shown is from the end of a play until the next batter enters the dirt area around home plate. Replays may also be shown at a later time during the game as part of a package of highlights during a middle-of-inning or end-of-inning break. In no circumstances will the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an umpire or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the stadium video board.

**Video Replay.** Video replay shall be used in all games (Conference and Non-Conference) that are produced for either digital or linear broadcast in accordance with NCAA rules. The policies and procedures for administering such replay will be maintained by the Conference Office. [*Adopted 8/17/16*]

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Administrative Teleconference.** Coaches and administrators from each institution competing in the Conference tournament shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the tournament to review policies and procedures.

**Dates & Sites.** The tournament will be played in late May, one week prior to the start of the NCAA championship. The site of the tournament will be determined by a vote of the Athletics Directors. Future dates are:

2019	May 21-26	Hoover, AL (Hoover Metropolitan Stadium)
2020	May 19-24	TBA

**Format.** There will be a 12-team, Conference tournament, which includes the two top teams from each division (as determined by winning percentage) and the next ten teams from either division with the best winning percentage in Conference play at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular season. The top four seeds shall receive opening round byes. The tournament shall begin on Tuesday and conclude with a single championship game on Sunday. Games played Tuesday are single elimination, while games Wednesday through Friday shall be double elimination. The remaining four teams following Friday's play (fourth round) shall play a single-elimination format.

**Length of Game.** All games shall be nine innings, unless a team holds at least a 10-run lead after seven innings of play, at which time the game shall be declared complete. This provision shall apply to all games of the tournament, including the championship game. [*Revised: 12/13/16*]

**Manual.** The Conference office shall distribute a tournament manual, outlining the policies and procedures for the tournament, as well as information specific to a tournament site, to each institution no later than May 1 each year.

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference tournament champion will be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event that inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the highest remaining seed in the tournament at the time of suspension shall be designated as the automatic qualifier. [*Revised: 5/5/16*]

**Seeding.** The two division champions shall be automatically seeded number one and number two based on winning percentage in Conference competition. The remaining teams shall be seeded numbers three through twelve based on winning percentage without regard to division. Ties will be broken in the following manner:

1. **Two-Team Tie.** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
  - A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the two tied teams.
  - B. If two-teams are divisional opponents:
    - (1) Won-lost percentage within their division (over the 15-game SEC division schedule).
    - (2) Won-lost percentage of the two teams versus the No. 1 team in their division (and proceeding through the No. 7 team, if necessary).
  - C. If two teams are not divisional opponents:
    - (1) Won-lost record of the two teams versus the No. 1 seed using common opponents only (and proceeding through the No. 12 seed, if necessary).
    - (2) Coin flip by the Commissioner.
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken: (Note: If the three tied teams have three different records against each other, they shall be seeded in best-percentage order.) Otherwise, once the tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tiebreaker procedure will be used.
  - A. If all three teams are common opponents: Total won-lost percentage of games played among the tied teams.
  - B. Won-lost percentage of the tied teams versus the No. 1 seed and proceeding through the No. 12 seed, if necessary, using common opponents only.
  - C. If three or more teams still are tied, the Commissioner will conduct a draw.

**Squad Size.** Only 30 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but 35 eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests. [*Revised:*

12/12/17]

**Team Expenses and Allowances.** Each participating institution will be provided a per diem of \$75 per day for 30 individuals for each day the institution plays a game plus two per diems. (Note: Institutions in the winner's bracket that have an "off" day will receive a per diem for that day.) A travel allowance of \$30 per mile (one-way) or \$5,000, whichever is greater, will be paid to each participating institution.

**Tickets.** No participating institution shall be required to purchase a set amount of reserved or general admission tickets. An early opportunity to purchase tickets will be made available to each SEC institution. The institution on-site may purchase general admission tickets as it advances in the tournament.

**Uniforms.** Only eligible student-athletes and members of the baseball coaching staff (in accordance with NCAA Bylaws 11.01.5, 11.01.6 and 11.7.6) may wear a team uniform prior to, during or following conference and non-conference baseball contests. Non-coaching staff, managers, operations personnel and others not designated as a coach under NCAA rules shall not wear the team uniform prior to, during or following conference and non-conference baseball contest

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for men's basketball: Sport Administrator – Dan Leibovitz; Communications – Craig Pinkerton; Officiating – Mark Whitehead/Sylvia Hagan.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any basketball arena during games between member institutions. In addition, member institutions shall not distribute or sell any item(s) that may be used as artificial noisemakers (e.g. "thundersticks," megaphones, clackers, etc.). Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Penalties for Violations** – Pursuant to the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Rules (10.2.8.a.), the game officials shall call an administrative technical foul on the team whose fans are responsible for the artificial noisemakers.

The use of institutionally controlled computerized sound systems, institutionally controlled artificial noisemakers and the play of bands shall be restricted to pregame, halftime, post-game and timeouts. There shall be no use of the above-mentioned devices/instruments during a free-throw, throw-in or live ball situation. The use of physical distractions (e.g., artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or public address systems by the cheerleaders), except as noted above, is prohibited in SEC basketball arenas.

**Penalties for Violations** – When a member institution violates the policy regarding institutionally-controlled noisemakers, the Conference office shall first warn the institution and then impose fines not to exceed \$5,000 for subsequent violations. Officials may issue an administrative technical foul per NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Rules (10.2.8).

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
3. **All-Defensive Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
4. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
5. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
6. **Defensive Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
7. **Sixth Man of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office. Players must have started 1/3 or less of team's SEC games to be eligible.
8. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
9. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Ball Crews.** Ball crews shall be limited to six individuals (three per basket). Ball crew members must be a minimum age of 10. NCAA rules shall govern the involvement of prospect-age individuals serving as ball crew members.

**Bands.** Bands may not be located behind or adjacent to the visitor's bench. Instruments may not be used under any circumstances during play. Bands may perform only during pre-game, half-time, timeouts, and at the end of the game.

The band directors shall prohibit the band or any component thereof (including drums) from playing while the game is in progress, including during dead ball situations. Bands may not be amplified during the game, except that the home team band may be amplified during times the band is allowed to play.

**Basketballs.** Basketballs shall meet specifications contained in the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules. The game ball must be acceptable (in regard to condition) to both the visiting team and the game officials. The game ball may be used in pre-game practice by the visiting team, upon request. The home team shall provide the visiting team with basketballs in warm-ups that are the same as the ball used for the game.

**Bench Restrictions.** Team benches shall consist of 22 seats. A maximum of five seats may be placed in a second row behind the bench (if room is available); however, these seats must count toward the overall total of 22. All game personnel (i.e., coaches, players, managers, trainers, etc.) must sit on the bench. The visiting team bench may not be placed in front of or adjacent to the home institution's band or student section. The visiting team bench shall be located either on the opposite side of the court or on the opposite end of the court from the home institution's band and student section.

**Cheerleaders.** Cheerleaders should be encouraged to help maintain good sportsmanship among the students and others in attendance. Under no circumstances should cheerleaders express displeasure with officials' calls or taunt the opposing team. Cheerleaders shall be located at the same end of the playing floor as their respective team bench. Megaphones may be used for voice amplification only and may not be used as a noise distraction. This includes pounding them on the floor or striking them with the hand(s) or other objects. Visiting cheerleaders and/or mascots are not allowed on the arena floor for conference games. If an institution desires to have the cheerleaders and/or mascots travel to away games, they must have tickets and sit in the visiting team section. [Revised: 8/18/15]

**Coaches Meeting.** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting held in conjunction with the Conference Spring Meeting and the fall meeting of the head coaches at the SEC Office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Kentucky serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: LSU (2019-2020), Ole Miss (2020-21), and Mississippi State (2021-22). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. An individual must have attended two annual coaches meetings and coached one full season before serving as chair.

**Conference Championship/Tournament.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

1. The team with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared the Conference champion.
2. There will be a Conference tournament at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular-season in order to determine the automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. The site will be determined well in advance at an appropriate time by the Executive Committee, upon recommendation of the Athletics Directors. The Conference tournament will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Crowd Control.** The Athletics Director will serve as the game management director or appoint an individual knowledgeable in game management and crowd control to supervise and plan for all games. This person shall visit briefly with the game officials and the visiting coach prior to every game to inform the parties of how he or she may be contacted during the game. The game management director is responsible for the control of the entire operation of the arena prior to and during each contest, and for continued supervision of the arena until at least 30 minutes after the game or all groups have dispersed (see Access to Competition Area in General Administration)

The game management director is responsible for the following:

1. Determining who is given permission to be in the courtside areas (unauthorized persons shall be removed);
2. Controlling handout literature and eliminating objectionable banners; and
3. Instructing local police to divert heavy traffic away from the game site so that spectators are able to leave quickly.

**Debris Thrown on Court.** The home institution shall have a "zero-tolerance" policy for fans who throw items onto the playing court and shall eject violators of such policy from the arena.

**Game Time.** The start times for all games will be determined by the home team and may be no later than 8:05 p.m. local time, unless the game is a designated SEC televised game. Each institution must submit game times to the Conference office prior to September 1 each year.

**Interrupted Game Procedures.** All personnel, including Athletics Directors, game management personnel, game officials, coaches, players, and Conference office staff, shall use their best effort to ensure each Conference contest is played to its conclusion. The Conference recognizes, however, emergencies may arise that make a contest's completion impossible or inadvisable. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, severe inclement weather, natural or man-made disasters, power failures and spectator interference.

Contests should be delayed, relocated, suspended, canceled, postponed or terminated (see definitions below) when circumstances exist such that commencement or continuation of play would pose a threat to the safety of game participants. [Revised: 6/3/16]

1. **Definitions.**

- A. **Delay** - To delay a contest is to delay the start of a contest until a later time on the same date.
- B. **Relocate** - To relocate a contest is to change the location of the competition.
- C. **Suspend** - To suspend a contest is to temporarily halt play for a short duration after the contest begins.
- D. **Cancel** - To cancel a contest is to nullify it either before or after it begins and to make no provision for rescheduling it or for including its score or other performance statistics in Conference records.
- E. **Postpone** - To postpone a contest is to (a) defer its starting time to a later date, or to (b) suspend it after play has begun and make provision to resume it at a later date with all scores and other performance statistics up to the point of postponement added to those achieved in the resumed portion of the contest.
- F. **Terminate** - To terminate a contest is to end it short of a full-designated duration of play, officially record it as a completed contest, and make no provision to resume it at a later date.

2. **Authority.** Authority to delay or relocate a contest is vested with the home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator. Authority to suspend a contest is vested with the officials. Authority to cancel, postpone, or terminate a contest is vested *only* with the Commissioner or his/her designee.

3. **Guidelines.** [Revised: 12/13/16]

A. **Prior to the Contest.**

1. If extenuating circumstances occur that necessitate a contest be moved to an earlier start time, an earlier start date, and/or relocated within the same city, the two participating institutions shall determine the date, time, and location of the contest, subject to the approval of the Commissioner. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
2. If a contest is postponed prior to its start for any reason, the contest shall be rescheduled for the following day (e.g. a Saturday game shall be rescheduled for Sunday) unless extenuating circumstances prevent the contest from being played, in which case the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
3. Prior to the start of a contest, the home institution's Director of Athletics or designated senior level administrator shall have the authority to determine whether a contest should temporarily be delayed until a later time on the same date.

B. **Once the Contest Has Begun.**

1. Once a contest has begun, the decision to suspend play shall become the responsibility of the game officials.
2. If a contest is suspended after it has begun:
  - a. The referee shall immediately stop the game and inform both coaches that the game is being suspended at the point of interruption and that ALL team personnel are required to go immediately to their respective dressing rooms. This includes players, coaches, trainers,

managers, cheerleaders, mascots, bands and any other persons who are the responsibility of these particular institutions.

- b. Play may only be resumed when conditions are deemed safe by the officials in consultation with the home team game management personnel.
- c. A suspended game shall not be resumed if it is determined by the head referee in collaboration with the Commissioner or his/her designee that the game would not be able to reasonably be completed by 1:30 a.m. local time. The Commissioner shall have the sole authority to extend the 1:30 a.m. deadline.
- d. If a contest is unable to be resumed, the contest shall be resumed the following day (e.g. a Saturday contest shall be resumed on Sunday) unless extenuating circumstances prevent the contest from being played, in which case the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to either direct the contest to be played on a particular date, relocate the contest, or cancel or terminate the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.

#### **LED Lights.**

1. Each institution shall install red LED light strips on both backboards.
2. Each institution shall install red LED lights on the scorer's table that are synchronized with the game clocks and the red LED lights on the backboards. Such lights shall be installed on both the court side and the scorer's side of the table. [Adopted: 12/12/17]

**Media Day.** Each head coach shall attend the annual SEC Basketball Media Day in the fall. Each institution shall bring the requested number of student-athletes each year.

**National Anthem.** The home institution shall notify the visiting team no later than five days prior to the game regarding its National Anthem procedures. It is required that both teams and all coaches be on the court for the anthem. The anthem shall be held with 0:00 on the pre-game clock.

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event that inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the highest remaining seed in the tournament at the time of suspension shall be designated as the automatic qualifier. [Revised: 12/12/17]

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.1] The Conference office shall assign officials for all home games and any games specified in contractual agreements with SEC institutions. No coach, trainer, player or member of the team's official party shall talk to game officials prior to, during or after a game concerning any matter related to the game, except for discussions related to NCAA rules. There shall be no communication of any sort between the coaches and officials at halftime. Under no circumstance shall a coach enter the officials' locker room. Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is prohibited [SEC Bylaw 10.5.4]. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed to the Conference office only. Public comments by officials, coaches or institutional personnel are prohibited.

Audio/video materials may not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating (e.g., the use of game video to produce clips for television or newspapers depicting officiating calls). No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches' radio and/or television shows.

Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone, and all matters pertaining to officials or officiating will be directed to the Conference office only. Likewise, this policy precludes officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.

Sports information directors and coaches should make no references to officiating in institutional press releases.

The list of officials assigned to a game shall not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of pre-game information packets before a game. The names of the officials shall not be announced during pregame public address introductions.

The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at Southeastern Conference games:

1. Security escorts for officials should be provided as follows:
  - A. A person should meet officials at the entrance gate one hour and thirty minutes prior to tip-off and escort them to the officials' dressing room;
  - B. A person designated by the event management director should knock on the officials' door when the teams begin their pre-game warm-ups and when it is time to return courtside for the second half. The officials will tell this person before the game specifically what time they wish to be notified; and
  - C. A dressing room key should be either given to one of the officials, or a person designated by the game management director. The designated person must lock the dressing room while the officials are officiating and must be waiting at the dressing room door when officials return at halftime and at the end of the game. The officials must have immediate access to their dressing room at halftime and at the conclusion of the game.
2. The officials dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as suggested:
  - A. When male and female officials are assigned, two dressing rooms should be provided if possible;
  - B. When a doubleheader is scheduled, the officials for the men's game must be assigned to a different dressing room from the officials for the women's game; and
  - C. The officials' dressing room should be set up with the following items:
    - (1) Towels and soap;
    - (2) Chairs and a table;
    - (3) Dry erase board and markers;
    - (4) Television;
    - (5) Soft drinks, isotonic beverages and water (in a cooler of ice) and cups;
    - (6) Sandwiches, fruit, or light snack after the game.
3. If an official requests the service of a trainer or needs any supplies, the trainer should come to the officials' dressing room to provide the service or deliver the supplies. The official should not go to the training room.
4. Absolutely no one shall be allowed access to the officials' dressing room without the permission of the Southeastern Conference except (1) the officials assigned to the game, (2) the event manager and (3) Southeastern Conference staff.

*Compensation* – Payment of the game officials will be handled by a third-party service (Dwolla). Each institution will be invoiced for their share of the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials. The Conference office and Athletics Directors shall set the fees and travel/expense policies.

*Tickets* – Each official assigned to a game is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to that game. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the game.

**Physical Distraction Devices.** Large props (e.g. pinwheels, balloons, large posters, etc.) will be allowed behind the visiting team's basket only when provided by the University and approved by the Chief Marketing Officers and Game Management Directors. Game management personnel are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy. [Revised: 8/18/15]

**Practice.** The visiting team shall have an opportunity to practice on the floor on which the game will be played, unless prevented by extreme circumstances. Requests by visiting teams for practice time, other than the pre-game practice period, should be made as soon as possible, and must be made by no less than five days prior to the game date. The home team will make the playing facility available for a minimum of one hour and thirty minutes the day prior to the game and one hour on the day of the game. The visiting team's practice time will be scheduled at a time other than during the home team's regular practice time. The only exception to this provision is if the facility is being used the day before the game for Conference competition in another sport or official campus-wide events such as registration. Notice must be sent by December 1 as to the availability of the arena for practice. The host institution must provide a facility (if the actual competition site is not available) for practice if requested to do so by the visiting team.

**Precision Timing Devices.** Conference institutions shall utilize the Precision Timing System to control the game clocks at all basketball games. The system will utilize the officials' whistles to stop the clock and the officials will have the capability to start the clock with portable devices. The host institution shall provide a game clock operator at the scorer's table to serve as the primary clock operator.

**Pre-Game Introductions.** Home team pre-game introductions (including all video, music, special effects and the actual introductions of players and coaches) may not exceed two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30). This time period begins immediately upon the conclusion of the visiting team introductions.

**Pre-Game/Halftime Warm-Up.** The game floor must be cleared of all activity at least 65 minutes prior to the competition start time in order to allow the visiting team 60 minutes of uninterrupted warm-up. The program of player introductions, national anthem or other similar ceremony shall not be included in the 60-minute warm-up period, except for Senior Day. A senior recognition ceremony may be conducted prior to a team's final regular-season home game. With 15 minutes on the clock prior to the game, the visiting team shall leave the floor while the Senior Day ceremony is conducted. These activities may not last longer than 10 minutes and the visiting team must have five minutes of practice time upon returning to the floor. The visiting team must be notified of Senior Day activities no later than five days prior to the contest. At halftime, the home institution shall make the floor available for an uninterrupted warm-up period of at least five minutes prior to the beginning of the second half.

**Preliminary Games.** Preliminary games must start at least two hours and thirty minutes before Conference games.

**Post-Game Press Conferences.** Press conferences for both the home and visiting team head coach shall be conducted after every Conference contest. All press conferences shall be conducted in a concise and timely manner, in accordance with the following: *[Adopted: 8/17/16]*

1. The press conference for the home and visiting head coach shall be held in the same location, when possible.
2. After a 10-minute cooling-off period, the visiting coach shall appear first in the interview room followed by the coach of the home team. The home team has the option of appearing first if the visiting coach does not report to the press conference in a timely manner or if mutually agreed upon by both schools prior to tipoff. The cooling-off period begins when the head coach enters the dressing room immediately after the game. The head coach must proceed directly to the dressing room after the game unless requested to remain for a short interview (not to exceed four minutes) by the television network that has purchased rights to televise the game.
3. A backdrop shall be utilized for all press conferences.
4. At the conclusion of the press conference, the host institution's video staff shall share video of the press conference with the visiting institution.
5. The host institution shall ensure that working microphones are available for use by the media in the post-game press conference so that audio of any questions may be captured.

**Radio and Television Timeouts.** See NCAA Men's Basketball Rules & SEC Game Management Manual

**Regular Season Competition/Conference Schedule.** Each institution will play an 18-game Conference schedule. This schedule will include three permanent opponents that will be played home-and-away (six games), two rotating opponents played home-and-away (four games) as determined annually by the Conference office, and the remaining eight opponents will be played with four at home and four on the road (eight games). A list of permanent opponents and scheduling parameters shall be kept on file in the Conference office. The dates and sites for the schedule will be set by administrative action of the Conference. (See Supplement A of this section for the Scheduling Parameters approved by the Athletic Directors). *[Revised: 12/15/15]*

**Regular Season Competition/Non-Conference Schedule.** Each institution shall play a non-conference schedule that has an average RPI ranking of 150 or better for the 2017-18 academic year and beyond. This RPI ranking shall be calculated using either; 1) the most recent three-year NCAA RPI average available when the game contract is signed by both parties (i.e. available Selection Sunday of the season prior to execution of the game contract), or 2) the three-year NCAA RPI average available immediately prior to the game (i.e. available Selection Sunday of the season prior to the game), whichever is more beneficial to the institution. An institution that does not comply with this policy shall have its NCAA Tournament revenue distribution reduced by the equivalent of one unit. *[Adopted: 5/4/16, Revised: 4/27/17]*

1. **Multi-team Events.** RPI calculations for multi-team events (MTE's) shall be calculated by using either; 1) the average RPI of all teams in the tournament or 2) the RPI of all known opponents, whichever is more beneficial to the institution. *[Revised: 4/27/17]*
2. **SEC/Big 12 Challenge.** RPI calculations for teams participating in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge shall be calculated using either; 1) the three-year average of the designated Challenge opponent or 2) the average of all members of the Big 12 Conference, whichever is more beneficial to the institution. For teams not participating in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge, the RPI average of all members of the Big 12 Conference may be

used in place of the RPI ranking of one non-conference opponent during the first year of a two-year Challenge cycle. [Revised: 4/27/17]

**Ring Testing.** Each member institution shall conduct ring testing on its basketball goal rings as outlined in the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules prior to the start of the season and prior to each game, on the day of the game. The home team game management shall be responsible for overseeing the test and report the results to the game officials prior to each game.

**Scouting and Video Exchange.** The following policies have been adopted for preseason, regular-season and post-season competition:

1. The SEC operates with an open exchange policy in regards to the exchange of game video. Therefore, all schools must provide video of all games to the other SEC programs.
2. All SEC Men's Basketball programs must purchase Synergy software and utilize it as the primary means for transferring basketball video within the conference. Unique accounts (folders) will be developed for each school. These folders will serve as the access point to each school's video throughout the season and all games must remain in their school's Synergy folders until the season is complete.
3. Video from each game must be uploaded to Synergy by noon the following day;
  - A. The video of each game must be uploaded to that institution's individual folder.
  - B. SEC institutions will have access to each other's folders within Synergy which will enable them to select and download any game they choose.
  - C. Due to these posting requirements, there will be no need for formal tape requests; video of all games involving SEC institutions must be available to other conference teams through Synergy.
4. No member institution shall exchange video or provide a scouting report to any non-conference institution regarding SEC teams;
  - A. Through Synergy, schools have the ability to monitor who downloads their games and when the transfers occur;
  - B. If any issues arise regarding specific transfers, schools should contact the SEC liaison for Men's Basketball.
5. The video being exchanged must be of high quality. The following order of preference should be followed in completing a tape exchange:
  - A. Broadcast Copy
  - B. High Quality Coaches' copy
6. Minimum requirements for exchange are as follows:  
HD-MPEG4 file (ending in .mp4 extension) 3 megabits per second up to a maximum of 8 mbps.

**Sportsmanship.** At no time (including pre-game, in-game, halftime, or post-game) may either team engage in any type of "animated huddle," "dance," or other similar activity at center court or on any home team or Conference insignia. Such activities are limited to the team bench area ONLY.

**Squad Size.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 15 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 15 eligible student-athletes, except during an institutional vacation period when there shall be no limit on the number of eligible student-athletes who may travel. [Revised: 6/1/18]

**Student Sections.** The visiting team's bench may not be located in front of the home team's student section or pep band. The visiting team's bench shall be located either on the opposite side of the court or on the opposite end of the court from the student section and band.

**Teleconference.** Each head coach will participate in the league's scheduled media teleconferences during the basketball season. The exact time will be determined by mutual agreement between the SEC office and the head coach. Each head coach will also participate in a summer teleconference on the first Monday following the NBA Draft.

**Television.** [SEC Bylaw 31.20.1]

**Tickets.** The visiting team will be allotted 100 complimentary tickets for each Conference game. Each home institution shall provide at least 12 seats to the visiting team directly behind the visiting team's bench. These must be

ticketed seats and will be part of the visiting team's allotment of 100 complimentary tickets. The location of the "next" 38 complimentary tickets must be within the first 25 rows of the playing floor and as near the visiting team bench as possible. The home team will determine the location of the remaining 50 complimentary tickets. Unless specifically requested by the visiting team, tickets will not be mailed, but will be picked up at the game site by the coach or his representative.

**Timeouts.** Teams may not conduct timeout huddles in the area inside the three-point line. [*Adopted 8/18/15*]

**Uniforms.** Institutions shall adhere to the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules specific to uniforms. The home team shall wear light game uniforms and the away team shall wear dark game uniforms. If a home team plans to wear a uniform color other than white, it must notify the visiting team and the Conference office no later than five days before the scheduled game. If the home team's light uniforms are not in a color contrasting with the visiting team's uniforms, the home team must adjust and wear a contrasting color. Game officials are authorized to rule on any disputes in uniform color.

**Video Boards/Replays.** Institutions are not limited in the use of replays (including number of replays shown), except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. In no circumstances will the in-arena video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, incite the crowd, or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-arena video board.

*Procedure for stoppage for an official review:*

When a stoppage occurs for an official review in a televised game, the in-arena video board operator must use the unaltered television network program feed as the exclusive video source for replays of the play under review. When a stoppage occurs for an official review in a non-televised game, the in-arena video board operator must use the unaltered in-arena feed as the exclusive video source for replays of the play under review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-arena video board during stoppage for an official review. No live coverage of any coach, student-athlete, or fan reaction may be shown from the program feed during the review. Replays of plays under review are permitted only during actual stoppage of play for the official review.

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Administrative Teleconference.** A designated administrator from each institution competing in the Conference tournament shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the tournament to review policies and procedures.

**Bench Restrictions.** Each team bench will consist of 22 seats and will be limited to the use of 22 individuals as follows: eligible players, coaches, trainers, managers, statistician and/or team physician or designated team members. Bench assignments will be based on seeding.

**Dates and Sites.** The Conference tournament will be conducted the week prior to the first round of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship and after the conclusion of the Conference regular-season schedule. The SEC Athletics Directors and Executive Committee must approve the sites and dates of the tournament. Future dates and sites for the tournament are:

2019	March 13-17	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)
2020	March 11-15	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)
2021	March 10-14	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)
2022	March 9-13	Tampa, FL (Amalie Arena)
2023	March 8-12	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)
2024	March 13-17	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)
2025	March 12-16	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)

**Format.** The Conference tournament will be a 14-team, single-elimination tournament.

**Manual.** The Conference office shall distribute to each institution a tournament manual outlining the policies and procedures for the tournament, as well as information specific to the host site, no later than January 31 of each year.

**Seeding.** Teams will be seeded No. 1 through No. 14 in the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament bracket based upon the final regular season Conference standings. Teams that finished No. 1 through No. 4 in the final regular season standings shall receive first and second-round byes and teams that finish No. 5 through No. 10 will receive first-round byes in the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament.

1. **Two-Team Tie.** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
  - A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the two teams.
  - B. Won-lost record of the two teams versus the No. 1 seed (and proceeding through the No. 14 seed, if necessary).
  - C. Coin flip by the Commissioner.
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** When three or more teams are tied, the following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken. If two teams remain tied after a tiebreaker provision, the two-team tiebreaker formula will be used.
  - A. Best winning percentage of games played among the tied teams (Example: Team A is 3-1, Team B is 2-2 and Team C is 1-3 – Team A would be seeded highest, Team B second-highest and Team C lowest of the three).
  - B. Best winning percentage of the tied teams versus the No. 1 seed (and proceeding through the No. 14 seed, if necessary).
  - C. If two teams remain, coin flip by the Commissioner.
  - D. If three or more teams remain, draw by the Commissioner.

For the purpose of seeding, if an institution is precluded from participating in the tournament, such institution will automatically be seeded last. The No. 11 seed will then receive a bye. However, for the purpose of breaking ties, that team will remain where it finished in the regular-season standings BEFORE being seeded last.

**Squad Size.** Only 15 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests.

**Team Expenses and Allowances.** Each participating institution will be provided a per diem of \$75 per day for 24 individuals. Each team will receive a two-day per diem, plus one per diem for each game played. In addition, a travel

allowance of \$30 per mile (one-way) will be paid to each institution.

**Tickets.** The Tournament Ticket Committee (see Tournament Committees) shall develop tournament ticket policies and procedures for review and approval by the Athletics Directors each year.

Tickets will be sold in book form for the entire tournament. During the week of the tournament, any remaining seats may be sold on a single session basis. No complimentary tickets will be provided for the tournament.

Each institution shall notify the Conference office of its institutional ticket allotment, for which it is financially responsible, by mid-October of each year. The location of each institution's allotment will rotate on an annual basis (two sections clockwise each year). Each institution shall also purchase 100 additional lower level, side-court tickets for each session in which its team participates. Each institution participating in the tournament championship game shall purchase 150 additional tickets for such game. [*Revised: 6/3/16*]

**Tournament Committees.** The Commissioner has the ultimate responsibility for the overall administration of the tournament. The SEC Tournament Coordination Committee, composed of Conference staff, institutional representatives and facility staff, is appointed by the Commissioner to assist in the administration of the tournament. The Tournament Ticket Committee is responsible for developing ticket policies and procedures for the tournament. The Media Coordination Committee is responsible for all media operations during the tournament. The Commissioner shall appoint the members of all tournament committees.

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for women's basketball: Sport Administrator – Leslie Claybrook; Communications – Tammy Wilson; Officiating – Sally Bell/Sylvia Hagan.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5 c and e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any basketball arena during games between member institutions. In addition, member institutions shall not distribute or sell any item(s) that may be used as artificial noisemakers (e.g. "thundersticks," megaphones, clackers, etc.). Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers are not permitted inside its competition areas.

**Penalties for Violations** – Pursuant to the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules (10.2.8.a.), the game officials shall call an administrative technical foul on the team whose fans are responsible for the artificial noisemakers.

The use of institutionally controlled computerized sound systems, institutionally controlled artificial noisemakers and the play of bands shall be restricted to pregame, halftime, post-game, dead ball situations, and timeouts. There shall be no use of the above-mentioned devices/instruments during a free-throw, throw-in or live ball situation. The use of physical distractions (e.g., artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or public address systems by the cheerleaders), except as noted above, is prohibited in SEC basketball arenas. [Revised: 8/18/15]

**Penalties for Violations** – When a member institution violates the policy regarding institutionally-controlled noisemakers, the Conference office shall first warn the institution and then impose fines not to exceed \$5,000 for subsequent violations. Officials may issue an administrative technical foul per NCAA Women's Basketball Rules (10.2.8).

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Following a nomination process, the coaches shall vote for eight players for first team and eight for the second team. Each player receives two points for a first-team vote and one point for a second-team vote. The top eight will be named first-team All-SEC; while the next eight will be named second-team All-SEC. Voting shall take place the Monday following the end of the regular season.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The same nomination and balloting procedure shall be followed as for the All-SEC team, except that each vote counts as one point. The top eight will be named SEC All-Freshman.
3. **All-Defensive Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The same nomination and balloting procedure shall be followed as for the All-SEC team, except that each vote counts as one point. The top five will be named to the SEC All-Defensive Team.
4. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Coaches may only vote for players who are listed on their first team All-SEC ballot. Each vote is worth one point.
5. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Each vote is worth one point. Coaches may only vote for players listed on their All-Freshman ballot.
6. **Defensive Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Each vote is worth one point.
7. **6<sup>th</sup> Woman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Players must have started 1/3 or less of their teams' games to be eligible. Each vote is worth one point.
8. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Each vote is worth one point.
9. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Ball Crews.** Ball crews shall be limited to six individuals (three per basket). Ball crew members must be a minimum age of 10. NCAA rules shall govern the involvement of prospect-age individuals serving as ball crew members.

**Bands.** Bands may not be located behind or adjacent to the visitor's bench. Instruments may not be used under any circumstances during play. Bands may perform only during pre-game, half-time, timeouts, and at the end of the game. The band directors shall prohibit the band or any component thereof (including drums) from playing while the game is in progress, including during dead ball situations. Bands may not be amplified during the game, except that the home team band may be amplified during times the band is allowed to play.

**Basketballs.** Basketballs must meet specifications contained in the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules. The game ball must be acceptable (in regard to condition) to both the visiting team and the game officials. The home team must provide the visiting team with warm-up balls of the same type as the game ball.

**Bench Restrictions.** Team benches shall consist of 22 seats. A maximum of five seats may be placed in a second row behind the bench (if room is available); however, these seats must count in the overall total of 22. All game personnel (i.e., coaches, players, managers, trainers, etc.) must sit on the bench. The visiting team bench may not be placed in front of or adjacent to the home institution's band or student section. The visiting team bench shall be located either on the opposite side of the court or on the opposite end of the court from the home institution's band and student section.

**Cheerleaders.** Visiting cheerleaders and/or mascots are not allowed on the arena floor for conference games. If an institution desires to have the cheerleaders and/or mascots travel to away games, they must have tickets and sit in the visiting team section.

**Coaches Meeting.** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting held in conjunction with SEC Spring Meetings and an annual fall meeting.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be a two-year rotation with Kentucky serving as the chair for 2017-18 and 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: LSU (2019-2020 and 2020-21) and Ole Miss (2021-22 and 2022-23). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. An individual must have attended an annual coaches meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

**Conference Championship/Tournament [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]**

1. The team with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared the Conference champion. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins during regular season Conference competition, they shall be declared Conference co-champions.
2. There will be a Conference tournament at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular season in order to determine the automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. The site shall be determined at an appropriate time by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Athletics Directors and Senior Woman Administrators. The Conference tournament will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Crowd Control.** The Athletics Director will serve as the game management director or appoint an individual knowledgeable in game management and crowd control to supervise and plan for all games. This person shall visit briefly with the game officials and the visiting coach prior to every game to inform the parties of how he or she may be contacted during the game, if needed. The game manager is responsible for the control of the entire operation of the arena prior to and during each contest, and for continued supervision of the arena until at least 30 minutes after the game or all groups have dispersed.

**Debris Thrown on Court.** The home institution shall have a "zero-tolerance" policy for fans who throw items onto the playing court and shall eject violators of such policy from the arena.

**Game Times.** The start times for all games will be determined by the home team and may start no later than 8:05 p.m. local time, unless the game is a designated SEC televised game. Each institution must submit game times to the Conference office prior to September 1 each year.

**Interrupted Game Procedures.** All personnel, including Athletics Directors, game management personnel, game officials, coaches, players, and Conference office staff, shall use their best effort to ensure each Conference contest is played to its conclusion. The Conference recognizes, however, emergencies may arise that make a contest's completion impossible or inadvisable. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, severe inclement weather, natural or man-made disasters, power failures and spectator interference.

Contests should be delayed, relocated, suspended, canceled, postponed or terminated (see definitions below) when circumstances exist such that commencement or continuation of play would pose a threat to the safety of game participants. [Revised: 6/3/16]

1. **Definitions.**

- A. **Delay** - To delay a contest is to delay the start of a contest until a later time on the same date.
- B. **Relocate** - To relocate a contest is to change the location of the competition.
- C. **Suspend** - To suspend a contest is to temporarily halt play for a short duration after the contest begins.
- D. **Cancel** - To cancel a contest is to nullify it either before or after it begins and to make no provision for rescheduling it or for including its score or other performance statistics in Conference records.
- E. **Postpone** - To postpone a contest is to (a) defer its starting time to a later date, or to (b) suspend it after play has begun and make provision to resume it at a later date with all scores and other performance statistics up to the point of postponement added to those achieved in the resumed portion of the contest.
- F. **Terminate** - To terminate a contest is to end it short of a full-designated duration of play, officially record it as a completed contest, and make no provision to resume it at a later date.

2. **Authority.** Authority to delay or relocate a contest is vested with the home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator. Authority to suspend a contest is vested with the officials. Authority to cancel, postpone, or terminate a contest is vested *only* with the Commissioner or his/her designee.

3. **Guidelines.** [Revised: 12/13/16]

A. **Prior to the Contest.**

- 1. If extenuating circumstances occur that necessitate a contest be moved to an earlier start time, an earlier start date, and/or relocated within the same city, the two participating institutions shall determine the date, time, and location of the contest, subject to the approval of the Commissioner. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
- 2. If a contest is postponed prior to its start for any reason, the contest shall be rescheduled for the following day (e.g. a Saturday game shall be rescheduled for Sunday) unless extenuating circumstances prevent the contest from being played, in which case the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
- 3. Prior to the start of a contest, the home institution's Director of Athletics or designated senior level administrator shall have the authority to determine whether a contest should temporarily be delayed until a later time on the same date.

B. **Once the Contest Has Begun.**

- 1. Once a contest has begun, the decision to suspend play shall become the responsibility of the game officials.
- 2. If a contest is suspended after it has begun:
  - a. The referee shall immediately stop the game and inform both coaches that the game is being suspended at the point of interruption and that ALL team personnel are required to go immediately to their respective dressing rooms. This includes players, coaches, trainers, managers, cheerleaders, mascots, bands and any other persons who are the responsibility of these particular institutions.
  - b. Play may only be resumed when conditions are deemed safe by the officials in consultation with the home team game management personnel.
  - c. A suspended game shall not be resumed if it is determined by the head referee in collaboration with the Commissioner or his/her designee that the game would not be able to reasonably be

completed by 1:30 a.m. local time. The Commissioner shall have the sole authority to extend the 1:30 a.m. deadline.

- d. If a contest is unable to be resumed, the contest shall be resumed the following day (e.g. a Saturday contest shall be resumed on Sunday) unless extenuating circumstances prevent the contest from being played, in which case the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to either direct the contest to be played on a particular date, relocate the contest, or cancel or terminate the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.

#### **LED Lights.**

1. Each institution shall install red LED light strips on both backboards.
2. Each institution shall install red LED lights on the scorer's table that are synchronized with the game clocks and the red LED lights on the backboards. Such lights shall be installed on both the court side and the scorer's side of the table. [*Adopted: 12/12/17*]

**Media Days.** Each head coach shall attend the annual SEC Basketball Media Day in the fall. Each institution shall bring the requested number of student-athletes each year.

**National Anthem.** The home institution shall notify the visiting team no later than five days prior to the game regarding its National Anthem procedures. It is required that both teams and all coaches be on the court for the anthem. The anthem shall be held with 0:00 on the pre-game clock.

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event that inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the highest remaining seed in the tournament at the time of suspension shall be designated as the automatic qualifier. [*Revised: 12/12/17*].

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaws 30.20.1 and 10.5.4] The Conference office shall assign officials for all home contests, including exhibitions and non-conference games. Notification of game officials and all information pertaining to officiating is located on [www.spotfoul.com](http://www.spotfoul.com). Please contact Sylvia Hagan with questions related to access to the website or administrative aspects of officials (e.g., assignments, payment information, etc).

Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is strictly prohibited. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating, game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed only to the Conference office. Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone, and all matters pertaining to officials or officiating will be directed to the Conference office only. Likewise, this policy will preclude officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.

Public comments related to officiating by officials, coaches, or institutional personnel are prohibited. The list of game officials assigned to a game should not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of pre-game information packets.

No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches' radio and/or television shows. Audio/video materials shall not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating (e.g., the use of game films to produce clips for television or newspapers depicting officiating calls).

The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at all home games:

1. Security escorts for officials should be provided as follows:
  - A. A person should meet officials at the entrance gate 90 minutes prior to tip-off and escort them to the officials' dressing room.
  - B. A person designated by the event management director should communicate with the officials when the teams arrive on the floor for pre-game warm-ups and when it is time to return courtside for the second half. The officials will communicate with the designated event management person if changes to this process are necessary.
  - C. A dressing room key should be either given to one of the officials, or a person designated by the game management director. The designated person must lock the dressing room while the officials are on

- the floor and must be waiting at the dressing room door when the officials return at halftime and the end of the game. The officials must have immediate access to their dressing room at halftime and at the conclusion of the game.
2. The officials dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as suggested below:
    - A. When male and female officials are assigned, two separate dressing rooms must be provided;
    - B. When a doubleheader is scheduled, the officials for the men's game must be assigned to a different dressing room than the officials for the women's game; and
    - C. The officials' dressing room should be set up with the following items:
      - (1) Towels and soap;
      - (2) Chairs and a table;
      - (3) Soft drinks and water (in a cooler of ice) and cups; and
      - (4) Sandwiches, fruit, or light snack after the game.
  3. If an official requests the service of a trainer or needs any supplies, the trainer should meet the officials in their dressing room to provide the service or deliver the supplies. The official should avoid going to the training room.
  4. Absolutely no one shall be allowed access to the officials' dressing room without the permission of the SEC except (1) the officials assigned to the game, (2) the event manager and (3) Southeastern Conference staff and observers.

*Compensation* – Payment of the game officials will be handled by the conference office. Each institution will be invoiced for its share of the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials. The Conference office and Athletics Directors shall set the fees and travel/expense policies.

*Tickets* – Each official assigned to a game is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to that game. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the game.

**Physical Distraction Devices.** Large props (e.g. pinwheels, balloons, large posters, etc.) will be allowed behind the visiting team's basket only when provided by the University and approved by the Chief Marketing Officers and Game Management Directors. Game management personnel are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy. [Revised: 8/18/15]

**Practice.** The visiting team shall have an opportunity to practice on the competition floor, unless prevented by extreme circumstances. Requests by the visiting team for practice time, other than the pre-game warm-up period, should be made as soon as possible, and must be made by at least five days prior to the date of the game. The home team must make the playing facility available for at least 90 minutes on the day prior to the game, and for 60 minutes on the day of the game. The visiting team's practice time will be scheduled at a time other than during the home team's regular practice time. For Sunday games, the facility will be available for the visiting team's shoot-around six hours prior to game time. The home team will be allowed to shoot-around five hours prior to game time. The only exception to this provision is when the facility is being used the day before the game for Conference competition in another sport or for an official campus-wide event, such as registration. The host institution must provide an alternate practice facility if the actual competition site is unavailable and if requested by the visiting team. Home teams are required to communicate with visiting teams by December 1<sup>st</sup> if there is a potential arena conflict with a visiting team's practice time(s).

**Precision Timing Devices.** Each Conference institution shall utilize the Precision Timing System to control the game clocks at all basketball games. The system will utilize the officials' whistles to stop the clock, and the officials will have the capability to start the clock with portable devices. The host institution shall provide a game clock operator at the scorer's table to serve as the primary clock operator.

**Pre-Game/Halftime Warm-Up.** The game floor must be cleared of all activity at least 65 minutes prior to the competition start time in order to allow the visiting team 60-minutes of uninterrupted warm-up. The program of player introductions, national anthem or any other similar ceremony will not be included in the 60-minute warm-up, except for Senior Day. A senior recognition ceremony may be conducted prior to a team's final regular-season home game. With 15 minutes on the clock prior to the game, the visiting team shall leave the floor while the Senior Day ceremony is conducted. These activities may not last longer than 10 minutes and the visiting team must have five minutes of practice time upon returning to the floor. At half-time, the host institution shall make the floor available for an uninterrupted warm-up period of at least five minutes prior to the start of the second half. Exceptions to these policies

must be approved by the Commissioner (or designated representative). If an unusual situation arises, the game management director may make adjustments to the pre-game practice time in order to accommodate the situation.

**Radio and Television Timeouts.** [See NCAA Women's Basketball Rules & SEC Game Management Manual]

**Regular-Season Competition/Schedule** Each institution will play 16 regular-season Conference games. The schedule shall consist of a single round robin (10 games) and home and away with one permanent opponent (2 games) and two random opponents (4 games). The permanent opponents are Alabama-Auburn, Arkansas-Missouri, Florida-Georgia, Kentucky-South Carolina, LSU-Texas A&M, Ole Miss-Mississippi State, and Tennessee-Vanderbilt. Each team will play eight home games and eight away games. The dates and sites for the Conference schedule will be set by administrative action of the Conference office. Each institution shall submit its non-conference schedule to the Conference office for review and feedback.

**Ring Testing.** Each member institution shall conduct ring testing on its basketball goal rings as outlined in the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules prior to the start of the season and prior to each game, on the day of the game. The home team game management shall be responsible for overseeing the test and report the results to the game officials prior to each game.

**Scouting and Videotape/Film Exchange.** The following scouting policies apply to pre-season, regular-season, and post-season competition: [Revised: 11/8/15]

1. The SEC operates with an open video exchange policy. Therefore, all schools are required to provide video of all games to other SEC programs. All teams should use Synergy software as the primary means for transferring basketball video within the conference.
2. All SEC Women's Basketball programs must purchase the Synergy software, after which unique accounts (folders) will be developed for each school. These folders will serve as the access point to each school's video throughout the season and all games should remain in their school's Synergy folders until the season is complete (after NCAA championship).
3. Video from each game must be uploaded to Synergy according to the following:
  - A. Non-conference games:
    - i. Home games – must post within one hour after the completion of the game.
    - ii. Away games – must post upon arrival to campus. (If the team returns after midnight, the game must be posted by 9 a.m. local time).
  - B. Conference games:
    - i. Home team must post within one hour after completion of the game.
4. The video exchanged should be of high quality and recorded in HD Quality or higher. The following order of preference should be followed in completing a tape exchange:
  - A. Television copy (based on the approved television SEC schedule) and a high quality coaches' copy.
  - B. Every effort should be made to upload video from an elevated and center perspective.
  - C. Ambient or natural sound is required; radio announcers or media broadcast are not permitted.
  - D. There must be a 10 second leader at the start of the game and halftime to ensure transfer.
  - E. All action must be taped from the first horn, excluding timeouts, halftime and injuries. In-bound sets, etc. should not be missed because taping commences after play has begun. Non-game action (i.e., halftime or timeouts) shall not be included on the video. Video should stop when the timeout is granted by the official, after a 5-second image of the scoreboard is shown (if score and time is not already present within the video frame). To help ensure no game action is missed, video should resume when the first warning horn is sounded.
  - F. Scoreboard must be shown for reference at every called and media timeouts if not already present in the video frame.
  - G. All ten players must be included in each frame when filming a settled, quarter-court offense.
  - H. If an extenuating circumstance prevents an institution from uploading game film by the specified deadline, the institution shall immediately notify each institution and the Conference office to communicate the issue and expected time upload will be available. If the issue is unable to be resolved to upload via Synergy, then the institution must provide a DVD to every SEC institution within 48 hours following the game.

**Sportsmanship.** At no time, including pre-game, in-game, halftime, or post-game, may either team engage in any type of "animated huddle," dance, or other similar activity at center court or on any home team or Conference insignia. Such activities are limited to the team bench area ONLY.

**Squad Size.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 15 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 15 eligible student-athletes, except during an institutional vacation period when there shall be no limit on the number of eligible student-athletes who may travel. [Revised: 6/1/18]

**Student Sections.** The visiting team's bench may not be located in front of or adjacent to the home team's student section or pep band. The visiting team's bench shall be located either on the opposite side of the court or on the opposite end of the court from the student section and band.

**Television.** [SEC Bylaw 31.20.1]

**Tickets.** The visiting team will be allotted 100 complimentary tickets for each SEC game. Each home institution shall provide at least 12 seats to the visiting team directly behind the visiting team's bench. These must be ticketed seats and shall be part of the visiting team's allotment of 100 complimentary tickets. The location of the next 38 complimentary tickets must be within the first 25 rows of the playing floor and as near the visiting team bench as possible. The home team will determine the location of the remaining 50 complimentary tickets. Each institution must notify the host well in advance of the day of the game to indicate the number of complimentary admissions it will need (up to 100).

**Timeouts.** Teams may not conduct timeout huddles in the area inside the three-point line. [Adopted 8/18/15]

**Uniforms.** Institutions shall adhere to the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules specific to uniforms. The home team shall wear light game uniforms and the away team shall wear dark game uniforms. If a home team plans to wear a uniform color other than white, it must notify the visiting team and the Conference office no later than five days before the scheduled game. If the home team's light uniforms are not in a color contrasting with the visiting team's uniforms, the home team must adjust and wear a contrasting color. Game officials are authorized to rule on any disputes in uniform color.

**Video Boards/Replays.** Institutions are not limited in the use of replays (including number of replays shown), except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. In no circumstances will the in-arena video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, incite the crowd, or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-arena video board.

*Procedure for stoppage for an official review:*

When a stoppage occurs for an official review in a televised game, the in-arena video board operator must use the unaltered television network program feed as the exclusive video source for replays of the play under review. When a stoppage occurs for an official review in a non-televised game, the in-arena video board operator must use the unaltered in-arena feed as the exclusive video source for replays of the play under review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-arena video board during stoppage for an official review. No live coverage of any coach, student-athlete, or fan reaction may be shown from the program feed during the review. Replays of plays under review are permitted only during actual stoppage of play for the official review.

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Administrative Teleconference.** A coach and a designated administrator from each institution competing in the Conference tournament shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the tournament to review policies and procedures.

**Bench Restrictions.** Each team bench will consist of 22 seats and will be limited to the use of 22 individuals as follows: eligible players, coaches, trainers, managers, statistician, and/or team physician or designated team members. Bench assignments will be based on seeding.

**Dates and Sites.** The Conference tournament will be conducted two weeks prior to the first round of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship and after the conclusion of the Conference regular-season schedule. The SEC Athletics Directors and Executive Committee must approve the sites and dates of the tournament. Future dates and sites for the tournament are:

2019	March 6-10	Greenville, SC (Bon Secours Wellness Arena)
2020	March 4-8	Greenville, SC (Bon Secours Wellness Arena)
2021	March 3-7	Greenville, SC (Bon Secours Wellness Arena)
2022	March 2-6	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)

**Format.** The Conference tournament shall be a 14-team single-elimination tournament.

**Manual.** The Conference office shall distribute to each institution a tournament manual outlining the policies and procedures for the tournament, as well as information specific to the host site, no later than January 31 of each year.

**Seeding.** Teams will be seeded No. 1 through No. 14 in the SEC Women's Basketball Tournament bracket based upon the final regular season Conference standings. Teams that finish No. 1 through No. 4 in the final regular season standings shall receive first- and second-round byes and teams that finish No. 5 through No. 10 will receive a first-round bye in the SEC Women's Basketball Tournament.

1. **Two-Team Tie.** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
  - A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the two teams.
  - B. Won-lost record of the two teams versus the No. 1 seed (and proceeding through the No. 14 seed, if necessary).
  - C. Coin flip by the Commissioner.
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** When three or more teams are tied, the following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken. If two teams remain tied after a tiebreaker provision, the two-team tiebreaker formula will be used.
  - A. Best winning percentage of games played among the tied teams (Example: Team A is 3-1, Team B is 2-2 and Team C is 1-3 - - Team A would be seeded highest, Team B second-highest and Team C lowest of the three).
  - B. Best winning percentage of the tied teams versus the No. 1 seed (and proceeding through the No. 14 seed, if necessary).
  - C. If two teams remain, coin flip by the Commissioner.
  - D. If three or more teams remain, draw by the Commissioner.

For the purpose of seeding, if an institution is precluded from participating in the tournament, such institution will automatically be seeded last. The No. 11 seed will then receive a bye. However, for the purpose of breaking ties, the team precluded from participating in the tournament will remain where it finished in the regular-season standings BEFORE being seeded last.

**Squad Size.** Only 15 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests.

**Team Expenses and Allowances.** As revenue allows, each participating institution will be provided a per diem of \$75 per day for 22 individuals. Each team will receive a one-day per diem, plus one per diem for each game played. In addition, a travel allowance of \$30 per mile (one-way) will be paid to each institution. If funds are not available for a full reimbursement, travel and expenses will be paid on a percentage basis.

**Tickets.** The Tournament Ticket Committee (as appointed by the Commissioner) shall develop tournament ticket policies and procedures for review and approval by the Athletics Directors each year.

Tickets will be sold in book form for the entire tournament. During the week of the tournament, any remaining seats may be sold on a single session basis. No complimentary tickets will be provided for the tournament.

Each institution shall notify the Conference office of its institutional ticket allotment, for which it is financially responsible, by mid-October each year. The location of each institution's allotment will rotate on an annual basis (two sections clockwise each year). Each institution shall also purchase 100 additional lower level, side-court tickets for each session in which its team participates. Each institution participating in the tournament championship game shall purchase 150 additional tickets for such game. [*Revised: 6/3/16*]

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are designated liaisons for men's and women's cross country: Sport Administrator – John Gibson; Communications – Ben Beatty.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Administration.** [SEC Bylaw 17.30] The administration of Conference regular-season and championship contests are governed by NCAA rules, except where these Commissioner's Regulations expressly supersede or conflict with NCAA rules.

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Teams.** The first team consists of the top seven finishers in the SEC Championships. The second team consists of the next seven finishers (8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> place) in the SEC Championships.
2. **All-Freshman Teams.** The all-freshman team (one men's and one women's) consists of the top seven freshmen (true or redshirt) finishers in the SEC Championships.
3. **Athletes of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches following the SEC Championships. The championship winners will be considered automatic Athlete of the Year nominees. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships.
4. **Freshmen of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches following the SEC Championships. If an institution's Athlete of the Year nominee is a freshman, that individual must be nominated for Freshman of the Year. The top freshman (true or redshirt) finishers in the championships will be considered automatic Freshman of the Year nominees. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships.
5. **Coaches of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The individual designated by the institution as the head cross country coach shall be eligible for the award. Coaches vote during the Athlete/Freshman of the Year process. Coaches of the championship winning teams will be considered automatic Coach of the Year nominees.
6. **Scholar-Athletes of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. One men's award and one women's award is presented annually for the sport of cross country.
7. **Community Service Teams.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. One men's team and one women's team is named annually for track and field, which includes the sports of cross country and indoor track and field, at the end of the outdoor track and field season.
8. **Athletes of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Freshmen of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Coaches Committee.** [SEC Bylaw 21.9] The coaches committee will be made up of the head coach from the championship host institution along with two other head coaches from different institutions. For 2018-2019, the coaches committee will include LSU, Ole Miss, and Auburn. A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Coaches Meeting** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head track and field coach is required to attend the annual meeting in September at the SEC office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with LSU serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Ole Miss (2019-2020) and Mississippi State (2020-2021). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Conference Championships.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3] The Conference champions (men and women) will be determined by a meet of all member institutions sponsoring a team. The championship will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** Each SEC member institution sponsoring a cross country team shall schedule teams from other SEC member institutions at its own option and discretion during the regular season.

**Squad Size.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 12 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 12 eligible student-athletes.

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Administrative Teleconference and Meeting.** Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the championships to review policies and procedures. In addition, head coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall attend a mandatory head coaches meeting on the day prior to the championships to review additional information and procedures for the event. This meeting will occur near the course and early in the day if possible.

**Championships Committee.** The Championships Committee will consist of the chairs of the men's and women's coaches committees, a representative of the host institution (either the meet director or the head coach), and the SEC liaison. Its duties shall include:

1. Processing the declaration of entries;
2. Reviewing the course prior to the coaches meeting; and
3. Serving as the final authority on all matters concerning administration of the championships, other than those handled by the jury of appeals.

**Dates and Sites.** The championships will be held two weeks prior to the NCAA regional meets on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday. The 2018 championships will be held in Auburn, Alabama on October 26, 2018 and will be hosted by Auburn University. If an institution is unable to host during its scheduled year, notification must be given at least one year in advance at the annual coaches meeting. In this circumstance, the championships will rotate to the next institution in sequence. Future hosts of the championships will be:

2019	Kentucky	2022	Ole Miss	2025	Tennessee
2020	LSU	2023	South Carolina	2026	Texas A&M
2021	Missouri	2024	Mississippi State		

**Disqualification.** Competitors who fail to complete the prescribed course, as defined by the legal marking system, will be disqualified.

**Electronic Timing Procedures.** Fully electronic time and photos will be official. A chip timing system along with FinishLynx or a similar system will be used at SEC Cross Country Championships. Student-athletes shall wear a small, lightweight chip that uniquely identifies them as they cross strategically placed, electronic mats. In the event of a protest (pertaining to the reading of the picture), the meet referee and jury of appeals shall make the final decision.

**Entry and Declarations.** All entries must be made online at least 10 days prior to the start of the championships. (Information regarding online entry will be provided by the host institution.) Final declarations shall be made during the head coaches meeting on the day before the championships. Once declarations are made final, no student-athletes may be added or entered to the competition. All competitors must have a competitor number and must have their year of eligibility listed on the entry form. [Revised: 11/18/15]

**Finish.** The finish chute will be constructed of rope, banners and stakes (padded if sharp or dangerous edges protrude). Finish-line substitutes (five to eight individuals) will be used in the chute for incapacitated runners.

**Format.** Institutions may enter either individuals or a full team of ten runners. The women will run first in even-numbered years, and the men will run first in odd-numbered years.

**Host Institution Responsibilities.** In addition to the responsibilities set forth in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference office, the Championships Director and Championships Sports Information Director shall:

***Championships Director Responsibilities:***

- Obtain the required officials (see "Officials" below), persons to give splits at each mile mark, and other support personnel;
- Secure the primary timing group for the championships and ensure that the necessary timing technology is in place to conduct the championships.
- Supply and ensure application of competitor number on participating student-athletes.
- Produce a championship participant manual that includes the location of the meet headquarters; telephone numbers; maps of the course; list of hotels; starting times; meet operations and procedures; and the names of the referee, starter and jury of appeals;

- Oversee a random draw for team starting box positions and notify participating teams prior to the practice runs;
- Delineate team starting box positions on the course prior to practice (see "Race Courses" below);
- Serve as the administrator and supervisor of the championship; and
- Oversee support staff in the conduct of the event.

***Championships Sports Information Director Responsibilities:***

- Produce a championships program insert that includes the event schedule; championships personnel; and facts about the championships;
- Coordinate credentialing for all media, which includes assigning and distributing credentials after ensuring all credentialed media have signed off on the SEC Media Policy;
- Prepare and distribute advance publicity for Conference championship event;
- Provide information to local, regional and national media during the championships;
- Supervise and coordinate media interviews and the media work area, which should include an on-site location if the primary media work area is off site;
- Send results to all other Conference schools and the SEC office, including the SEC website;
- Write a general, unbiased summary following the championships and send to the SEC website;
- At the end of the championships, submit three clean copies of the final results to the SEC office;
- Provide a photographer for the championships and awards ceremony;
- Perform any other duties pertaining to the media aspect of conducting the events; and
- Work with the championship director as needed.

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2] The championships director shall obtain the following officials: referee, starter, and a three-person jury of appeals of non-Conference persons to be used by the referee to aid in decisions and to act on appeals. The decisions of the jury of appeals shall be final. The host institution is responsible for training all officials in accordance with SEC and NCAA rules. [NOTE: If the host does not utilize a timing chip system, quick-score persons (as many as teams entered) must also be provided, along with four judges of the finish.]

**Tickets** – Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition.

**Protests.** NCAA rules govern protests. Additionally, in case of protest only, a videotape of the finish made from an elevated side view will be used to determine order of finish.

**Race Courses.** The men's course will be approximately 8,000 meters, and the women's will be approximately 6,000 meters. Splits will be given at each mile mark. The courses must be properly measured and marked by a continuous, clearly visible unbroken line on the running surface (or a suitable flag system) from start to finish. All changes of direction must be indicated by the use of signs, directional boundaries, guideposts and flags that are seven feet high (blue when the course lies straight ahead, red when it lies to the left and yellow when it lies to the right). The construction and placement of these markings may not develop a hazard to the runners or permit confusion as to the direction, and must act as a curb throughout the entire distance of the courses. Each team will be allotted as close to 16 feet (or more) as the courses allow for their respective starting boxes.

**Scoring.** Each team may have ten competitors. Five student-athletes will score, with two others displacing. Any remaining athletes will not influence scoring in any way. Men's and Women's Meets will be scored in accordance with NCAA rules.

**Squad Size.** The SEC Championship squad size is 12 in women's cross country and 10 in men's cross country. [Revised: 8/18/15]

**Tickets.** The host institution may decide whether or not to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, the ticket prices will be set by the host institution, but must be approved by the Conference office. In addition, if admission is charged, the host institution must make prior contact with each participating school to determine the form of payment and staffing for the player/guest gate. Institutions are not required to purchase a set amount of tickets.

**Uniforms.** See General Administration Section of the Commissioner's Regulations

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for equestrian: Sport Administrator – Chuck Dunlap; Communications – Ann Drinkard.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Administration.** [SEC Bylaw 17.30] The administration of Conference regular-season and championship competition is governed by NCEA regulations, except where these Commissioner's Regulations expressly supersede or conflict with NCEA regulations.

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Head coaches or their designees will nominate no more than five of their student-athletes per event – in ranked order – for all-conference consideration. A student-athlete must compete in a minimum of five competitions (in the event for which she is nominated) to be eligible for this award. Voting will occur in the week following the SEC Championship. A total of five student-athletes will be selected per event for a maximum of 20 on the all-conference team.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Head coaches or their designees will nominate no more than five of their student-athletes per event – in ranked order – for all-freshman consideration. A student-athlete must compete in a minimum of five competitions (in the event for which she is nominated) to be eligible for this award. Voting will occur in the week following the SEC Championship. A total of five student-athletes will be selected per event for a maximum of 20 on the all-freshman team.
3. **Athletes of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches following the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Four "Athlete of the Year" awards will be presented: Equitation Over Fences Athlete of the Year, Equitation On The Flat Athlete of the Year, Horsemanship Athlete of the Year and Reining Athlete of the Year. A student-athlete must compete in a minimum of five competitions (in the event for which she is nominated) to be eligible for this award.
4. **Freshman Athletes of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches following the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Four "Freshman of the Year" awards will be presented: Equitation Over Fences Freshman of the Year, Equitation On The Flat Freshman of the Year, Horsemanship Freshman of the Year and Reining Freshman of the Year. A student-athlete must compete in a minimum of five competitions (in the event for which she is nominated) to be eligible for this award.
5. **Coach of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by a vote of the head coaches.
6. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations
7. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Athlete of the Month.** The SEC Communications staff will select equestrian athletes of the month from nominations submitted to the conference office by the head coach, sports information director or other designee of the member institutions. Four monthly awards will be given for the sport of equestrian: Equitation Over Fences Athlete of the Month, Equitation On The Flat Athlete of the Month, Horsemanship Athlete of the Month and Reining Athlete of the Month. These will be awarded during any month during the regular season in which any Conference team competes.

**Coaches Meeting.** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in December at the SEC Office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with South Carolina serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Texas A&M (2019-2020), Auburn (2020-21),

and Georgia (2021-22). Coaches may not serve as chair during their first year as an SEC coach.

**Conference Championship.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3] The Conference champion will be determined by a meet of all member institutions sponsoring a team. The championship will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations for Equestrian.

**Ethical Conduct and Enforcement.** SEC Equestrian Coaches are required to inform the conference office of all potential violations and reporting of NCEA Ethical Conduct and Enforcement activity (NCEA Manual 4.1 – 4.2.5) to the NCEA. If an NCEA Code of Conduct violation is witnessed and reported during a contest involving two SEC institutions, the reporting head coach (or member of his or her staff) must alert the SEC Equestrian Administrator prior to submission to the NCEA. [Adopted: 1/26/17]

**Officials.** In dual head-to-head competitions against SEC opponents, the visiting team shall prepare a list of at least six officials with approval from the host school. The visiting team will select and schedule the officials. Officials must meet the NCEA standards. Judges in the sport of equestrian will be paid travel costs, lodging expenses, and \$550 per meet by the host institution. Each institution will determine payment standards for stewards. In dual head-to-head competitions against SEC opponents, judges may not reside within a 200-mile radius of the two participating institutions. This restriction will not apply to the annual SEC Equestrian Championship.

*Tickets* – Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** The SEC regular season equestrian schedule shall consist of home and away competition between each SEC equestrian program. The home and away meets shall be split between the fall and spring terms. Scheduling for each year will be completed prior to December 1. The minimum entry of competitors per event is five for any SEC vs. SEC dual meet competition.

**Squad Size.** All eligible student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. There is no travel squad size limit.

## **CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Administrative Teleconference and Meetings.** Coaches and administrators from each institution competing in the Conference championship shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the championship to review policies and procedures.

A representative from each team (along with the Conference administrator and meet secretary) shall attend a mandatory meeting held at 5 p.m. on the day prior to the championship to conduct a bracket draw. The draw for the second day of the championship will be held immediately following the first day's competition.

All coaches, officials, and scribes (along with the Conference administrator) shall attend a mandatory Coaches/Officials/Scribes meeting on the first morning of the meet so that the Coaches Meeting Checklist (see NCEA manual) can be reviewed along with any other specifics pertaining to the competition.

**Awards.** The SEC equestrian champion is presented a trophy immediately following the conclusion of the final day of competition. Each member of the All-Championship Team shall receive individual trophies. The All-Championship team is determined by a committee comprised of the SEC Sport Administrator (chair) and the head coach of each institution.

1. **Most Outstanding Performers – Championship.** The judges will confer and select one Most Outstanding Performer per event from each competition in the championship (total of four per competition per day). Honorees will receive flowers.
2. **All-Championship Team.** Each head coach will submit a nomination for one of their own athletes per event to the SEC Communications liaison for the SEC Championship's All-Championship Team. A ballot will be compiled and coaches will vote on this award immediately following the SEC Championship. The four All-Championship Team recipients, one from each event, will receive their individual trophies at the time of the team trophy presentation.

**Host Institution Responsibilities.** The responsibilities of the host institution's tournament director and sports information contact are listed in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference office.

**Dates and Sites.** The championship will be held three weeks prior to the NCEA Championship on Friday and Saturday. The 2019 championship will be held in College Station, TX on March 29-30, and will be hosted by Texas A&M University. Future hosts of the championship under the current four-team format will be:

2020	Georgia
2021	Auburn
2022	South Carolina

**Entries.** Five riders per the four events will be offered to each of the four Conference institutions sponsoring equestrian.

### **Horses.**

**Numbers Required.** Each member institution will provide 12 horses to the host institution for use at the Championship. Of those 12, there will ideally be three horses for each event. Each horse must be capable of competing both days and at the required level of the patterns and tests. All demo horses and second alternate horses will be provided by the host institution.

**Nomination Process.** The host institution will organize the nomination and voting on all SEC horses during the same conference calls used for establishing the patterns and tests with the following guidelines:

- A. Each institution will nominate three horses from each of the four competing institutions for each event (nominating 12) by Jan. 31 to the host institution.
- B. The host institution will distribute all nominated horses to the member institutions by Feb. 5 for consideration. Each member institution is encouraged to remove any nominated horse not suitable to travel.
- C. The host institution will organize Conference calls, including the SEC Championship Administrator, during the first two weeks of February for the coaches to discuss, edit, and vote for patterns to be used in the Championship. This process will be completed no later than Feb. 15.
- D. It should be noted that changes to this list may need to occur due to the complexities of the horses' soundness and suitability. Therefore it is suggested to have an alternate horse designated for each event at each school in case one of the three is unable to travel.

**Placement in Brackets.** Horses used in the meet brackets will not be from either of the competing teams. (i.e.: if team A rides against team B then they will ride team C and D's horses).

**Draw.** First-round placement of competing teams into brackets based on seeding will be done by draw at the pre-championship meeting the day preceding the championship. A draw will also occur to determine which team will be placed on left/right side of bracket. Horse order of go will be determined prior to draw (all horses in alphabetical order) and rider order of go will be determined by the horses drawn.

**Inclement Weather.** In the event of severe inclement weather, the meet may be called by the steward after consulting with the Championship Director and the Conference liaison. If the meet is unable to continue, it will be considered complete if 75 percent of the meet schedule has been completed. If 75 percent cannot be completed, no SEC Champion will be named.

#### **Officials.**

**Judges/Stewards.** Once the list of judges for the NCEA National Championship has been released, the host institution will begin working with the remaining SEC coaches to nominate, vote and approve the necessary officials for the following SEC Championship. The host will be responsible for executing and paying the contract with the officials and will pay fees plus travel expenses, meals and lodging.

**Scribes.** The host institution will provide four scribes who have no affiliation with any of the competing teams and who are not student-athletes. None of the competing teams will have a scribe sit with a judge. The scribes cannot have contact with coaches, student-athletes or other team members from the time they meet the judges until the meet is complete.

**Fees.** The host institution will issue the following payment for officials and scribes:

Judges (4 – two per discipline)	\$550 fee/day of meet
Stewards (2 – one per discipline)	\$300 fee/day of meet
Scribe (4 – one for each judge)	\$150 fee/day of meet

**Patterns, Tests and Courses.** The host institution will organize the nomination, editing, and voting on all SEC patterns and tests using the following guidelines

Each institution will submit to the host institution a horsemanship pattern, flat test and reining pattern suggestion by Jan. 31.

The host institution will submit four fence courses to the member institutions for consideration.

The host institution will distribute all nominated patterns, tests and courses to the member institutions for consideration by Feb. 5. The host institution will organize conference calls, including the SEC representative, on Feb. 15 for the coaches to discuss, edit, and vote for patterns to be used in the Championship. This process will be completed no later than Feb. 15.

**Practices.** The host institution shall make its facility available for practices the day prior to competition. The host institution, in conjunction with the Conference's head coaches, shall determine an appropriate pre-championship practice schedule.

**Pre-Championship Paperwork.** The host institution shall provide the pre-meet paperwork to all officials and SEC institutions utilizing the NCEA post season timelines as listed in NCEA 5.3.1.2.

**Schedule.** The meet schedule for the SEC Equestrian Championship will be determined by the host institution with approval from the Conference head coaches and the Conference office.

**Seeding.** Each team will be seeded based on its Conference regular-season winning percentage. In case of a tie, the results of the two teams involved in the tie will be utilized under the following methods:

1. Head-to-Head Result
2. Point Spread Between Tied Teams – Team Points
3. Point Spread Between Tied Teams – Raw Score (Western equivalency)

**Squad Size.** The SEC Championship squad size is 28 student-athletes (20 competitors and eight non-competing alternates), but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Equestrian Championship. Non-participating student-athletes are permitted to access the competition area for schooling and caretaking of horses only. Changes are not permitted during the championship once the 28 student-athletes have been

designated.

**Tickets.** The host institution may decide whether or not to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, the ticket prices will be set by the host institution, but must be approved by the Conference office. In addition, if admission is charged, the host institution shall make prior contact with each participating school to determine the form of payment and staffing for the player/guest gate. Institutions are not required to purchase a set amount of tickets.

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for football: Sport Administrator – William King; Championship Game/Game Management – Mark Womack; Communications – Herb Vincent/Chuck Dunlap/Ben Beaty; Officiating – Steve Shaw/Grace Sanders/Cole Cunningham; Scheduling/Television – Mark Womack.

## REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

**Access to Spectator Areas.** Visiting team participants (who are part of the travel squad size limit) may not access the stands or any spectator area at any time. Home team participants may access the stands or a spectator area at the home institution's discretion.

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5 c and d]

**Penalties for Violations -** Violations of SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5 c and/or d shall be evaluated following the season for the imposition of fines as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> offense: an institutional fine of \$5,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: an institutional fine of up to \$25,000; 3<sup>rd</sup> or subsequent offense: an institutional fine of up to \$50,000.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
3. **Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
4. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
5. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
6. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
7. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Players of the Week.** The Conference office staff will select an offensive, defensive, offensive lineman, defensive lineman, and special teams "player-of-the-week" from nominations submitted by the sports information directors.
9. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Bag Policy.** Institutions shall adhere to the following bag policy for all home regular season contests (conference and nonconference). This policy pertains only to bags and does not include other items that may be prohibited based upon institutional policy. [Adopted 12/13/16]

### Permitted Bags.

1. Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC and do not exceed 12" x 6" X 12".
2. One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags.
3. Small clutch bags, with or without a handle or strap, that do not exceed 4.5" x 6.5".
4. Bags that contain necessary medical items, which must be inspected and approved at a designated gate.

**Prohibited Bags.** Prohibited bags include, but are not limited to: backpacks, cinch bags, or fanny packs that are not clear and/or exceed the size restriction, purses larger than a clutch bag, briefcases, luggage, computer bags/cases, camera bags/cases, binocular bags/cases, or any bag larger than the permissible size.

**Bands.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5d] The following guidelines will apply to Conference games:

1. Marching bands should exit the field toward the end zones or outside the team areas. Under no circumstances may marching bands exit the field into the visiting bench area.
2. The home band must be located on the opposite side of the field from the visiting team bench; or if located on the same side as the visiting team bench, the band must be seated from the 30-yard line toward the goal

line. Any band seats located toward midfield from the 30-yard line may be no closer than 25 rows from the field.

3. Bands, and any component thereof (e.g. drums), shall not play from the time the offensive center puts a hand on the football until the football has been snapped. *[Revised: 6/1/18]*
4. It is the responsibility of the visiting band director to notify the host institution's event management director no later than 30 days prior to a game that the visiting band will be attending. This will allow the host institution to make the necessary arrangements for security, parking and access.
5. Visiting team marching bands shall arrive at the stadium no later than one hour prior to kick-off. This does not apply to smaller pep bands of 50 members or less.
6. Amplification of the home team band is permitted during times the band is allowed to play.
7. In the event both marching bands perform at halftime, each band shall have up to six minutes to perform. *[Revised: 12/13/16]*
8. In order for the visiting team marching band to perform at half-time, the visiting team must request permission from the host institution's Athletics Director by April 1. If the host institution's Athletics Director does not grant permission, the visiting team marching band may not perform at half-time. *[Revised: 12/13/16]*
9. In the event of inclement weather, the decision on whether to permit marching bands on the field shall be at the sole discretion of home team game management personnel.
10. Band members (as well as instruments and equipment) shall not occupy the area between the 45-yard lines after the three-minute mark on the pre-game clock. Also, during this time, "tunnels" may not be formed that cause team members to enter the field in this area.
11. The visiting institution's band shall be limited to the playing of two songs (i.e., fight song, alma mater) following the conclusion of a game.
12. If a band does not comply with these regulations, the Athletics Director of the involved institution shall be asked to rectify the situation. Failure to comply with the regulations fully may also subject that institution to financial penalties, as prescribed by the Commissioner.

**Bench Passes.** A maximum of 50 bench passes will be issued to the home team and a maximum of 60 bench passes will be issued to the visiting team by the home sports information director or game management director. Every person in the bench area, except the players in uniform and the 10 full-time coaches of the home team, must wear a bench pass, including all trainers, managers, team doctors, graduate assistant coaches, undergraduate coaches, and strength coaches, etc. It is recommended that all persons with bench passes have some type of game-related responsibilities. Home team security personnel shall be charged with the responsibility for keeping individuals with bench passes within the confines of the bench area. Those with bench passes are NOT permitted in other areas on the sidelines.

Ball crew members, telephone equipment repair representatives, medical emergency personnel and other persons with game management responsibilities are considered to be game personnel and should be given working passes.

**Bench Restrictions.** The area immediately behind each team bench shall be designated a "non-media" area. At no time may media representatives capture video, audio or still pictures from behind the bench area. The bench area is defined by each institution's facility guidelines and the required guidelines in the NCAA rule book. Non-working personnel inside the team bench area should be at least 10 years old. Any working personnel outside the team bench area should be at least 16 years old.

**Camp Compensation.** Each institution shall submit to the Conference office, by May 15 of each year, the job title, responsibilities, expected compensation rate, expected dates and hours of employment, expected total compensation, source of compensation, and form of compensation for each football student-athlete (and prospective student-athlete) who will be employed at institutional football camps during the upcoming summer along with an explanation of how such compensation meets NCAA requirements.

Each institution shall also submit to the Conference office, by August 15 of each year, the job title, responsibilities, actual compensation rate, actual dates and hours of employment, actual total compensation, source of compensation, and form of compensation for each football student-athlete (and prospective student-athlete) employed at institutional football camps during that previous summer along with an explanation of how such rate meets NCAA requirements.

Each institution must also provide to the Conference office all sources of camp funding (other than camp registration fees) along with the total amount of camp funding derived from a source other than camp registration fees. The

Athletics Directors shall review such reports annually.

**Cheerleaders.** The following guidelines will apply:

1. The Athletics Director of the home stadium shall designate an official representative who shall be responsible for and monitor use of megaphones, microphones, and amplified sound systems, and ensure that all cheerleaders at that home stadium comply with the Conference guidelines.
2. It is the responsibility of the visiting cheerleader coach to notify the host institution's event management director no later than 10 days prior to a game that the visiting institution's cheerleaders will be attending. This will allow the host institution to make the necessary arrangements for security, parking, and access.
3. Once a game begins, cheerleaders and mascots shall be restricted to designated sideline areas between the bench boundary and the end line, as well as behind the respective end zone to the goal post, and behind the photographer zone. The home team shall inform each squad of the respective areas. At no time may cheerleaders or mascots enter the playing field (defined as any area beyond the 6-foot limit lines surrounding the playing field) while the game is in progress.
4. Home team mascots are permitted to enter the seating areas where home team fans are located but shall not enter any visiting team area. At no time may the home team mascot enter the visiting team cheerleader/mascot area while the game is in progress. Any type of physical contact is strictly prohibited between the two opposing teams' cheerleaders and/or mascots. "Skits" are permitted during pre-game and halftime as long as there is no actual contact of any nature between the two.
5. The use of amplifiers, microphones, and megaphones shall be restricted to the cheerleaders and shall not be used from the time the offensive center puts a hand on the football until the football has been snapped. *[Revised: 6/1/18]*
6. Megaphones and speakers used with microphones and amplifiers shall be directed at the student-section stands only and never toward the playing field, the benches or toward any players, coaches or game officials.
7. The main stadium public address system shall be used by cheerleaders only during pre-game, halftime and post-game when neither team is on the field (warm-up or competition).
8. Cheerleaders' amplified sound systems shall be used only at home games or neutral sites. Amplified sound systems shall have no more than four speakers and shall be mounted or situated to insure that the system does not interfere with the view of the crowd.
9. A mic-person and/or cheerleader shall never express disagreement with an official's call over any amplified sound system, microphone or megaphone. Guidelines for the mike-person shall be:
  - A. Comments and/or chants or cheers shall never be directed toward the opposing team, players, coaches, fans or game officials;
  - B. Comments and/or chants or cheers should be positive, enthusiastic and supportive of the home team. Vulgar, obscene and offensive language shall not be used; and
  - C. Comments should be kept to a minimum; the purpose of the mike-person is to lead the crowd in chants and cheers, not to provide commentary for the fans.

Failure to comply with these guidelines shall result in the following action: Complaints shall be directed to the Athletics Director's officially designated representative who is authorized to take the following action:

1. If the violation is obvious, the enforcement official shall, depending on the seriousness of the offense, take any of the following actions: issue a warning, place the squad on probation, have the sound system disconnected, have microphones or megaphones taken away for the remainder of that game and/or any number of future games. If the squad is given a warning or placed on probation, any second violation shall result in revocation of the use of any amplified sound system or microphone or megaphone for the rest of the season.
2. If the alleged violation is not obvious, the enforcement official shall immediately review the alleged violation with the cheer coach and/or the squad captain(s) and any other persons as necessary. If there is sufficient doubt of the violation the official shall issue a warning. If the official determines that there has been a violation he/she may take the action outlined in No. 1 above.

Violations at either of the last two home games shall result in punishment or corrective action being taken during the next football season.

**Clinics.** SEC football coaching, strength and conditioning, and administrative staffs may not conduct, attend, or be

involved in any way with football coaching clinics off their institution's campus, except: *[Revised: 6/3/16]*

1. Countable coaches may speak at or attend coaching clinics conducted off their institution's campus only when there are no prospective student-athletes enrolled in or attending the clinic and the clinic is not conducted at a prospective student-athlete's educational institution.
2. Strength and conditioning and administrative staff may speak at a coaching clinic within the state in which the institution is located provided there are no prospective student-athletes enrolled in or attending the clinic and the clinic is not conducted at a prospective student-athlete's educational institution.
3. On-field graduate assistant coaches may speak at or attend one off-campus coaching clinic per year only when there are no prospective student-athletes enrolled in or attending the clinic and the clinic is not conducted at a prospective student-athlete's educational institution.
4. Fellowship of Christian Athletes coaching clinics are exempt from this regulation.

**Coaches Meeting [SEC Bylaw 21.8]** Each head coach shall attend the annual coaches meeting held in conjunction with the Conference Spring Meetings and the February coaches meeting held at the SEC office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with South Carolina serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Tennessee (2019-20) and Texas A&M (2020-21). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. An individual must have attended two annual coaches meetings and coached one full season before serving as chair.

**Conference Championship. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]** The Conference champion will be determined by a game between the two division champions. The team in each division with the highest percentage of wins during all regular-season Conference competition will be declared division champion. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins, they will be declared division co-champions. Division standings will be calculated on a percentage basis, using only those Conference games which are a part of the regular rotating schedule. Only those teams which have played and completed all eight scheduled Conference contests shall be eligible for a division championship. Details on all tie-breaking procedures are outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations. The site of the championship game shall be set by a vote of the Conference member institutions. *[Revised: 5/3/17]*

If the championship game is cancelled (due to act of God, war, terrorist attack, or other reason beyond the control of the Conference), the two divisional champions (utilizing any divisional tie-breakers as outlined) shall be declared co-champions and the following procedures will be used to determine the Conference representative to the Sugar Bowl or, if the Sugar Bowl is the College Football Playoff (CFP) semi-final game, the relevant CFP access bowl:

1. A team ranked either No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, or No. 4 in the final CFP Selection Committee Rankings will automatically be placed in the CFP semi-final game;
2. The team ranked highest in the final CFP Selection Committee Rankings will be the Conference representative to the Sugar Bowl or, if the Sugar Bowl is a CFP semi-final game, the relevant CFP access bowl.

**Communications.** If either team loses TOTAL communication from the bench to press box, it should notify the Referee, who will take an officials timeout. The Referee will inform both teams that they must completely remove their headsets until the failure is repaired, and both teams must completely remove their headsets at that time. When the team that initially lost all communications believes that their system is repaired, they will again notify the Referee who will inform both teams that they may resume using their headsets. Both teams may resume using their headsets at that time. For the avoidance of doubt, a single headset failure does not constitute a system failure.

**Debris Thrown on Field.** Each member institution shall have a "zero tolerance" policy toward fans throwing items onto the playing field and shall eject violators from the stadium.

**Facility Requirements.** Each institution shall ensure that its home competition facility meets the following requirements: *[Adopted: 8/7/18 effective 8/1/19]*

1. **110 Minute Meeting Location.**
  - A. An institution shall provide a location, preferably indoors, that is free of noise and distractions for the 110 Minute Meeting.
  - B. An institution shall provide ample security that prevents general public access and ensures appropriate staff member access to the 110 Minute Meeting.
2. **Coaches Locker Room.**

- A. An institution shall provide operable heating and air conditioning in any coaches locker rooms.
  - B. An institution shall provide separate room/space for coaches inside or connected to the team locker room that accommodates a minimum of eleven (11) coaches.
3. **Game Officials Locker Room.**
- A. An institution shall provide operable heating and air conditioning in the game officials locker room.
  - B. An institution should provide a separate location/area for the chain crew. If the chain crew must occupy the same space, the chain crew must be able to depart the game officials locker room upon request of the referee to allow discussion to occur amongst the game officials.
4. **Medical and X-Ray.**
- A. An institution shall provide the ability to conduct an x-ray of a student-athlete in a private area at the stadium. A student-athlete and supporting medical staff shall not be required to walk through an opponent's locker room to access the designated x-ray location.
  - B. An institution must ensure that an ambulance and field level EMTs and/or paramedics are on-site on game days.
  - C. An institution shall have a designated hospital for medical treatment/examination that is identified prior to the first game of the season. More than one hospital may be designated if different hospitals are equipped to handle different types of injuries, in which case the institution must clearly designate and include in its emergency plan which hospital shall be used for a specific type of injury.
  - D. A home institution shall secure transportation back to the stadium or airport for a visiting student-athlete(s) following treatment at a local hospital if the visiting team's medical staff grants approval for the student-athlete to re-join the team on game day prior to the team's departure.
5. **Playing Surface.** For stadiums with artificial turf, an institution shall test/examine the turf a minimum of twice annually to ensure it is within the safe range in all aspects. The turf should be tested no later than a month prior to the season and once during the mid-point of the football season.
6. **Press Box Booths.**
- A. *Replay and Medical Observer Booth* – An institution shall ensure that replay officials and medical observers are able to view the entire field. The Replay and Medical observer Booth must have a sideline view and be located on the same side of the stadium as the network television booth.
  - B. *Coaches Booths* – An institution shall ensure the visiting team's booth is able to accommodate the same number of people and have the same number of headset connections as the home team's booth.
  - C. Institutions shall provide golf cart transportation to the visiting team coaches if necessary to allow for unimpeded access to the coaches booth and/or elevator, stairwell, path, etc. that leads to the booth.
  - D. Institutions shall ensure that elevators are held for coaches to be transported to/from the press box prior to kickoff, halftime and postgame.
7. **Sideline Power.**
- A. An institution must supply the same amount of power to the visiting team's sideline that exists on the home team's sideline.
  - B. An institution must provide power on both sidelines that allows for cooling benches, as well as ample power on each sideline for other standard equipment utilized by teams.
  - C. An institution must provide power that allows for equipment to heat the team area on both sidelines.
8. **Visiting Team Equipment Truck Parking.** A visiting team's equipment truck shall be permitted to remain in the same location that it parks for unloading unless this location presents a safety/security concern.
9. **Visiting Team Interview/Press Conference Room.**
- A. An institution shall provide a location, preferably indoors, that is free of noise and distractions for the visiting team to conduct interviews/press conferences.
  - B. An institution shall provide ample security that prevents general public access and ensures appropriate staff member access to the visiting team interviews and press conferences.
  - C. A designated room/space for visiting team interviews/press conferences may be used for other purposes during the game if it does not delay or impede the postgame interview/press conference.
10. **Visiting Team Locker Room.**
- A. An institution shall provide operable heating and air conditioning in the visiting team locker room.
  - B. An institution shall provide ample security that prevents general public access and ensures appropriate staff member access to the visiting team locker room.
  - C. An institution shall provide a minimum of eight (8) showers in the visiting team locker room. A minimum of ten (10) showers in the visiting team locker room should be considered in future stadium

construction or renovations.

- D. An institution shall provide lockers to accommodate a minimum of seventy (70) student-athletes in the visiting team locker room. An acceptable alternative to lockers is seating and shelving for a minimum of seventy student-athletes that allows helmets and shoulder pads to be hung or stored and not placed on the floor.

11. **Visiting Team Security.** An institution shall ensure that once the visiting team arrives to the stadium, a security screening process shall not delay their entry. If security screening is required, the visiting team shall be provided the option for screening to occur at its team hotel prior to departure to the stadium.

**Field Markings and Equipment.** The Athletics Director must assign a person who is responsible for the following:

1. Checking to make sure the field is properly marked;
2. Making sure there are down markers and chains, and an auxiliary down marker (without numbers) on the press-box side of the field;
3. Making sure there are two red (or orange) line-to-gain ground markers ready; and
4. Making sure the play clocks are elevated above field level and clearly visible from the field and benches at all times.

**Game Clock.** The game clock shall be controlled by the standby official on the field. In consultation with the originating television network and/or home game management, the standby official shall start the scoreboard clock 90 minutes prior to kickoff.

The starting of the 20-minute halftime clock shall be the responsibility of the referee.

**Game Management.**

1. The host institution's Athletics Director will serve as the game management director or appoint an individual knowledgeable in game management and crowd control to supervise and plan for all games. It is a Conference requirement that the game management director attend the 110-minute meeting, visit briefly with the game officials and the visiting coach prior to the game (each and every game), and inform them of his/her availability if they need to be contacted during the game. The game management director is responsible for the control of the entire operation of the stadium. This individual should provide supervision prior to and during each contest, and continue supervision until at least 30 minutes after the game or until all groups have dispersed. The game management director is responsible for the following:
  - A. Determining who is given permission to be on the sideline (unauthorized persons shall be removed);
  - B. Controlling handout literature and eliminating objectionable banners; and
  - C. Instructing local police to divert heavy traffic away from the game site so that spectators are able to leave in a timely manner.
2. The host institution shall hold a game management meeting approximately one hour and 50 minutes prior to kick-off of each contest in a private location determined by the host institution (the "110-minute meeting").
3. The host institution shall provide a staff person to be assigned to the visiting team and available near the visiting team bench and locker room area for the duration of the visiting team's stay on site.
4. Additional guidelines related to the game management of regular season football contests are set forth in the SEC Game Management Manual.

**Interrupted Game Procedures.** All personnel, including Athletics Directors, game management personnel, game officials, coaches, players, and Conference office staff, shall use their best effort to ensure each Conference contest is played to its conclusion. The Conference recognizes, however, emergencies may arise that make a contest's completion impossible or inadvisable. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, severe inclement weather, natural or man-made disasters, power failures and spectator interference.

Contests should be delayed, relocated, suspended, canceled, postponed or terminated (see definitions below) when circumstances exist such that commencement or continuation of play would pose a threat to the safety of game participants. [Revised: 6/3/16]

1. **Definitions.**
  - A. **Delay** - To delay a contest is to delay the start of a contest until a later time on the same date.
  - B. **Relocate** - To relocate a contest is to change the location of the competition.
  - C. **Suspend** - To suspend a contest is to temporarily halt play for a short duration after the contest begins.

- D. **Cancel** - To cancel a contest is to nullify it either before or after it begins and to make no provision for rescheduling it or for including its score or other performance statistics in Conference records.
- E. **Postpone** - To postpone a contest is to (a) defer its starting time to a later date, or to (b) suspend it after play has begun and make provision to resume it at a later date with all scores and other performance statistics up to the point of postponement added to those achieved in the resumed portion of the contest.
- F. **Terminate** - To terminate a contest is to end it short of a full-designated duration of play, officially record it as a completed contest, and make no provision to resume it at a later date.
2. **Authority.** Authority to delay or relocate a contest is vested with the home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator. Authority to suspend a contest is vested with the officials. Authority to cancel, postpone, or terminate a contest is vested *only* with the Commissioner or his/her designee.
3. **Guidelines.**
- A. Prior to the Contest.**
1. If extenuating circumstances occur that necessitate a contest be moved to an earlier start time, an earlier start date, and/or relocated within the same city, the two participating institutions shall determine the date, time, and location of the contest, subject to the approval of the Commissioner. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit. *[Adopted: 12/13/16]*
  2. If a contest is postponed prior to its start for any reason, the contest shall be rescheduled for the following day (e.g. a Saturday game shall be rescheduled for Sunday) unless circumstances prevent the contest from safely being played, in which case the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit. *[Adopted: 12/13/16]*
  3. Prior to 60 minutes before scheduled kick-off, the home institution's Director of Athletics or designated senior level administrator shall have the authority to determine whether a contest should temporarily be delayed until a later time on the same date. *[Revised: 12/13/16]*
  4. At 60 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off, the decision to suspend play shall become the responsibility of the game officials.
- B. Once the Contest Has Begun.**
- If a contest is suspended after play has begun:
1. The referee shall immediately stop the game and inform both coaches that the game is being suspended at the point of interruption.
  2. The referee shall inform the home team, and the umpire shall inform the visiting team, that ALL team personnel are required to go immediately to their respective dressing rooms. This includes players, coaches, trainers, managers, cheerleaders, mascots, bands and any other persons who are the responsibility of these particular institutions.
  3. Play may only be resumed when conditions are deemed safe by the officials in consultation with the home team game management personnel (e.g. tornado warning has been lifted or lightning has abated in accordance with SEC Lightning Policy).
  4. A suspended game shall not be resumed if it is determined by the head referee in collaboration with the Commissioner or his/her designee that the game would not be able to reasonably be completed by 1:30 a.m. local time. The Commissioner shall have the sole authority to extend the 1:30 a.m. deadline.
  5. If a contest is unable to be resumed, the contest shall be resumed the following day (e.g. a Saturday games shall be rescheduled for Sunday) unless circumstances prevent the contest from safely being played, in which case the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to either direct the contest to be played on a particular date and/or relocate the contest as necessary. A team's refusal

to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.  
[Revised: 12/13/16]

In the event a contest is delayed or suspended and it does not appear play will be resumed on that date, the Athletics Directors (or designated representatives) of both participating institutions, game management personnel and the Conference office representative (if available) shall meet with the game officials in the officials' dressing room, or another suitable location nearby. The Conference office representative shall communicate with the Commissioner, who has the sole authority to declare a game canceled, postponed or terminated. If the Conference office representative is not on site, the home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator shall contact the appropriate Conference staff liaison. The home team game management, in consultation with the Conference office representative, is responsible for disseminating information regarding such a decision to the teams, media and general public.

**Lightning Policy.** Each member institution shall be responsible for having the capability of determining when lightning strikes are within specified distances of the competition site for all outdoor events.

When lightning is detected within a minimum of 10 miles of the competition site, home team management shall utilize the public address system to inform those in attendance that inclement weather including lightning is within 10 (or more) miles and that should patrons vacate the facility for safe shelter, they will be allowed to re-enter with a ticket stub.

When lightning is detected within eight (8) miles of the competition site, the competition shall be suspended. Competition may be resumed after 30 minutes of no detected lightning strikes within an eight mile radius. A 10 minute warm-up period may be granted following this 30-minute suspension.

Additionally, the head referee should be notified when lightning is detected within 15 miles of the competition site.

In cases of severe weather being detected prior to the start of competition: A maximum of 10 minutes could be used for the marching band, national anthem and introductions, immediately following the 30 minute time period of no detected lightning strikes. The home institution would have the option of whether or not the 10 minute time period is added.

**Media Days.** Each head coach shall attend the annual SEC Football Media Days in July. Each institution shall also bring three student-athletes.

**Medical Observer.**

1. The Conference shall provide a qualified medical professional to serve as an independent medical observer for all Conference contests and all non-conference contests conducted at a home site (including neutral site facilities where the SEC institution plays an annual contest). Non-conference institutions competing at an SEC home site (including neutral site facilities where the SEC institution plays an annual contest) may agree to utilize the SEC medical observer by executing an SEC medical observer "opt-in" agreement prior to the game.
2. Host institutions shall provide a secure and controlled location for the medical observer within the replay booth to perform his or her duties. In addition, host institutions shall provide a high-definition television with access to the game broadcast, headphones with access to game broadcast audio, a DVR, and a telephone with the ability to communicate with the medical staff of both teams. Institutional medical observers for non-conference institutions may not utilize the SEC replay booth to perform his or her duties. However, an SEC host institution may, at its discretion, provide another location for the non-conference institutional observer to perform his or her duties.
3. In the event the medical observer has clear visual evidence (1) that a player displays obvious signs of disorientation or is clearly unstable due to head or neck injury, and (2) it becomes apparent that the player will remain in the game and not be attended to by the team's medical or athletic training staff, then the medical observer shall take the following steps:
  - A. If the player does not receive medical attention, alert the replay officials immediately and identify the player by his team and jersey number.
  - B. Contact the medical staff of the player involved and advise that the player appears to be in need of medical attention and the basis for the stoppage.
4. Upon being notified by the medical observer, the replay official shall immediately contact the Referee over the wireless crew communication system and identify the player by his team and jersey number. The Referee

or any other official shall immediately stop the game while the ball is dead, go to the player in question, and follow all procedures as outlined in Rule 3 of the NCAA playing rules concerning players and Injury Timeouts, including clock management. However, if play is stopped due to the medical observer process with less than one minute in the half, then Article 5.f of NCAA Rule 3-3 (10 second runoff provision) will not apply.

The wing official will notify the Head Coach of the reason for the Injury Timeout, and the Referee will make the following announcement: "Time Out ... Medical Stop." The Referee shall not announce or identify the player who is being removed from the game.

5. Once removed from the field, the team medical staff shall conduct an evaluation of the player. The return to play decision will be made by the institution's medical staff consistent with the institution's protocols and Rule 3-3-5 of the NCAA playing rules concerning injury timeouts.
6. A team may not deliberately initiate these procedures (1) to stop play unnecessarily, (2) to prolong or delay the medical stoppage, (3) to improperly take advantage of a stoppage in play, or (4) to influence the actions of the medical observer.

**National Anthem.** For Conference games, the home institution shall notify the visiting team no later than five days prior to the game regarding its National Anthem procedures.

**Official and Unofficial Visit Activities.** An institution may not permit a prospective student-athlete to wear an institutionally-provided uniform (or portion of a uniform) on to any practice or competition surface during an official or unofficial visit. [Revised: 3/7/18]

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaws 10.5 and 30.20.1] The Conference office will assign officials. No coach, trainer, player or member of the team's official party shall talk to game officials prior to, during or after a game concerning any matter related to the game, except for discussions related to NCAA rules. There shall be no communication of any sort between the coaches and officials at halftime. Under no circumstances shall a coach enter the officials' locker room. If a prolonged conversation is required, both coaches should be present. All violations of this policy are to be reported by the coaches or game officials to the SEC office the day following the incident.

Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is absolutely prohibited. Comments on officiating are to be directed only to the Conference office. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning student-athletes, coaches or officials, shall be directed only to the Conference office. Public comments related to officiating by officials, coaches or institutional personnel are prohibited.

Films or videotapes shall not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating (e.g., the use of game films to produce clips for television or newspapers depicting officiating calls). No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches' radio and/or television shows.

Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone, and all matters pertaining to officials or officiating will be directed to the SEC office only. Likewise, this policy will preclude officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.

Sports information directors and coaches will make no reference to officiating in institutional press releases. The list of officials assigned to a game should not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of the pre-game information packets before a game. Additionally, no hometowns, phone numbers, etc. should be listed in these packets. The names of the officials shall not be announced during pre-game public address introductions.

It is the responsibility of home team game management to confirm game times and other information on the SEC officiating website (Contact the SEC office for additional information.).

Game officials are responsible for officiating the contest and enforcing the game rules. They are not charged with crowd control or game management responsibility; however, they do have the authority to halt a game if crowd control problems arise.

The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at Conference games:

1. Security escorts for officials should be provided as follows:
  - A. A person at each institution should be in contact with the umpire the week of the game to finalize game day travel. A van with police escorts should pick up the officials at the hotel no later than 2 hours prior to kickoff. Only approved personnel are permitted to accompany the officials to and from the stadium.

- Officers should escort officials to the dressing room, to and from the field, and back to the van after the game. Police escorts will escort the officials' van back to the hotel immediately following the game.
- B. A dressing room key should be either given to one of the officials, or a person designated by the game management director. The designated person must lock the dressing room while the officials are officiating and must be waiting at the dressing room door when the officials return at halftime and at the end of the game. The officials must have immediate access to their dressing room at halftime and at the conclusion of the game.
  - C. If the officials must walk through public concourses or areas to reach the team locker rooms before the game and/or at the halftime, they must be escorted by security personnel.
2. The officials' dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as described in the SEC Game Management Manual:
  3. If an official requests the service of a trainer or needs any supplies, the trainer should come to the officials' dressing room to provide the service or deliver the supplies. The official should not go to the training room.
  4. Absolutely no one shall be allowed access to the officials' dressing room without the permission of the Southeastern Conference except (1) the officials assigned to the game, (2) the event manager and (3) Southeastern Conference staff and observers.
  5. The home institution is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and delivery to the referee of the wireless microphone unit as set forth in the SEC Game Management Manual.

*Compensation* – Payment of the game officials will be handled by a third-party service (Dwolla). Each institution will be invoiced for their share of the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials. The fees and travel/expense policies shall be set by the Conference office and athletics directors.

*Tickets* – The crew of officials assigned to each game will receive a total of 20 complimentary tickets (two for each official, alternate official and instant replay official). Seat assignments shall be located on the sideline between the goal lines. The tickets are to be shipped to a designated staff member in the Conference office no later than the first week in August. The Conference office will be responsible for distributing the tickets to the appropriate individuals. Officials will not be permitted to request the purchase of any additional tickets from any institution.

**On-Field Liaisons.** Both the home institution and the visiting institution shall assign full-time staff members to serve as institutional liaisons on the field for issues related to game management. Both liaisons shall remain in the vicinity of the visiting bench and visiting locker room. The visiting institution liaison shall be prepared to address issues related to the visiting team, visiting band and/or visiting cheerleaders. The home team liaison shall remain with the visiting team for the duration of its stay on site.

**Post-Game Procedures.** Under no circumstances may visiting teams return to the field once going to the locker room after a game (e.g. no "curtain calls"). The home institution shall use security personnel, as well as public address announcements and video/matrix announcements, to keep fans from coming onto the field at any time, including after the game.

**Practice (Spring).** All spring practices, including spring games, must be held either: (1) on campus; (2) in a facility regularly used for practice or home competition in the immediate campus community; or (3) in a facility used at least twice during the applicable academic year for regular season home competition. All spring practice games shall be intra-squad games. There shall be no spring practice conducted by an institution after the closing date of its spring semester or quarter.

**Practice (Visiting Team).** The visiting team should have the opportunity to practice at the competition site. The following procedures shall be followed unless extreme circumstances prevent the use of the home team's competition facility:

1. Requests for practice time by the visiting team must be made at least five days prior to the game date;
2. The home team will make its facility available for a minimum of 90 minutes on the day before the game (The home coach will extend himself to accommodate the visiting team in case of emergency.);
3. The visiting team's practice time shall take precedence over the home team's practice time; and
4. In the event of inclement weather on the day before the game, the home team's Athletics Director will make the decision whether to permit the visiting team to practice on the competition field or at an alternate site.

**Pre-Game/Halftime.** The playing field must be available for pre-game warm-up no later than 90 minutes before

kickoff. Kickers shall be allowed to kick at both ends of the field until 65 minutes prior to scheduled kick-off. Pre-game warm-up areas shall adhere to the diagram on Supplement A-1 of this section until 40 minutes prior to kickoff, at which time warm-up areas shall adhere to the diagram on Supplement A-2. The home team shall provide the visiting team with completed diagrams no later than practice the day before the game. In stadiums where the team entrances are on opposite ends of the field, each team shall conduct pre-game warm-ups on the end of the field closest to its entrance. When entering or leaving the field during warm-ups, a team may not enter the designated warm-up area of the opposing team if it is still on the field. [Revised: 7/25/17]

Teams may be requested to leave the field for pre-game activities (e.g., bands, ceremonies, etc.) not to exceed 17 minutes (i.e., at the 20-minute mark on the pre-game clock), except for Senior Day. For Senior Day ceremonies before a team's last regular-season home game, the teams may be requested to leave the field for 22 minutes (25-minute mark on the pre-game clock). All Senior Day activities must take place during this 22-minute period. The field must once again be available for at least three minutes before kickoff of the second half. If both teams are on the field at the time scheduled for the start of the second half and the field is not cleared for play, the home team will be penalized 10 yards on the subsequent free kick. Bands, speeches, presentations, homecoming and similar activities are under the jurisdiction of home game management and a prompt start of each half is mandatory.

Under no circumstances shall a participating player or coach from either team enter the playing field while a band is performing at halftime. A player violating this provision is subject to an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty or subsequent action by the Conference office.

**Public Address Announcer.** The public address announcer must be objective and not emotionally involved. The announcer must be impartial in his announcements and give only necessary information in good taste and acceptable language. The announcer must be in control of what is said over the public address system and permit no one to use the microphone except those authorized by the game management director. The announcer must be aware of the stadium layout so that calm and accurate directions can be given in case of an emergency. The announcer is not to criticize officials or their decisions directly or indirectly. Game officials shall not be introduced.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** Regular-season competition and scheduling are governed by the following:

1. **Schedule Composition.** Each Conference team shall play eight Conference games each year. The schedule will consist of a 6-1-1 format, whereby each institution will play all six of its division opponents, one permanent opponent and one rotating opponent from the other division each year. The permanent non-division opponents will be as follows:
  - Alabama v. Tennessee
  - Arkansas v. Missouri
  - Auburn v. Georgia
  - LSU v. Florida
  - Ole Miss v. Vanderbilt
  - Mississippi State v. Kentucky
  - Texas A&M v. South Carolina

The remaining six non-divisional opponents will be played on a rotating basis. The sites, dates, and rotation of the eight-game schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference. Any conflicts that result in this schedule that cannot be resolved by the institutions involved will be submitted to the SEC Presidents and Chancellors for final resolution.

2. **Relocating a Conference Contest.** There must be mutual agreement between the athletics directors of the two-participating institution's and approval from the Commissioner prior to the relocation of a regularly scheduled Conference football contest from an institution's regular home campus playing facility to a playing facility outside of the home state of the host institution.

It shall be the sole decision of the home institution to relocate a regularly scheduled Conference football contest from an institution's regular home campus playing facility to another playing facility within the state of the home institution. The home team shall notify the visiting team of the change in location no later than December 31 of the prior year, or if after such date, mutual agreement must occur.

This regulation does not apply to games relocated under the Commissioner's authority under the interrupted game procedures. [Adopted: 5/1/18]

3. **Non-Conference Scheduling.** Each Conference team shall also play at least one additional game each year

against an opponent from either the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big 10 Conference, Big 12 Conference, Pac-12 Conference, or Division I FBS Independents (Army, BYU, or Notre Dame).

4. **Freshman and Junior-Varsity Football.** Freshman or junior-varsity football teams of the Conference shall be allowed to play only five games in any regular season except intramural games. No freshman or junior-varsity games shall be played prior to the first varsity game. All freshman or junior-varsity games shall be played on the home campus of one of the competing institutions, with the exception that any two Conference teams may schedule their freshman or junior-varsity games in a stadium which is used each year for the varsity game between the two schools. Conference officials shall officiate all Conference games.

**Sideline Power.** The home team must supply the same amount of power to the visiting team's sideline that exists on the home team's sideline. [Adopted: 8/17/16]

**Sportsmanship.** At no time may either team engage in any type of "animated huddle," "dance," or other similar activity on the playing field. Such activities are limited ONLY to the team bench area.

Each institution shall aggressively address the issue of sportsmanship through video spots, PA announcements, radio spots, TV spots and print ads (e.g., in game day programs).

**Student Sections.** The home student section must be located on the opposite side of the field from the visiting team bench; or if located on the same side as the visiting team bench, the student section must be located from the 30-yard line toward the goal line. Any student seats located toward midfield from the 30-yard line may be no closer than 25 rows from the field. It is recommended that the visiting team should not be required to enter/exit the field in close proximity to the home team student section.

#### **Squad Size.**

**Home Team.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 80 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. The non-participating student-athletes shall dress out at no additional cost to the institution. Non-participating student-athletes shall not receive pre-game meals, overnight lodging, or additional game tickets, but may receive a post-game meal provided the post-game meal is served at the stadium. No cash stipend may be provided to non-participating student-athletes for post-game meals away from the stadium.

**Visiting Team.** The visiting team is limited to a travel squad of 70 eligible student-athletes.

**Neutral Site Games.** The squad size limit for neutral site games (no more than one game annually) is 70 eligible student-athletes for both participating teams.

**Junior Varsity Teams.** The squad size for junior varsity teams is 55 eligible student-athletes.

**Teleconference.** Each head coach will participate in the league's teleconference during the football season. The exact time will be determined by mutual agreement between the SEC office and the head coach.

**Television.** [SEC Bylaw 30.21.2]

**Television Timeouts.** Television timeouts may be called during televised contests at intervals designated in the contracts with the television entities.

**Tickets.** There shall be a Letter of Agreement between participating institutions on the number of tickets to be exchanged. The host institution must provide the visiting institution a minimum of 2,000 tickets located in the lower level of the stadium, of which at least 1000 tickets must be within one single block.

**Ticket Re-Entry Policy.** Once admitted to the stadium, no ticket holder shall be permitted to leave and re-enter the facility on that ticket. In the event of inclement weather, home team game management shall have the authority to waive this policy.

**Uniforms.** In accordance with NCAA football rules, the home team shall wear dark jerseys and the visiting team shall wear white jerseys. White jerseys may be worn by the home team when the teams have agreed before the season. (The Athletics Directors have agreed to always grant a home team's request to wear white jerseys, in which case the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys.)

**Video Boards/Replays.** Institutions are not limited in the use of replays (including number of replays shown), except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. The time during which replays may be shown is from the end of a play until the beginning of the next play, except when a stoppage occurs for an official review.

Replays of touchdowns (not stopped for official review) may be shown following the point after attempt up until the ensuing kickoff. Replays may also be shown at a later time during the game as part of a package of highlights during a quarter or halftime break.

In no circumstance will the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-stadium video board.

*Procedure for stoppage for an official review:*

When a stoppage occurs for an official review, the in-stadium video board operator must use the unaltered television network program feed or the unaltered video feed from the replay booth as the exclusive video source for replays of the play under review. No live coverage of any coach, student-athlete, or fan reaction may be shown from the program feed during the review. Replays from the program feed are permitted only between Referee announcements to stop play and to communicate the outcome of the review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-stadium video board during stoppage for an official review. [Revised: 6/3/16]

### **Video Exchange.**

1. **Origination.** The exchange for each game must include intercut SL (Wide – All 22) / EZ (Tight) video. A two-second scoreboard shot must precede each play with the most accurate Time, Down, Distance and Field Position information.

Edits must be broken down into “offense,” “defense” and “special teams”. All 22 players must be in the frame at the snap of the ball on the SL angle. Each play must have any pre-snap motions or shifts on either side of the ball included in the sideline and end zone angles. Special teams must be grouped by phase (KO, Punt, etc.), and all sides of the ball must be in sequential order.

2. **Exchange Rules.** Unlimited video exchange is permitted within the Conference. This unlimited exchange includes the current and previous year (including bowl games). Games must be posted in Dragonfly Storm and made openly available for viewing and downloading to all SEC schools. Games must be posted in a universal HD format. The most recent game video file must be posted at the Video Coordinator’s earliest convenience but no later than the morning of the day following the game.

No video is to be exchanged unless your institution is included in the video. All video requests from a non-conference opponent scheduled to play a host Conference team shall be made directly with the host team. The Conference member is only to share these self-scout videos. Furthermore, no other Conference member shall exchange game video with these non-Conference opponents.

If teams believe violations of the video exchange policies have occurred, it should be reported immediately to the SEC supervisor of officials and not be discussed in the media.

3. **Video to the Conference Office and Officials.** After each home game and after each away game involving a non-Conference opponent, an intercut game copy must be sent to the SEC office using Dragonfly Storm at the Video Coordinator’s earliest convenience, but no later than the morning of the day following the game.

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Committees.** The Commissioner will appoint various committees required to conduct the event.

**Dates and Sites.** The championship game will be played on the first Saturday in December in Atlanta, Georgia as follows.

2018 December 1 (Mercedes Benz Stadium, Atlanta, GA)  
2019 December 7 (Mercedes Benz Stadium, Atlanta, GA)

**Divisional Champions and Tiebreakers.** In the event of a tie for the divisional championship, the following procedures will be used:

1. **Two-Team Tie.** In the event two teams are tied for a division title, the following procedure will be used in the following order:
  - A. Head-to-head competition between the two tied teams;
  - B. Records of the tied teams within the division;
  - C. Head-to-head competition against the team within the division with the best overall (divisional and non-divisional) Conference record, and proceeding through the division (multiple ties within the division will be broken from first to last and a tie for first place will be broken before a tie for fourth place);
  - D. Overall record against non-divisional teams;
  - E. Combined record against all common non-divisional teams;
  - F. Record against the common non-divisional team with the best overall Conference record (divisional or non-divisional) and proceeding through other common non-divisional teams based on their order of finish within their division;
  - G. Best cumulative Conference winning percentage of non-divisional opponents; and  
 Example: 

<u>Tied Teams</u>	<u>Non-Divisional Opponents Cumulative Record</u>
Western 1	Eastern Opponents: 14-2
Western 2	Eastern Opponents: 12-4

 (Western 1 would be the representative)
  - H. Coin flip of the tied teams.
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** If three teams (or more) are tied for a division title, the following procedure will be used in the following order: (Note: If one of the procedures results in one team being eliminated and two remaining, the two-team tiebreaker procedure as stated in No. 1 above will be used):
  - A. Combined head-to-head record among the tied teams;
  - B. Record of the tied teams within the division;
  - C. Head-to-head competition against the team within the division with the best overall Conference record (divisional and non-divisional) and proceeding through the division (multiple ties within the division will be broken from first to last and a tie for first place will be broken before a tie for fourth place);
  - D. Overall Conference record against non-divisional teams;
  - E. Combined record against all common non-divisional teams;
  - F. Record against the common non-divisional team with the best overall Conference record (divisional and non-divisional) and proceeding through other common non-divisional teams based on their order of finish within their division; and
  - G. Best cumulative Conference winning percentage of non-divisional opponents (Note: If two teams' non-divisional opponents have the same cumulative record, then the two-team tiebreaker procedures apply. If four teams are tied, and three teams' non-divisional opponents have the same cumulative record, the three-team tiebreaker procedures will be used beginning with 2.A.);  
 Example: 

<u>Tied Teams</u>	<u>Non-Divisional Opponents Cumulative Record</u>
Western 1	Eastern Opponents: 14-2
Western 2	Eastern Opponents: 12-4
Western 3	Eastern Opponents: 8-8

 (Western 1 would be the representative)
  - H. Coin flip of the tied teams with the team with the odd result being the representative (Example: If there are two teams with tails and one team with heads, the team with heads is the representative).

**Extra Periods.** The NCAA tiebreaker system will be used if it is necessary to break a tie in the championship game.

**Format.** The winner of the championship game between the two division champions will earn the Southeastern Conference automatic berth in the Sugar Bowl or the relevant CFP access bowl (if the Sugar Bowl is designated as a CFP semifinal game), unless such team is selected to participate in a CFP semi-final game.

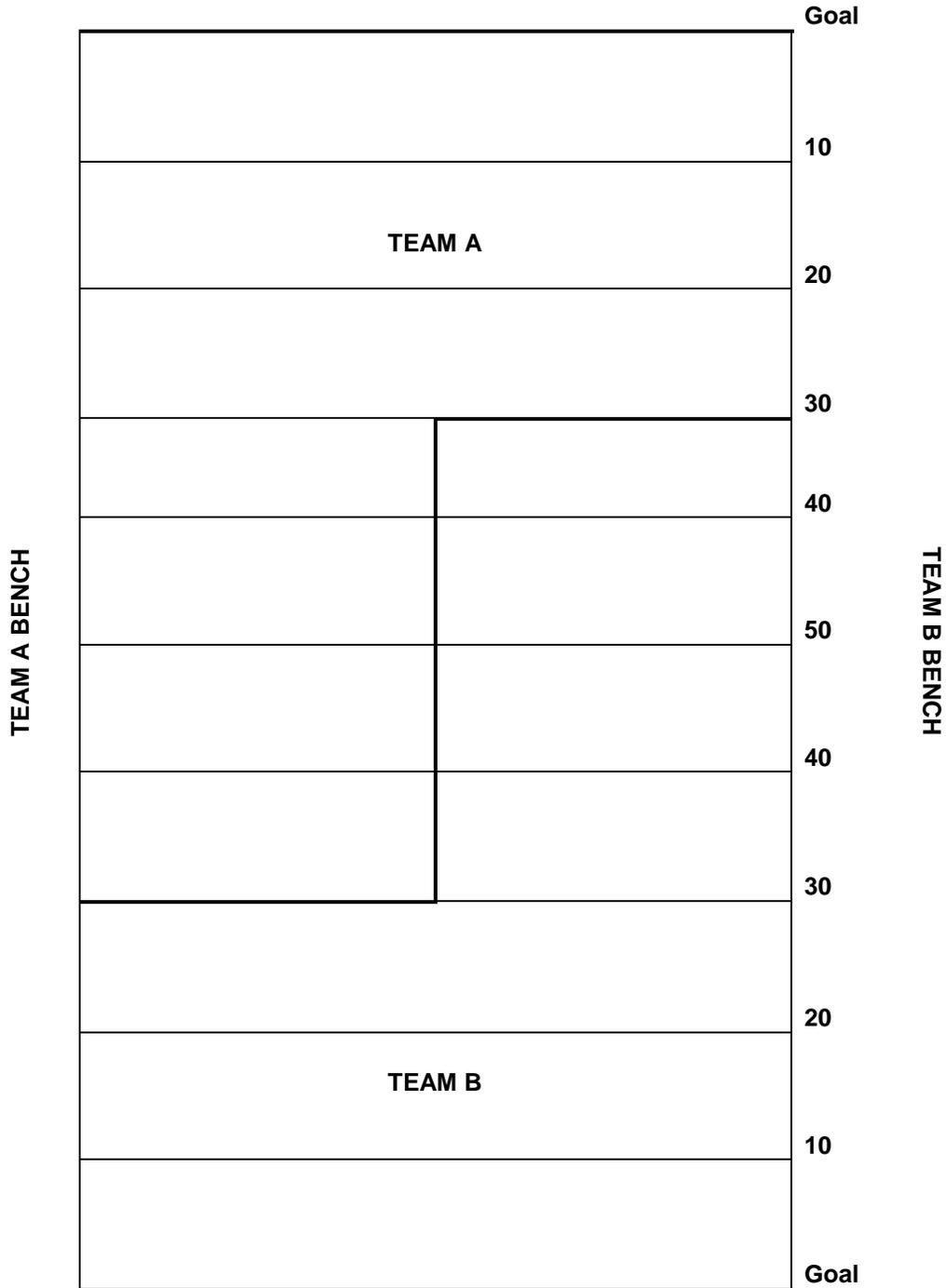
**Squad Size.** The maximum number of players in uniform and for whom the institution may pay travel costs is 85.

**Tickets.** The Conference office is responsible for the ticket plan, the design and printing of the tickets as well as the marketing of the tickets. Each participating institution will be allocated 16,300 tickets.

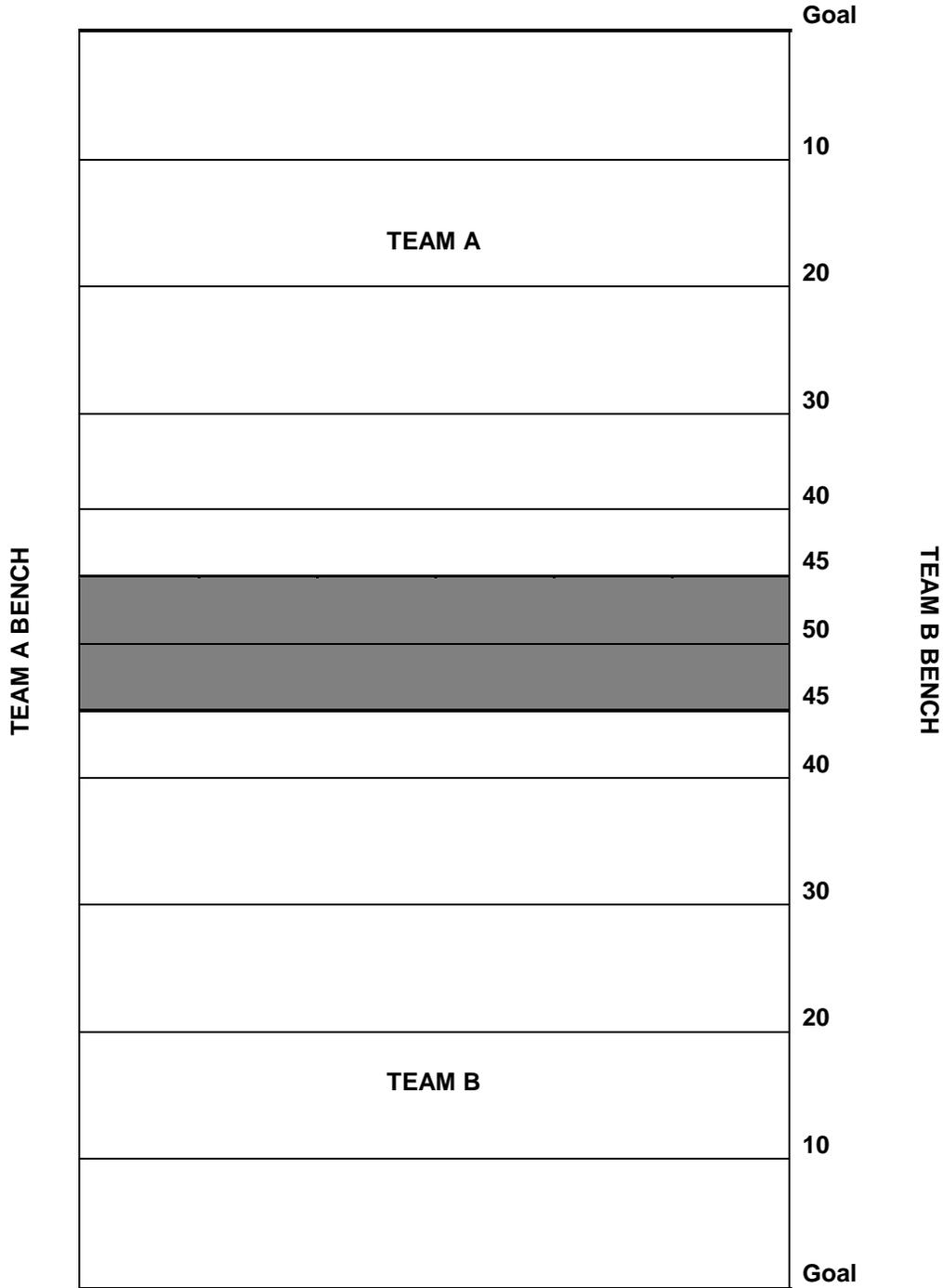
**Team Expenses/Revenue Sharing.** All revenue remaining from the championship game after expenses of planning and conducting the event have been deducted shall be divided as follows:

1. Each participating institution shall be reimbursed for the actual cost of transporting an official party of 150 (including student-athletes, coaches, administrators, cheerleaders, 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 and local transportation. Each participating institution will be financially responsible for payment of rooms for two nights (160 on Friday and 70 on Saturday) at the designated team headquarters hotel;
2. Each participating institution shall receive a band 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 120 rooms for two nights at its designated band hotel;
3. 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
4. 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.

**PREGAME WARM-UP AREA  
(Prior to 40 minutes before kickoff)**



**PREGAME WARM-UP AREA  
(Within 40 minutes before kickoff)**



**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for men's golf: Sport Administrator – Charlie Hussey; Communications – Chuck Dunlap.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Team.** The first team (eight players) and second team (eight players) will be determined by a vote of the coaches. Completed online nomination forms are due at the SEC office the Monday prior to the Conference championship. Online voting ballots will be distributed the week following the Conference championship. Coaches shall list 15 players from the nomination forms on their voting ballot. The top seven players listed will receive two points and the next eight players will receive one point. The winner of the Conference championship will automatically be included on the first team and should not be listed on the voting ballot. The top seven point receivers (along with the winner of the SEC Championship) will be the first team and the next eight players will be the second team.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The all-freshman team (five players) will be determined by a vote of the coaches. Completed online nomination forms are due at the SEC office the Monday prior to the Conference championship. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date.
3. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date.
4. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date. The Freshman of the Year must be a true freshman.
5. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date.
6. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
7. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Coaches Committee.** [SEC Bylaw 21.9] The coaches committee will be made up of three head coaches from different institutions and will follow an alphabetical rotation with one coach rotating off the committee each year. For 2018-19, the coaches committee will include LSU, Ole Miss, and Mississippi State. Subsequent years will be as follows: Ole Miss, Mississippi State, and Missouri (2019-2020) and Mississippi State, Missouri, and South Carolina (2020-21). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

Should the championship return to campus sites (in the first year), the committee shall be composed of the host coach of the current year's championship, along with the host coaches of the next two years' championships. In subsequent years, the committee shall be composed of the host coach of the preceding year's championship, the host coach of the current year's championship, and the host coach of the next year's championship.

**Coaches Meeting** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach shall be required to attend the annual coaches meeting in November at the Conference office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with LSU serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Ole Miss (2019-2020), Mississippi State (2020-21), and Missouri (2021-22). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Conference Championship.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3] The Conference champion will be determined by a tournament

of all member institutions sponsoring a team. The championship will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event that inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the provision of the Inclement Weather policy shall be used to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier. *[Revised: 12/12/17]*

**Officials.** Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** Regular-season competition and scheduling are subject to the following:

1. Each member institution having a golf team shall schedule teams of other member institutions at its own option and discretion during the regular season.
2. The United States Golf Association rules shall be followed. The local management will have the prerogative to set any local ground rules when appropriate and necessary.

**Squad Size.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 6 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 6 eligible student-athletes.

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Administrative Meeting.** Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championship shall attend a mandatory meeting prior to the start of the championship to review policies and procedures.

**Championship Director.** The responsibilities of the championship director shall include:

1. Supervise the championship;
2. Plan and coordinate all activities of the championship;
3. Produce the Championship Manual and distribute to coaches; and
4. Obtain qualified USGA rules officials to be present on the course throughout the championship.

**Dates and Sites.** The Championship shall be held the fourth week of April. The 2019 Championship will be held April 24-28, 2018 at the Sea Island Golf Club in St. Simons Island, Georgia. A practice round will be played Tuesday, April 23, 2019. [Revised: 12/15/15]

**Distance Measuring Devices.** In accordance with USGA Rules, in this competition a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player shall be considered in breach of USGA Rule 14-3.

**Entries.** Each team may enter five players. Players and their positions may be changed up to the time they are called to the first tee on the first day of competition.

**Equipment and Personnel.** The host shall provide the following:

1. Scoreboard, score sheets, scorekeeper and scoring volunteers;
2. Starters for each day;
3. Scorecards arranged according to starting times and labeled by player name and institution;
4. Rules officials to administer scoring, rules interpretations, and maintain satisfactory pace of play;
5. Golf carts for rules officials, media, each head coach and SEC staff;
6. Information packet about the championship; and
7. Refreshments for players at the first tee, the turn and the last hole.

(See Supplement A of this section for an outline of the championship administration.)

**Format.** The championship will consist of 54-holes of stroke play, followed by match play amongst the top eight finishing teams in stroke play as detailed below:

Day 1 - 18 holes of stroke play

Day 2 - 18 holes of stroke play

Day 3 - 18 holes of stroke play

Day 4 - Four morning matches | Two afternoon matches

Day 5 - Championship match

The individual medalist and runner-up will be awarded based on stroke-play competition. The team championship will be awarded to the match-play winner. [Revised: 12/15/15; Revised: 6/3/16; Revised: 12/12/17; Revised: 8/7/18]

**Golf Carts.** Golf carts will be provided to members of the rules committee and selected tournament staff.

1. **Players.** In accordance with USGA Rules of Golf, golf carts are not permitted during competition, but are permitted during the practice round.
2. **Coaches.** One cart will be provided to each institution and only a member of the coaching staff may drive the cart. Coaches may transport anyone they desire, except players engaged in competition.
3. **Spectators.** Golf carts are not permitted for spectators. Exceptions may be made for special needs. In this case, a head coach must submit the name of the spectator for whom a golf cart is requested to the tournament director at least seven days in advance of the tournament. The tournament director will then send a Golf Cart Request Form to be completed by such spectator. Fulfillment of these requests will be at the discretion of the SEC Championship Director, provided carts are available.

**Inclement Weather.** The championship may be shortened due to inclement weather as no provision is made for extending the championship to a sixth day. [Revised: 12/12/17]

1. A minimum of 36 holes of stroke play competition must be completed in order to name an individual and team champion. If 36 holes are not completed, the Conference Champion shall be the #1 seed (based on the final regular season Golfstat rankings).
2. A Minimum of 54 holes of stroke play must be completed in order for match play to begin.
3. If weather dictates that the match portion of the tournament cannot begin as scheduled, the Rules Committee, in consultation with the Coaches Committee, may shorten the match play portion of the tournament to four team rather than eight.
4. If weather dictates that the match play portion of the tournament is unable to be played, the Conference Champion shall be the team with the lowest team score of the rounds that all teams have completed in the stroke play portion of the tournament.
5. If only one round of match play is completed (i.e. four of the eight teams remain) the Conference Champion shall be the team with the lowest team score of the rounds that all teams have completed in the stroke play portion of the tournament.
6. If two rounds of match play are completed (i.e. two of the eight teams remain), the final two teams remaining in match play will be declared co- Champions. The team with the highest seed (based on the final regular season Golfstat rankings) will be the Conference's NCAA Automatic Qualifier.

**Manual.** The Conference (or host institution if conducted on-campus) shall distribute a championship manual, outlining the policies and procedures for the championship, as well as information specific to a tournament site, to each institution no later than two weeks prior to the championship.

**Media Services.** It will be the responsibility of the SEC Communications Office to provide the following services during the championship:

1. Prepare and distribute advance publicity for the conference championship;
2. Provide information to local, regional and national media during the championship;
3. Supervise and coordinate media interviews and the media work area;
4. Distribute daily and final results to all conference schools and media (all daily and final results will be posted to [www.SECsports.com](http://www.SECsports.com)).

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2]

**Pairings.** Pairings for the practice round and first round will be determined by the final regular season Golfstat rankings. For the second and third rounds, teams will be paired according to score. All teams shall begin on the first or tenth tee.

Team ties will be broken using the NCAA Championship tie-breaking procedures:

1. Cumulative total of the non-counting scores,
2. Highest cumulative individual total,
3. Second-highest cumulative individual total,
4. Third-highest cumulative individual total,
5. Fourth-highest cumulative individual total,
6. Fifth-highest cumulative individual total,
7. Tournament Committee decision.

Individual ties will be broken as follows:

1. Most recent score,
2. Original first round seeding.

**Portable Electronic Devices.** The use of portable electronic devices (MP3 Players, iPods, etc...) with earphones or the like are prohibited on the competition course during any round of the Championship, including the Practice Round. Violation of this policy will result in the following penalties: (First Offense) player receives a warning; (Second Offense) two-stroke penalty assessed during the opening round of the championship; (Third Offense) disqualification from championship.

**Practice Rounds.**

1. Each team may play one 18-hole practice round at the site of the championship on the day prior to the event. Teams are limited to five players during the practice round. [Revised: 12/12/17; Revised: 8/7/18]
2. All other team play (defined as five or more players or any player with a coach) at the site of the championship is prohibited: All other individual play at the site of the championship is prohibited, except as follows: (1) Student-athletes may play as a guest of a member until October 1; (2) Student-athletes who are members of the championship site course may play at any time, (3) Student-athletes may participate in official professional events that are conducted by the PGA Tour. [Revised: 8/7/18]
3. Student-athletes are not permitted to use the practice facilities (defined as inside the gates of the club) at the site of the championship from April 1 until the day of the designated practice round, except as permitted in provisions (1) through (3) above. [Revised: 8/7/18]
4. Violation of this policy will result in the following penalties: (First Offense) forfeiture of practice round for that individual; (Second Offense) two-stroke penalty assessed to that individual during opening round of the championship; (Third Violation) disqualification of that individual from the championship.

**Rules Committee.** The rules committee will be comprised of the host golf professional and his staff, and other USGA officials. This committee shall handle the following assignments:

1. Set the length of the course;
2. Set the tee boxes and flagstick positions for each day and provide placement sheets for competitors;
3. Mark the course according to USGA standards;
4. Compile a local rules sheet to cover unusual circumstances; and
5. Be available on the course at all times during competition for specific rulings.

**Sites.** The site of the championship each year will be determined by a vote of the coaches with approval of the Athletics Directors. Each institution will co-host the championship and pay a hosting fee of \$3000. In the event the championship returns to campus sites, the following rotation will be followed:

Ole Miss	Mississippi St.	Tennessee	Auburn	Missouri
South Carolina	LSU	Vanderbilt	Georgia	Texas A&M
Arkansas	Florida	Alabama	Kentucky	

**Starting Times.** Starting tee times will be determined prior to the event with 10-minute intervals between each group. A split tee start will be utilized for every round of competition. The Coaches' Committee, in consultation with the coaches, the course professionals and the rules officials will determine any change in the starting times.

**Squad Size.** The SEC Championship squad size is 6.

**Ties.** Ties will be broken to determine first place only (team and medalist). If the tournament is tied at the end of 54 holes, a sudden-victory play-off will be held, beginning at the hole designated by the sport committee in consultation with the host golf professional and the head rules official. If there is a tie for both the team and individual titles, the team play-off will take place first, followed immediately by the individual play-off. If time does not permit for an individual playoff, co-champions will be awarded.

1. **Team Competition.** All five players on each tied team will play. If two teams are tied, the Nos. 5, 4, and 3 players from each team will play in the first group, followed by the Nos. 2 and 1 players. The best four scores from each team will be counted on each hole to determine the winner. If three or more teams are tied, the No. 5 players will play first, followed by the No. 4 players, etc.

If a team playoff is not possible, the tied teams will be named co-champions. The three-day total of the tied teams' non-counting scores will be used to determine which team receives the league's automatic NCAA Tournament bid. The team with the lowest three-day total will be awarded the automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

2. **Medalist Competition.** All players for the individual championship will draw numbers to determine the order of teeing off. Only first place will be determined.

**Transporting Players.** For the exclusive purpose of transporting players for ruling and lost ball situations, coaches will have the same status as the Tournament Rules Committee and will not be required to request specific

authorization. To clarify, the intent is for the players to walk the course; therefore, coaches should only transport players over distances previously walked where a player is required to backtrack on the course to comply with the Rules.

**Uniforms.** The uniforms and apparel of all participants in conference tournaments and championships must conform to appropriate standards of safety and good taste. All student-athletes shall conform to NCAA regulations (NCAA Bylaw 12.5.4) governing the appearance of commercial identification on uniforms, equipment and apparel. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in ineligibility to continue participation.

Participants must wear uniforms of the same color identifying the institution they represent during competition and practice. Walking or Bermuda shorts are permitted provided they are team shorts and are of the same color. Participants may wear slacks or shorts at the individual's discretion, provided they are of the same color and are considered the team uniform.

## SUPPLEMENT A

SEC MEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATIONSEC Provides:

1. Commemorative gift for student-athletes who participate in championship.
2. T-shirts for participants.
3. Refreshments for participants and coaches on the course.
4. Awards (See Supplement A of the General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations).
5. Logos for the scoreboard.
6. Rules official, athletic trainer, and scoreboard personnel.
7. Lodging for rules officials, tournament staff, and athletic trainer.
8. Tournament golf flags and tee markers.
9. Championship manual.
10. Practice range signage.
11. Golf-Stat setup.
12. Daily media releases.

Host Responsibilities/Administration:

1. Tournament headquarters office/media workroom with access to telephone(s), internet connection, copier, computer and necessary office supplies (paper, stapler, etc.), and located as near to the course as possible.
2. Coaches meeting space on evening prior to Round 1.
3. Scoreboard material (individual and team leader boards, plastic covering for weather protection, and supplies such as markers, staples, etc.).
4. Golf course availability:
  - A. One practice round;
  - B. Four days of competition; and
  - C. Clearance for a play-off if necessary, following the final round.
5. Practice range availability with balls (same days as above).
6. 30+ golf carts:
  - A. One for each head coach (14);
  - B. Eight for rules officials;
  - C. Five for SEC personnel;
  - D. One for the SEC Network;
  - E. Four for volunteers;
  - F. Additional carts as needed.
7. Signal for inclement weather (siren, shot gun, etc.).
8. Waters, coolers, and ice on the course as designated by the tournament staff.
9. Tents, tables and chairs:
  - A. Starter's tent at No.1 tee and No. 10 tee;
  - B. Scorer's tent close to the No. 9 and No. 18 greens; containing one table and six chairs;
  - C. Rope off No. 1 and No. 10 tee and No. 9 and No. 18 greens.
  - D. Awards ceremony near the scoreboard at conclusion of final round (one table with tablecloth for awards and chairs for the winning team, individual medalist, and runner-up medalist)

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for women's golf: Sport Administrator – William King; Communications – Chuck Dunlap.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Team.** The first team (eight players) and second team (eight players) will be determined by a vote of the coaches. Completed online nomination forms are due at the SEC office the Monday prior to the Conference championship. Online voting ballots will be distributed the week following the Conference championship. Coaches shall list 15 players from the nomination forms on their voting ballot. The top seven players listed will receive two points and the next eight players will receive one point. The winner of the Conference championship will automatically be included on the first team and should not be listed on the voting ballot. The top seven point receivers (along with the winner of the SEC Championship) will be the first team and the next eight players will be the second team.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The all-freshman team (eight players) will be determined by a vote of the coaches. Completed online nomination forms are due at the SEC office the Monday prior to the Conference championship. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date.
3. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date.
4. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date.
5. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date.
6. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
7. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Coaches Committee.** [SEC Bylaw 21.9] The coaches committee will be made up of three head coaches from different institutions and will follow an alphabetical rotation with one coach rotating off the committee each year. For 2018-19, the coaches committee will consist of Mississippi State, Missouri, and South Carolina. Subsequent years will be as follows: Missouri, South Carolina, and Tennessee (2019-2020), and South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas A&M (2020-21). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

Should the championship return to campus sites (in the first year), the committee shall be composed of the host coach of the current year's championship, along with the host coaches of the next two years' championships. In subsequent years, the committee shall be composed of the host coach of the preceding year's championship, the host coach of the current year's championship, and the host coach of the next year's championship.

**Coaches Meeting.** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach shall be required to attend the annual meeting at the SEC Office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Missouri serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: South Carolina (2019-2020), Tennessee (2020-21), and Texas A&M (2021-22). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Conference Championship.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3] The Conference champion will be determined by a tournament

of all member institutions sponsoring a team. The championship will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations.

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event that inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the provision of the Inclement Weather policy shall be used to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier. *[Revised: 12/12/17]*

**Officials.** Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** Regular-season competition and scheduling are subject to the following:

1. Each member institution having a golf team shall schedule teams of other member institutions at its own option and discretion during the regular season.
2. The United States Golf Association rules shall be followed. The local management will have the prerogative to set any local ground rules when appropriate and necessary.

**Squad Size.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 6 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 6 eligible student-athletes.

## **CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Administrative Meeting.** Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championship shall attend a mandatory meeting following the Conference championship practice round but prior to the start of the championship to review policies and procedures.

**Championship Director.** The host championship director shall:

1. Supervise the championship;
2. Plan and coordinate all activities of the championship;
3. Secure the services of all necessary personnel related to the championship;
4. Provide entry forms and send out mailings to coaches;
5. Report results to the SEC office;
6. Officially register the championship with the NCAA (forms sent by NCAA to the host in the fall with a deadline in October);
7. Obtain the services of at least six qualified USGA rules officials from the area who will be present on the course throughout the championship;
8. Consult the SEC office before making any corporate sponsorship commitments for the championship; and
9. If showing a video at a team banquet, receive pre-approval from the Conference Championship liaison.

**Course Set-Up.** The host golf professional and head rules official, in consultation with the Coaches' Committee shall perform the following duties:

1. Set the length of the course at a minimum of 5,800 yards (NCAA regulation);
2. Set the tee boxes and flagstick positions for each day;
3. Mark the course according to USGA standards; and
4. Compile a local rules sheet to cover any unusual circumstances.

**Dates and Sites.** The championship will be held two weeks prior to the NCAA regional championships, or within the deadline for submitting qualifying scores established by the NCAA, insofar as possible. The 2019 Championship will be held April 17-21, 2019 at Greystone Golf and Country Club in Hoover, Alabama.

**Distance Measuring Devices.** In accordance with USGA Rules, in this competition a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player shall be considered in breach of USGA Rule 14-3. *[Adopted: 12/12/17]*

**Entries.** Each team may enter five players. For stroke play, players and their positions may be changed up to the time they are called to the first tee on the first day of competition. For match play, each team shall designate the order in which its players will tee off at the pairings meeting prior to each match, *[Revised: 12/12/17]*

**Equipment and Personnel.** The host shall provide the following:

1. Registration table with at least two people assigned to work;
2. Scoreboard, score sheets and two score keepers each day;
3. Starters for each day (practice and competition);
4. Spotters at designated trouble spots on the course;
5. Scorecards arranged according to starting times and labeled by player name and institution;
6. Marshals to maintain satisfactory pace of play;
7. Golf carts for rules officials, media, each head coach and SEC staff liaison; and
8. Information packet about the championship.
9. Refreshments for players at the first tee, the turn and the last hole.

**Format.** The championship will consist of 54-holes of stroke play, followed by match play amongst the top eight finishing teams in stroke play as detailed below. During stroke play, the best four-of-five scores will be counted daily toward the team total. USGA rules will be followed, plus any local rules as determined as appropriate and necessary by the Rules Officials.

Day 1 - Practice Day

Day 2 - 18 holes of stroke play

Day 3 - 18 holes of stroke play

Day 4 – 18 holes of stroke play

Day 5 – Match play quarterfinals starting at 7a.m. in the morning and semi-finals in the afternoon

Day 6 – Match play championship match

The individual medalist and runner-up will be awarded based on stroke-play competition. The team championship will be awarded to the match-play winner. [Revised: 6/22/17; Revised: 12/12/17]

**Golf Carts.** Golf carts will be provided to members of the rules committee and selected tournament staff.

1. **Players.** Players may use golf carts during the quarterfinals and semi-finals of match play only. The tournament committee may approve additional use of carts if deemed necessary by inclement weather or other circumstances. [Revised: 12/12/17]
2. **Coaches.** One cart will be provided to each institution and only a member of the coaching staff may drive the cart. Coaches may transport anyone they desire, except competing players. [Revised: 12/12/17]
3. **Spectators.** Golf carts are not permitted by spectators. The coaches committee may make exceptions for special needs. Each coach must submit the name(s) of the spectator(s) for whom a golf cart is requested. Each request will be acted upon individually, provided carts are available for rental. The request must be accompanied by a physician's statement of condition and/or a handicapped tag.

**Host Sports Information Contact.** The host sports information contact shall:

1. Prepare and distribute advance publicity for the Conference Championship event;
2. Provide information to local, regional and national media during the championship;
3. Supervise and coordinate media interviews and the media work area;
4. Send each day's results to all other Conference schools and the SEC office, including the SEC website;
5. At the end of the championship, mail three clean copies of the final results to the SEC office;
6. Perform any other duties pertaining to the media aspect of conducting the event; and
7. Work with the championship director as needed.

**Inclement Weather.** The championship may be shortened due to inclement weather as no provision is made for extending the championship to a sixth day. [Revised: 12/12/17]

1. A minimum of 36 holes of stroke play competition must be completed in order to name an individual and team champion. If 36 holes are not completed, the Conference Champion shall be the #1 seed (based on the final regular season Golfstat rankings).
2. A Minimum of 36 holes of stroke play must be completed in order for match play to begin.
3. If weather dictates that the match portion of the tournament cannot begin as scheduled, the Rules Committee, in consultation with the Coaches Committee, may shorten the match play portion of the tournament to four team rather than eight.
4. If weather dictates that the match play portion of the tournament is unable to be played, the Conference Champion shall be the team with the lowest team score of the rounds that all teams have completed in the stroke play portion of the tournament.
5. If only one round of match play is completed (i.e. four of the eight teams remain) the Conference Champion shall be the team with the lowest team score of the rounds that all teams have completed in the stroke play portion of the tournament.
6. If two rounds of match play are completed (i.e. two of the eight teams remain), the final two teams remaining in match play will be declared co- Champions. The team with the highest seed (based on the final regular season Golfstat rankings) will be the Conference's NCAA Automatic Qualifier.

**Manual.** The Conference (or host institution if conducted on-campus) shall distribute a championship manual, outlining the policies and procedures for the championship, as well as information specific to a tournament site, to each institution no later than four weeks prior to the championship.

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2]

**Pairings.** Pairing for the practice round will be made based on the previous year's finish. Pairing for the first round will be made based on the latest Golfstat rankings. Team ties will be broken during the championship by the fifth

golfer's score. NCAA regulations will be followed with the other tie situations.

**Personnel.**

1. Minimum of six rules officials;
2. Starter – Responsible for all tee times, rules sheets, hole-location sheets, pencils, ball markers and tees;
3. Scorer – Responsible for verifying all scorecards (may be same person as the starter);
4. Scoreboard operator – Oversees entire procedure; individual and team leader boards for all days of competition;
5. Sports information contact(s):
  - A. Type, copy and distribute tee times, team results each day, individual results each day, and labels for scorecards;
  - B. Story to Associated Press wire each day (optional); and
  - C. Send full results and list of award recipients to all 14 schools and Conference office the day following the championship.
6. Additional personnel/runners:
  - A. One person on No. 9 green throughout the event to obtain scores at the turn;
  - B. One person to assist the scoreboard operator and shuttle cards from scorer's tent to scoreboard; and
  - C. One additional runner to be used as needed.

**Optional Items:**

1. Shuttle service for participants between holes and/or to starting tee as needed.
2. Host school incurs cost of vans for use of teams flying to site of championship.
3. Team cookout on Day 1 following the practice round.
4. Sandwiches for participants at completion of each round.
5. Coaches gift (one per school).
6. Coaches hospitality room.
7. Computer program for results and tee times.
8. Walkie-talkie radios for rules personnel, starter, score board operator, and head coaches.

**Practice Rounds.**

Each team may play one 18-hole practice round at the site of the championship on the day prior to the start of the championship. In addition, student-athletes may use the practice facility at the host course on the Wednesday prior to the championship. Only the practice facility may be used, not the course.

All other play at the site of the championship is prohibited, except as follows: (1) Student-athletes may play as a guest of a member until the first day of the fall semester preceding the championship; (2) Student-athletes who are members of the championship site course may play at any time.

Violation of this policy will result in the following penalties: (First Offense) forfeiture of practice round for that individual; (Second Offense) two-stroke penalty assessed to that individual during opening round of the championship; (Third Violation) disqualification of that individual from the championship.

**Rules Committee.** The rules committee will be composed of the host golf professional and at least two other qualified persons whose duties include ensuring that USGA rules are followed, making recommendations for a local rules sheet for all participants, and being available on the course at all times during competition for specific rulings.

**Schedule of Events.** The following schedule is recommended: *[Revised: 12/12/17]*

First day	Practice round, coaches meeting/rules session
Second day	First round of stroke play
Third day	Second round of stroke play
Fourth day	Third round of stroke play
Fifth day	Quarter and semi-finals of match play
Sixth day	Finals of match play, awards ceremony

**Starting Times.** Starting times will be determined each year by the coaches committee, in consultation with the coaches and host golf professional.

**Squad Size.** The SEC Championship squad size is 6.

**Tickets.** The host institution of the championship may decide whether or not to charge for ticketed admission. If an

institution chooses to charge for admission, ticket prices shall be set by the host institution, but must be approved by the Conference office. In addition, if admission is charged, the host institution should make prior contact with each participating school to determine the form of payment and staffing for the player/guest gate. Institutions are not required to purchase a set amount of tickets.

**Ties.** NCAA Championship tie-break procedures shall be used when applicable. Ties will be broken to determine only the individual medalist and team ties that determine which teams advance to match-play competition. If the championship is tied at the end of 54 holes, a sudden-victory play-off will be held, beginning at the hole designated by the tournament committee in consultation with the host golf professional and head rules official. If time does not permit an individual play-off, co-champions shall be awarded. *[Revised: 12/12/17]*

1. **Team Competition.** Teams shall draw for positions. For a two-team playoff, the winner of the draw shall have the option of the A or B position. For a playoff involving more than two teams, the teams shall assume the drawn letter position (A, B, C, etc). All five members of each tied team will play. The rules committee shall determine the sequence of holes to be played. If three or more teams are tied, the playoff will be conducted by shotgun start format consistent with NCAA tie-break procedures. *[Revised; 12/12/17]*
2. **Medalist Competition.** If two or more individuals are tied for the individual championship, and one or more of the individuals is on a team tied for the team championship, the individual golfer(s) will be added to the team competition. The score of the tied team competition will concurrently count for the team and individual awards.

**Tournament Committee.** The tournament committee shall consist of the tournament director, the head rules official, and the host golf professional. The committee shall consult with the coaches committee as appropriate in making decisions regarding the championship. *[Adopted: 12/12/17]*

**Uniforms.** All team members must wear the uniform of the institution they represent. All guidelines, as outlined in NCAA Bylaw 12.5.4, regarding commercial logos on uniforms and equipment shall be followed. (See the General Administration section of Commissioner's Regulations)

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for gymnastics: Sport Administrator – Tiffany Daniels; Communications – Jill Skotarczak.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Team.** The All-SEC Team will be comprised of the student-athletes with the top two scores (including ties) on each event and in the All-Around competition in the first session and second sessions of the SEC Championship.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The All-Freshman Team will be comprised of the freshmen student-athlete with the top score (including ties) on each event in the first session of the SEC Championship and the student-athlete with the top score (including ties) on each event in the second session of the SEC Championship. The All-Freshman Team will also include the freshmen student-athletes with the top two all-around scores (including ties) in each session of the SEC Championship.
3. **Gymnast of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. The following procedures will be used:
  - A. The Conference office will compile and distribute a ballot of nominees that includes the three gymnasts who compete in the All-Around competition with the highest regular-season RQS as well as the top three finishers in the All-Around competition at the SEC Championship.
  - B. The coaches will vote for one student-athlete;
  - C. In the event of a tie, Co-Gymnasts of the Year will be recognized.
4. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. To be nominated, a student-athlete must compete in at least three (3) SEC competitions.
5. **Specialist of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. To be nominated, a student-athlete must compete in at least three (3) SEC competitions.
6. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. In the event of a three-way tie, the tied coach with the highest finishing team shall be named Coach of the Year.
7. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Athlete of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Specialist of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Ceremonies (Opening/Closing).** Each institution may adopt its own procedures, as long as the visiting team is notified in advance. A two-minute transition will take place at the end of the last event to allow teams to transition to the floor prior to the start of the Awards Ceremony.

**Coaches Committee.** [SEC Bylaw 21.9] The coaches committee will be made up of three head coaches from different institutions and will follow an alphabetical rotation with one coach rotating off the committee each year. For 2018-19, the coaches committee will include Georgia, Kentucky, and LSU. Subsequent years will be as follows: Kentucky, LSU, and Missouri (2019-2020), and LSU, Missouri, and Alabama (2020-21). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Coaches Meeting** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach shall be required to attend the annual coaches meeting held in April or May at the SEC Office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Georgia serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Kentucky (2019-2020), LSU (2020-21), and Missouri (2021-22). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Conference Championship.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3][Adopted: 6/3/16]

1. The team with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared the Conference champion. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins, they will be declared Conference co-champions.
2. There will be a Conference championship event at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular season in order to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. The Conference championship event will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Consultants.** Consultants are not be permitted anywhere on the arena/competition floor at any time on the day of competition. Further, consultants may not be seated on press row or other credentialed areas.

**Dressing Rooms.** A separate dressing room shall be provided for male coaches.

**Equipment.** The 1¼" padded vaulting runway must extend from the base of the horse to a minimum length of at least 82 feet. Eighteen – 20 cm landing mats are required for all events, including the vault. Each institution is required to have AAI factory weight inserts for the vaulting table base. All equipment must be set-up at least one hour prior to the start of warm-ups.

**Introductions.** Both the home and visiting team shall be lighted and introduced with the same information (hometown, etc.) by the public address announcer. Individual statistics from the current season will not be announced during the meet. The announcer will state that the gymnasts will proceed to their first event upon completion of the team introductions. In order to provide the public address announcer with the appropriate visiting team information, the host institution will include a form in the team information packet requesting the same information that will be announced for the host team introductions. It is the responsibility of the visiting team coach to complete the information and return it to the host team and for the host team to announce the same information for both teams during introductions. Once competition begins, gymnasts will be introduced by name only. At the end of each regular season conference competition, each team should proceed immediately to the floor for the announcement of the team results, including the individual winners on each event and the individual winner in the all-around.

**Inquiries.** Inquiries must be made in writing before the beginning of the next event, and must pertain strictly to (1) Start Value (difficulty, special requirements, and bonus values), (2) Compositional requirements and (3) Clarification of neutral deductions or unusual performance occurrences / falls. When all Start Values are 10.0, only inquiries about items two and three are permissible.

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event that inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the highest remaining seed in the tournament at the time of suspension shall be designated as the automatic qualifier. [Adopted: 6/3/16; Revised: 12/12/17]

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.1] Judges will be assigned by regional JAS assigners. Coaches may not converse with any person who judges beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing until the Monday immediately following the SEC Championship, except when requested following a meet and in the presence of the meet director. If any coach requests a meeting with the judges following a meet, all head coaches involved in the meet will be notified. Judges may enter the competitive area as outlined in the handbook. A judge's fee of \$275 with a \$50 overnight driver's allowance and a \$125 overnight flyer's travel allowance has been established. Mileage, air travel (including airport shuttle) and hotel accommodations will be paid by the host institution. [Revised: 12/13/16]

**PER DIEM REIMBURSEMENT** (meals, mileage to airport, airport parking)  
**\$ 15.00** = 4 to 7 hours (away from home)  
**\$ 30.00** = more than 7 hours (away from home)  
**\$ 50.00** = Overnight Stay (away from home)  
**\$75.00** = No Overnight Stay (air-flight to competition)  
**\$125.00** = Per Overnight Stay (air-flight to competition)

*Tickets* – Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition.

**Meet Referee.** The host institution is required to assign a meet referee for all Conference dual meets and should provide the visiting team coach with the referee's name prior to the start of the meet.

**Protests.** Meets shall be governed by SEC and USA Gymnastics rules and regulations. Any protest must be filed with the Commissioner not later than 24 hours after the alleged infraction. The Athletics Director and coach of the institution that has allegedly committed the infraction must also be informed within the same period. The coaches committee will consult and recommend the action that should be taken in the matter.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** Regular season competition and scheduling are subject to the following:

Each member institution having a gymnastics team shall meet each other member institution at least once a year during the regular season, on an alternating home and away basis. The Conference schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference. NCAA gymnastics guidelines for regular-season competition shall be strictly followed. Proposed changes in any SEC competition shall be outlined in writing by the coach proposing the change. The change must be received by the coach of the opposing team at least ten days prior to the meet and must be agreed to by both coaches. If both coaches cannot agree, the original arrangements for the meet will be followed. All SEC meets shall be conducted as dual meets, unless the SEC coaches involved mutually agree to another format. If the meet has more than two teams competing, the rightful SEC visiting head coach will choose the starting rotation. If there are more than two SEC teams competing, the other SEC visiting head coach will have second choice of rotation. The home team remains with a home-team rotation. If there is more than one rightful SEC visiting team, the rotation will be determined by a coin toss. The Conference office is responsible for developing the SEC schedule.

**Reporting Results.** The sports information department of each host institution must provide the final score and statistical information to the competing teams within 20 minutes after completion of the meet. These statistics must be filed on the NCAA official score sheet and signed by the coaches of the competing teams. Weekly media releases will begin in mid-January and all institutions must report their meet results by Monday morning each week.

**Squad Size.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 18 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 18 eligible student-athletes.

**Tickets.** The visiting team shall be allotted 50 seats, located together, for its pass-list recipients. The head coach of the visiting team shall submit his/her team's pass list to the host institution no later than the Wednesday prior to the date of the meet. [*Revised: 5/25/17*]

**Uniforms.** Teams shall follow NCAA policies in regards to competition and warm-up uniforms.

**Warm-up.** Each team will warm-up in competitive order during SEC meets. The warm-up policy will follow NCAA guidelines for warm-ups and competition.

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Administrative Meeting.** Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championship shall attend a mandatory meeting on the practice day prior to the start of the championship to review policies and procedures.

**Awards and Closing Ceremony.** Teams will proceed directly to the floor apparatus immediately following conclusion of the second session of the championship meet. The All-SEC team will be recognized along with the event winners, all-around winners, and the team champion. All awards will be mailed to the appropriate institutions following the competition. The public is not permitted on the competition floor, except for approved promotional activities.

**Bands, Mascots and Cheerleaders.** Bands, mascots or cheerleaders are not allowed at the Conference championship.

**Banners.** Only approved banners may be displayed at the Conference championship. Only the SEC banner/logo may be placed at the awards platform.

**Dates and Sites.** The championship shall be conducted two weeks before the NCAA regional qualifying meet. Future championship dates and sites are as follows:

2019	March 23	New Orleans, LA (Smoothie King Center)
2020	March 21	Birmingham, AL (Legacy Arena)
2021	March 20	Duluth, GA (Infinite Energy Arena)

If the championship returns to campus sites, the order of rotation for hosting will be: Arkansas, Auburn, Kentucky, Georgia, LSU, Alabama, Florida, and Missouri.

**Equipment.** Unless otherwise specified, the same equipment policies adopted for NCAA Championships will apply to the SEC Championship. An equipment list will be sent to each head coach to review and sign off on before the championship each year. The equipment liaison for the 2019 championship will be Bob Moore.

**Flash Photography.** No flash cameras will be allowed by the media, meet photographer, or anyone else during any official competition. House strobes may be used if they do not create a hazard for the performing gymnasts.

**Format.** The championship will consist of a one-day team and all-around competition. The format will include the bottom four teams (determined by RQS) in the afternoon session, and the top four teams in the evening session.

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2] The following are policies regarding judges:

1. **Judges.** There shall be 16 judges, a head judge and an alternate (18 total). The judges for the championship will be assigned by the national assignor. Arrangements for judges' housing and travel shall be made by the meet director.
2. **Contract.** The appointed coordinator will contract the meet officials, upon the meet director's request.
3. **Fees/Expenses.** The Conference office will set fees.
4. **Rating Requirements.** It is recommended that all judges be national level or higher.
5. **Uniforms.** All judges are required to wear the NAWGJ uniform. The scorer's table will be designated in a distinctive manner and scorers shall wear distinctive shirts or jackets to facilitate identification. There shall be no ornamentation in front of the scorer's table other than the SEC banner. Seating at the scorer's table is restricted to the official scorers, timer, tabulators, television liaison, SEC staff liaison and alternate official. The coaches committee at the site must approve any exception to this policy.

**Lodging.** Each institution is responsible for making its own lodging reservations.

**Medical/Training Considerations.** A certified trainer and physician must be present for practice and competition sessions. An ambulance will be on call.

**Manual.** A championship meet manual outlining the policies and procedures for the championship, as well as information specific to the championship site, will be distributed to each institution no later than March 1 each year.

**Official Scoring.** Official NCAA score sheets shall be used, and it is the responsibility of the meet referee to ensure that the tabulators and scorers are accurate and punctual.

**Practice Session.** There will be two practice sessions on the day prior to the meet, consisting of 20-minute rotations. The first session will begin at 1 p.m. and the second session will begin at 3:05 p.m (local time). There will be a 20-minute stretch prior to each session.

**Public Address Announcements.** Running team scores will be announced after each rotation, including going into the final rotation. No personal accolades will be announced before any gymnast begins her performance. During the opening ceremony, only the teams will be introduced, not by individual athletes' names. If there is a pre-meet show, it must be conducted prior to team introductions. Judges will not be introduced.

**Seeding.** The rotation will be in Olympic order (bye, vault, bye, bars, beam, bye, floor). Teams will select their starting event based upon their SEC Championship meet seed, beginning with seed #1. [Revised: 6/3/16]

**Squad Size.** Only 18 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests.

**Statistics and Results.** The final score and statistical information will be provided to all teams within 20 minutes after the completion of each session. These statistics must be filed on the NCAA official score sheet and signed by the coaches. If held on a campus site, the host SID must forward three copies of the complete results and three programs to the SEC office on the Monday after the championship.

**Tickets.** Each student-athlete (up to 18) is permitted entrance to the arena. In addition, eight passes will be placed in each coach's packet and issued to coaches, managers, and medical personnel. The Conference office will provide administrators from each institution with two additional passes. All others must have a ticket. Administrators may have access to the floor, but are encouraged to sit in a seat.

Each institution will receive an initial allotment of approximately 100 tickets for which it is financially responsible. An allocation policy of rotating institutional seating assignments two locations clockwise each year has been established. The "pool system" regarding these tickets will be utilized if necessary. There are no complimentary tickets for this championship.

**Tie-breaker Policy.** In case of a tie in final team results, the tied teams will share the title as co-champions.

**Uniforms.** All uniforms and equipment must conform to SEC and NCAA policies. (See General Administration section of Commissioner's Regulations)

**Warm-Up and Open Stretch.** During the open stretch period, only background music provided by the host may be played. During each team's floor-exercise warm-up, teams may play their own music. Each team will be required to stretch on the mats at its first event.

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for women's soccer: Sport Administrator – Leslie Claybrook; Communications – Craig Pinkerton; Officiating – Rachel Woo/Sylvia Hagan.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers are permitted in soccer venues with the exception of whistles, air horns, and electric amplifiers. However, the home institution has the right to limit or prohibit artificial noisemakers from being brought in to soccer venues. The referee, in cooperation with home event management, shall be responsible for ensuring artificial noisemakers do not interfere with administration of the contest and follow NCAA soccer playing rules.

At no time shall artificial noisemakers be located directly behind the goal or in the quadrant of the field adjacent to the visiting team's bench. [Revised: 8/18/15]

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by using a point system devised from voting by all 14 head coaches. Coaches will list their own players in order of preference and email their list to the Conference office by a date determined by the Conference administrator. A complete list of coaches' nominees will then be sent to coaches to use in completing their All-SEC Team ballots. Coaches will list four forwards, four midfielders, four defenders, and one goalkeeper on their ballots for both first and second-team. An "At-Large" selection, which shall be the student-athlete receiving the next highest vote total after the initial 13 recipients are selected for first team, and the student-athlete receiving the next highest vote total after the next 13 recipients are selected for second team, will be awarded for both the first and second teams. The coaches will discuss their Player of the Year and All-SEC candidates on a conference call prior to the Conference Tournament. The ballots are due to the Conference Office by noon CT following the coaches' conference call.

Points will be distributed as follows: Each player is awarded 10 points for each first-team vote and five points for each second-team vote. Those numbers are added together and divided by 14 (number of schools). [Revised: 3/9/16]

2. **All-Freshmen Team.** The All-Freshman Team will be determined using the same process as the All-SEC Team but are selected regardless of position.
3. **Offensive Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote for Offensive Player of the Year from the list of forwards and midfielders selected as the first team All-SEC Team. A conference call will be conducted on the Monday prior to the tournament to announce the candidates for the Offensive Player of the Year. Following the call, the coaches' ballots are due to the Conference office by noon CT.
4. **Defensive Player of the Year.** The Defensive Player of the Year will be determined in the same manner as the Offensive Player of the Year. The Defensive Player of the Year will be chosen from defenders, midfielders, and goalkeeper from the first team All-SEC Team.
5. **Freshman of the Year.** The Freshman of the Year will be determined in the same manner as the Offensive/Defensive Player of the Year.
6. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Balloting for Coach of the Year will take place when the ballots for the Players of the Year and Freshman of the Year are returned to the Conference office. There will not be any nominations, only a final vote.
7. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Player of the Week (Offensive and Defensive).** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Ball Crew.** There should be a minimum of four to six people who serve on the ball crew. Ball crew members must be at least 10 years of age. NCAA rules shall govern the involvement of prospect-age individuals serving as ball crew members.

**Coaches Meeting.** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach shall attend the annual coaches meeting held in January at the SEC Office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be a two-year rotation with Florida serving as the chair for 2017-18 and 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Georgia (2019-2020 and 2020-2021), and Kentucky (2021-22 and 2022-23). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. An individual must have attended an annual coaches meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

**Conference Championship/Tournament.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

1. The team with the highest number of points during regular-season Conference competition (using the point system for determining regular-season standings) shall be declared the Conference champion. The following point system shall determine regular-season standings: a win counts as three points, a tie as one point, and a loss as zero points. If a game is canceled, neither team will receive a point and the teams' average points per game will be used to determine regular-season standings.
2. A Conference tournament shall be held at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular season in order to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. The Conference tournament shall be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Music.** Playing music is prohibited when the ball is in play.

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event that inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the highest remaining seed in the tournament at the time of suspension shall be designated as the automatic qualifier. [Revised: 12/12/17]

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.1] The Conference office will assign officials for all contests, including exhibition and non-conference games. Notification of game officials and all information pertaining to officiating can be found on [www.spotfoul.com](http://www.spotfoul.com). Access to the website can be obtained by contacting Sylvia Hagan. Home team game management is responsible for confirming game times/dates and other information on the SEC officiating website. If there is discrepancy in the information, the home team game manager MUST IMMEDIATELY contact the visiting team, and Sylvia Hagan at the Conference office.

The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at all Southeastern Conference soccer matches:

1. Each institution will provide a dressing room for officials within close proximity to the soccer facility. When male and female officials are assigned, two separate dressing rooms should be provided, if possible. Admittance to this room shall be limited to game officials and conference office representatives. No guests, visitors or institutional personnel (other than a trainer or manager upon request) shall be admitted. The officials' dressing room shall be set-up with towels, soap, soft drinks, water and cups.
2. Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is prohibited. Comments on officiating are to be directed to the Conference administrator only. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed to the Conference office only. Public comments on officiating by officials, coaches or institutional personnel are prohibited.
3. Films, videotapes, and DVD's shall not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating (e.g., the use of game films to produce clips for television or newspapers depicting officiating calls). No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches' radio and/or television shows.
4. Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone. All matters pertaining to officials or officiating must be directed to the Conference administrator only. Likewise, this policy precludes officials from contacting coaches.
5. The list of game officials assigned to a game shall not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of pre-game information packets.
6. Compensation – Payment of the game officials will be handled by a third-party service (Dwolla). Each institution will be invoiced for their share of the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials. The fees and travel/expense policies shall be set by the Conference office and athletics directors.

7. *Tickets* – Each official shall be provided a maximum of two complimentary admissions to the assigned contest. An official shall directly contact the host institution's soccer game management contact at least ten days prior to the competition in order to obtain such admissions.

**Practice.** The home team shall provide the visiting team with the same activity for practice on the day prior to the match. If the competition field is used for practice, the home team shall provide specific information to the visiting team regarding permissible actions on the competition field during practice (e.g. use of flats, use of 18, etc.) [*Adopted: 3/9/16*]

**Promotions.** The head coach must notify the visiting team of any promotions to be conducted on the field during pre-game or halftime.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** Each member shall play a 10-match schedule, with one contest against every team in division and four revolving opponents from the other division (in future years, teams not played in the other division will be designated opponents with the remaining opponents randomly selected). This schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference. The home team shall determine the day of competition with administrator approval. [*Revised: 3/9/16*]

1. On weekends where two matches are scheduled, games will be played on Thursday and Sunday.
2. On single game weekends, games may be played on Friday, Saturday or Sunday depending on television, campus events, budgets, and missed class time. Such a contest may also be played on Thursday, provided the Athletic Director from both participating institutions agrees. [*Revised: 3/8/17*]
3. Sunday matches that do not involve television shall start no later than 2 p.m. (local time), unless mutually agreed upon by both institution's administration. [*Revised: 6/2/17*]
4. Once established, the date of a match may not be changed beginning 10 days after the release of the television schedule. [*Adopted: 3/8/17*]

**Pre-Season Scouting and Videotape/Film Exchange.** The following scouting and videotape/film exchange policies apply to all exhibition, regular season, and post-season competition: [*Revised: 3/8/17, 8/24/17*]

1. The SEC operates with an open exchange policy governing the exchange of game video. Therefore, all schools are required to provide video of all matches to other SEC programs. All teams must use Vidswap software as the primary means for transferring women's soccer video within the conference;
2. All SEC women's soccer programs should purchase the Vidswap software, after which unique accounts (folders) will be developed for each school. Video from each contest shall be uploaded into VidSwap under the program's playing schedule that will be posted by the Conference Office. All games shall remain on VidSwap until the season is complete;
3. The video being uploaded shall be filmed from midfield and HD quality and shall be the "coaches copy" (i.e. the video the program uses for its own purposes);
4. Teams are responsible for uploading video to VidSwap by 11 a.m. local time following the day of their match. For conference matches, only the home team shall be required to upload video of the match. Each institution will have the ability to download any match from any program;
5. No member institution shall exchange video or provide a scouting report to any non-conference institution regarding SEC teams
6. If an extenuating circumstance prevents an institution from uploading game film by the specified deadline, the institution shall immediately notify each institution and the Conference office to communicate the issue and expected time upload will be available. If the issue is unable to be resolved to upload via Vidswap, then the institution must provide a DVD to every SEC institution within 48 hours following the match.

**Suspension/Ejection Policy.**

1. Any game official may eject a student-athlete, coach or team representative for misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. If an individual is ejected from the contest, the ejected individual shall leave the bench and playing area immediately without further communication with the teams or game officials. The ejected individual shall remain out of sight and sound of the contest for the remainder of the contest. "Out of sight and sound" means that the ejected individual(s) may not view the contest, communicate with his or her team, or be in a location where the game officials can hear him or her. The ejected individual may not return to the bench area, playing area, or grandstands until all game officials are escorted to their dressing area by security or game

management. In the event that an ejected individual does not comply with the ejection policy set forth in this subparagraph 2 in a timely manner (as determined in the game officials' sole discretion), the game will be forfeited.

3. A suspended individual shall remain out of sight and sound of the applicable contest (as defined in subparagraph 2). Additionally, a suspended individual may not:
  - A. Be dressed in game uniform;
  - B. Communicate with any team personnel or referees;
  - C. Take part in any pregame activities at the site of competition; or
  - D. Be in the stadium or on the field once pregame activities have started.

In the event that a suspended individual does not comply with the suspension policy set forth in this subparagraph 3 in a timely manner (as determined in the game official's sole discretion), the game will be forfeited. In the event that a suspended individual participates in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game will be forfeited.

4. This policy is in effect for all regular season games and the Southeastern Conference Tournament only.

**Squad Size.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 24 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 24 eligible student-athletes. [Revised: 8/18/15]

**Tickets.** The home team must provide up to 50 complimentary tickets/admissions to the visiting team for Conference matches.

**Uniforms.** During Conference weekend series, the home team shall wear its light/white uniform and the visiting team shall wear its dark uniform, unless mutually agreed upon by both participating programs. [Revised: 8/24/17]

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Administrative Teleconference.** Coaches and administrators from each institution competing in the Conference tournament shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the tournament to review policies and procedures.

**Awards.** The following selection procedures will be used:

1. **All-Tournament Team.** After each semifinal match, the losing coach will submit two individual players from his or her team for selection to the All-Tournament Team. After the championship game, three players will be submitted by the losing team and four players will be submitted by the winning team for a total of 11 players selected to the All-Tournament Team.
2. **Most Valuable Player.** The MVP is chosen by the championship winning coach.

**Dates and Sites.** The tournament shall be held on the weekend prior to the start of the NCAA championship. The tournament site is determined by a vote of the Athletics Directors and Senior Woman Administrators. Future dates are:

2018	October 28 – November 4	Orange Beach, AL
2019	November 3 – November 10	Orange Beach, AL

If the tournament returns to campus sites, the order of rotation at SEC institutions is the following: Mississippi State, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Auburn, Kentucky, Florida, Alabama, Vanderbilt, Georgia, LSU, Ole Miss, Missouri, and Texas A&M.

**Equipment.** The conference office will provide game balls during the SEC tournament. The official ball used during the NCAA Tournament shall be used for the SEC tournament.

**Format.** There shall be a single-elimination tournament of the top ten teams played at the conclusion of the SEC regular-season schedule. The tournament champion shall be the SEC representative to the NCAA championship.

The top ten teams with the highest point total, regardless of divisions, will participate in the tournament. The following point system is utilized to determine regular season standings and seeding for the tournament: a win counts as three points, a tie as one, and a loss as zero points. If a game(s) is cancelled, neither team will receive a point and the standings will be determined by average points per game. The tournament shall be played in a Sunday-Tuesday-Thursday-Sunday format with Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday designated as off/practice days. [*Revised: 3/8/17*]

**Game Protocol.** NCAA procedures and march-out protocol will be followed during pre-game. Game times shall be established in consultation with the Conference office and the host organization.

**Lodging.** Each institution is responsible for arranging its own lodging. If necessary, the host organization can assist in blocking an appropriate number of rooms.

**Manual.** A tournament manual outlining the policies and procedures for the tournament, as well as information specific to the host site, shall be distributed to each institution no later than one month prior to the start of the tournament.

**Officials.** The Conference office shall assign the officials for all tournament games.

**Practice.** Practice times on the day prior to a team's match will be selected based upon seed. Teams interested in additional practices should contact the host organization for assistance in scheduling practice times. The game field may not be used for practices. Teams may be allowed to conduct a walk-thru on the field if requested. In the case of inclement weather, practices will be scheduled at an alternate location.

**Seeding.** The tournament will be seeded 1-10 regardless of division based on the point system implemented to determine regular season standings. If teams are tied, the following procedures, in order as follows, will be used to break the tie:

1. **Two-Team Tie** – The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
  - A. Head-to-head competition between the tied teams.
  - B. Points earned versus common opponents.
  - C. Goal differential versus common opponents.

- D. Goals scored versus common opponents.
  - E. Won-Lost record of the two teams versus highest seeded common opponent and proceeding through the No. 14 seed, if necessary.
  - F. Goal differential versus highest seeded common opponent and proceeding through the No. 14 seed, if necessary.
  - G. Goals scored versus highest seeded common opponent and proceeding through the No. 14 seed, if necessary.
  - H. Coin flip by the Commissioner.
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more)** – The following procedure will be used until the tie is broken. If at any time this tie breaker results in only two remaining tied teams, then the two-team tiebreaker will be used beginning with Subsection A in that procedure and continuing from that point:
- A. If all teams have played one another, then most points earned in those matches only.
  - B. If all teams have not played, but one team has defeated all teams in the tie break, then that team breaks the tie and shall be placed highest. Remaining teams will continue with the tie break procedure.
  - C. If all teams have not played one another and a team does not have all wins over the tied teams, then use Subsection B in the two-team tie break procedures and continue through the two team tie-break procedures until ties between all teams are broken (except Subsection H will read “if three or more teams are still tied, the Commissioner will conduct a draw”).

**Squad Size.** Only 24 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in each Championship contest, but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Institutions must designate the 24 student-athletes who will participate in a specific Championship contest prior to such contest. Non-participating eligible student-athletes may access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests, but may not dress in the team's uniform. [Revised: 8/18/15]

**Tickets.** Participating institutions are not required to purchase a block of tickets to the tournament. An institution may purchase general admission tickets as it advances in the tournament. Admissions for participating institutions will be provided via a pass list and institutions will be sent an invoice by the Conference office for any admissions used following the completion of the Championship.

**Uniforms.** All team members must wear the uniform of the institution they represent. Teams must be prepared to wear light or dark uniforms (jerseys and socks). The higher seeded team will wear the light uniforms for all matches. For additional information related to uniforms, see the General Administration section of these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Videotaping.** Teams may only videotape matches in which they are competing. Videotape of a tournament match may not be used to scout an opponent.

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for softball: Sport Administrator – Byron Hatch; Communications – Jill Skotarczak; Officiating – Christie Cornwell/Sylvia Hagan.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Two weeks before the end of the regular season, the SEC office will send out nomination links for All-SEC online voting, which are due back the following week. In order to nominate a player, she must have played in a minimum of 50 percent of the team's conference games at the position nominated. Nominees for position players must have played in a minimum of 50 percent of the team's conference games at the position nominated. Nominees for the pitching position must have played in a minimum of 25 percent of the team's conference games. Nominees for DP/Utility must have played at least a total of 50 percent of the team's conference games at two or more positions, with at least 33 percent of the total games being played at one position.  
On Sunday following the last competition of the regular season, a list of nominees, a voting ballot and final SEC stats will be sent to all head coaches. The final ballots will be due on Monday afternoon.  
The first and second teams will consist of 14 players each: infielders (5), outfielders (4), pitchers (3), catcher (1), and DP/utility (1). Ties will not be broken. Announcement of the All-SEC Teams will be made one day prior to the start of the SEC Softball Tournament.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process.
3. **All-Defensive Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
4. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Player of the Year must be an All-SEC nominee and not a pitcher.
5. **Pitcher of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Pitcher-of -the-Year must be an All-SEC nominee.
6. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Freshman of the Year must be an All-Freshman Team nominee.
7. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process and are not permitted to vote for themselves. The following criteria shall be considered for Coach of the Year: success of the team, improvement of the team from the previous season, ability to fully use the talents of the team, and professional manner and attitude.
8. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Player and Pitcher of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Barrel Compression Testing.** The regular season and the SEC Tournament will be governed by the annually approved Barrel Compression Testing Protocol attached as Supplement A.

**Coaches Meeting** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in September at the SEC Office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Tennessee serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Texas A&M (2019-2020), and Alabama (2020-21). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Conferences.** NCAA rules will govern the number of conferences a team is permitted.

**Conference Championship/Tournament.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

1. The team with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared the Conference champion. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins, they will be declared Conference co-champions.
2. There will be a Conference tournament at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular season in order to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. The Conference tournament will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Departure Times.** The visiting team shall make arrangements to depart the locale of the competition site following the final game of each Conference series via the last available flight, bus, etc., leaving that day and connecting to the visiting team's final destination.

The visiting team shall complete and return a Conference Departure Form to the proper game management official at the competition site and to the Conference office by January 10<sup>th</sup> each year. This form will indicate the visiting team's designated departure time from the competition site facility following the final game of each Conference series. Once the departure time is established, the host institution will set a game time that provides a reasonable amount of time for completion of a seven inning game. If the visiting team is utilizing air travel, the final game of the series may start no later than 4 p.m. local time. A visiting team's departure time as designated on the Conference Departure Form may not be modified without approval by the Conference office.

If a contest is called due to travel arrangements, the following procedures will be used:

1. If the contest is called and is a regulation game according to NCAA Softball Rule 6.12, the contest and all averages will count in the final playing record.
2. The contest will be considered a regulation tie game if it meets the conditions set forth in NCAA Softball Rule 6.14 and all averages will count in the final playing record.
3. If the contest is called prior to reaching regulation game status per NCAA Softball Rule 6.16, the contest will be considered a "No Game" (see NCAA Softball Rule 6.18).

In no case shall departure time of umpires be a factor in completing games.

**Double-Header Warm-Up.** Access to the batting cages must be split equally between both teams during the time between games of a double-header. [Adopted 12/15/15]

**Examination Schedule.** If a team is scheduled to play "away" during the week of its final examination period, the game will be rescheduled in advance by the two teams involved.

**Facilities.** All facilities should meet NCAA requirements insofar as possible. Both teams should have equal access to facilities and equipment as defined in the NCAA rules under Pre-game Practice. (see NCAA Softball Rule 5.1).

**Inclement Weather.** The inclement weather policy is as follows:

**A. Friday through Sunday Series**

1. If a game is postponed on Friday or Saturday due to inclement weather, the game shall be completed from the point of interruption on the following day prior to the regularly scheduled game.
2. In the event the regularly scheduled game is televised, the postponed game may be rescheduled, in consultation with the conference office, prior to, or following, the regularly scheduled game, whichever allows the best opportunity to complete such game without interruption.
3. Televised Games Affected by Weather
  - A. For games televised on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU
    - (1) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game on Saturday, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning 45 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
    - (2) If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the Sunday regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning 45 minutes prior to

the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.

- B. For games televised on the SEC Network
    - (1) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game on the SEC Network at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
    - (2) If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game on the SEC Network at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
    - (3) A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on the SEC Network Alternate Channel or on SEC Network+.
  - 4. If weather prohibits a game from occurring on the date scheduled and cannot be played during the weekend series, then the game(s) will not be rescheduled.
  - 5. Length of Games
    - A. All games played should be scheduled as a regulation game.
    - B. If weather prevents playing both the Friday and Saturday game, or if the Saturday game does not begin because of rain, there shall be two regulation games on Sunday. If a Friday game is postponed and no games are played on Saturday, the postponed game shall be resumed on Sunday, followed by a regulation game.
    - C. If a postponed game is unable to be completed because of inclement weather and has reached official game status per NCAA Softball Rule 6.12, it shall be declared a game.
    - D. Once a postponed game is resumed, the game shall be complete if one team has a lead of eight or more runs per NCAA Softball Rule 6.13.
  - 6. Restart Times
    - A. In the event of rain, no game may start after 10:00 pm local time or resume after midnight local time.
    - B. In the event of a rain-delay prior to the beginning of play on Sunday, the game must begin at least two hours prior to the visiting team's scheduled departure time from the field, but no later than 4:00 pm local time to avoid a rain out of the game.
    - C. If the game begins and is postponed (Sunday game), it must resume by 6:00 pm local time to avoid a rain out of the game.
  - 7. Travel Considerations
    - A. In all instances, departure time takes priority. A team may not stay over until Monday to begin or complete a game or series.
    - B. In the event the visiting team is not scheduled to leave the host city until Monday and there are no prior travel limitations for the game's umpires that would dictate departure to enact these deadlines, with Conference approval, it would be permissible to waive the 4:00 pm deadline for the start of a game and a 6:00 pm deadline for the resumption of the game.
  - 8. Authority to Play Doubleheaders
    - A. If weather forecasts on Friday and Saturday morning call for a high occurrence of inclement weather on Saturday or Sunday (80 percent or higher), the home team in consultation with the visiting team may request permission from the Conference Office to play a doubleheader on Friday or Saturday provided the teams are already in the locale and there is no television involved.
    - B. Approval of a prospective doubleheader shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on one of the days in the series.
- B. Thursday through Saturday Series**
- 1. If a game is postponed on Thursday or Friday due to inclement weather, the game shall be completed from

- the point of interruption on the following day prior to the regularly scheduled game.
2. In the event the regularly scheduled game is televised, the postponed game may be rescheduled, in consultation with the conference office, prior to, or following, the regularly scheduled game, whichever allows the best opportunity to complete such game without interruption.
  3. Televised Games Affected by Weather
    - A. For games televised on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU
      - (1) If a game is postponed on Thursday, and the regularly scheduled Friday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Friday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning 45 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
      - (2) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning 45 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
    - B. For games televised on the SEC Network
      - (1) If a game is postponed on Thursday, and the regularly scheduled Friday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Friday game on the SEC Network at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
      - (2) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game on the SEC Network at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
      - (3) A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on the SEC Network Alternate Channel or on SEC Network+.
  4. If weather prohibits a game from occurring on the date scheduled and cannot be played during the weekend series, then the game(s) will not be rescheduled.
  5. Length of Games
    - A. All games played should be scheduled as a regulation game.
    - B. If weather prevents playing both the Friday and Saturday game, or if the Saturday game does not begin because of rain, there shall be two regulation games on Sunday. If a Friday game is postponed and no games are played on Saturday, the postponed game shall be resumed on Sunday, followed by a regulation game.
    - C. If a postponed game is unable to be completed because of inclement weather and has reached official game status per NCAA Softball Rule 6.12, it shall be declared a game.
    - D. Once a postponed game is resumed, the game shall be complete if one team has a lead of eight or more runs per NCAA Softball Rule 6.13.
  6. Restart Times
    - A. In the event of rain, no game may start after 10:00 pm local time or resume after midnight local time.
    - B. In the event of a rain-delay prior to the beginning of play on Sunday, the game must begin at least two hours prior to the visiting team's scheduled departure time from the field, but no later than 4:00 pm local time to avoid a rain out of the game.
    - C. If the game begins and is postponed (Sunday game), it must resume by 6:00 pm local time to avoid a rain out of the game.

7. Travel Considerations
  - A. In all instances, departure time takes priority. A team may not stay over until Monday to begin or complete a game or series.
  - B. In the event the visiting team is not scheduled to leave the host city until Monday and there are no prior travel limitations for the game's umpires that would dictate departure to enact these deadlines, with Conference approval, it would be permissible to waive the 4:00 pm deadline for the start of a game and a 6:00 pm deadline for the resumption of the game.
8. Authority to Play Doubleheaders
  - A. If weather forecasts on Thursday and Friday morning call for a high occurrence of inclement weather on Friday or Saturday (80 percent or higher), the home team in consultation with the visiting team may request permission from the Conference Office to play a doubleheader on Thursday or Friday provided the teams are already in the locale and there is no television involved.
  - B. Approval of a prospective doubleheader shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on one of the days in the series.

**C. Saturday through Monday Series**

1. If a game is postponed on Saturday or Sunday due to inclement weather, the game shall be completed from the point of interruption on the following day prior to the regularly scheduled game.
2. In the event the regularly scheduled game is televised, the postponed game may be rescheduled, in consultation with the conference office, prior to, or following, the regularly scheduled game, whichever allows the best opportunity to complete such game without interruption.
3. Televised Games Affected by Weather
  - A. For games televised on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU
    - (1) If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game on Sunday, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning 45 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
    - (2) If a game is postponed on Sunday, and the regularly scheduled Monday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Monday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the Monday regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning 45 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
  - B. For games televised on the SEC Network
    - (1) If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game on the SEC Network at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
    - (2) If a game is postponed on Sunday, and the regularly scheduled Monday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Monday game on the SEC Network at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
    - (3) A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on the SEC Network Alternate Channel or on SEC Network+.
4. If weather prohibits a game from occurring on the date scheduled and cannot be played during the weekend series, then the game(s) will not be rescheduled.
5. Length of Games
  - A. All games played should be scheduled as a regulation game.

- B. If weather prevents playing both the Saturday and Sunday game, or if the Sunday game does not begin because of rain, there shall be two regulation games on Monday. If a Friday game is postponed and no games are played on Sunday, the postponed game shall be resumed on Monday, followed by a regulation game.
  - C. If a postponed game is unable to be completed because of inclement weather and has reached official game status per NCAA Softball Rule 6.12, it shall be declared a game.
  - D. Once a postponed game is resumed, the game shall be complete if one team has a lead of eight or more runs per NCAA Softball Rule 6.13.
9. Restart Times [*Revised: 6/3/16*]
- A. In the event of rain, no game may start after 10:00 pm local time or resume after midnight local time.
  - B. In the event of a rain-delay prior to the beginning of play on Monday, the game must begin at least two hours prior to the visiting team's scheduled departure time from the field, but no later than 8:00 pm local time to avoid a rain out of the game.
  - C. If the game begins and is postponed (Monday game), it must resume by 9:00 pm local time to avoid a rain out of the game.
6. Travel Considerations
- A. In all instances, departure time takes priority. A team may not stay over until Tuesday to begin or complete a game or series.
  - B. In the event the visiting team is not scheduled to leave the host city until Tuesday and there are no prior travel limitations for the game's umpires that would dictate departure to enact these deadlines, with Conference approval, it would be permissible to waive the 4:00 pm deadline for the start of a game and a 6:00 pm deadline for the resumption of the game.
7. Authority to Play Doubleheaders
- A. If weather forecasts on Saturday and Sunday morning call for a high occurrence of inclement weather on Sunday or Monday (80 percent or higher), the home team in consultation with the visiting team may request permission from the Conference Office to play a doubleheader on Saturday or Sunday provided the teams are already in the locale and there is no television involved.
  - B. Approval of a prospective doubleheader shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on one of the days in the series.
- D. Other**
1. Authority to Rule on Game Stoppage  
The Plate Umpire has sole authority to suspend, postpone or cancel the game if conditions become unfit for play per NCAA Softball Rule 15.3.12.
2. Lightning Strikes
- A. Each member institution shall be responsible for having the capability to determine when lightning strikes are within specified distances from the competition site. When lightning is detected within 10 miles of the competition site (or, at a minimum, that by the time the monitor observes 30 seconds between seeing the lightning flash and hearing its associated thunder), home team game management shall utilize the public address system to inform those in attendance that inclement weather including lightning is within 10 miles and that should patrons vacate the facility for safe shelter, they will be allowed to re-enter with a ticket stub. When lightning is detected within eight miles of the competition site, the competition shall be suspended.
  - B. To resume athletics activities, lightning safety experts recommend waiting 30 minutes after both the last sound of thunder and last flash of lightning. See also NCAA Softball Rule, Appendix G Safety Guidelines/Lightning Guidelines.
  - C. A 10-minute warm-up period may be granted following the 30-minute suspension.

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference tournament champion will be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship.

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.1] The Conference office shall assign umpires for all home Conference and non-conference contests. Notification of game officials and all information pertaining to officiating can be found on [www.spotfoul.com](http://www.spotfoul.com). Access to the website can be obtained by contacting Sylvia Hagan.

The following procedures shall be utilized regarding umpires at all Southeastern Conference softball games:

1. Each institution will provide a dressing room for umpires closely located to the softball facility. When male and female umpires are assigned, two separate dressing rooms should be provided, if possible. Admittance to this room shall be limited to game officials and conference office representatives. No guests, visitors or institutional personnel (other than a trainer or manager upon request or conference office representative) shall be admitted. The officials' dressing room shall be set up with towels, soap, soft drinks, water, and cups.
2. Security escorts for umpires should be provided from the dressing room to the field and back to the dressing room at the conclusion of each game.
3. Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is prohibited. Comments about officiating are to be directed to the Conference office only. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed to the Conference office only. Public comments related to officiating by officials, coaches or institutional personnel are prohibited.
4. Films, videotapes, and DVD's shall not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating (e.g., the use of game films to produce clips for television or newspapers depicting officiating calls). No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches' radio and/or television shows.
5. Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone. All matters pertaining to officials or officiating must be directed to the Conference office only. Likewise, this policy precludes officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.
6. The list of game officials assigned to a game shall not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of pre-game information packets before a game.
7. Compensation – Payment of the game officials will be handled by a third-party service (Dwolla). Each institution will be invoiced for their share of the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials. The Conference office and Athletics Directors shall set the fees and travel/expense policies. *[Revised: 8/24/17]*
8. Tickets – Each official assigned to a competition is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to that competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition.

**Playing Rules.** During conference games, umpires shall administer and address the NCAA Softball Playing Rules as written without requiring the opposing coach to bring the issue to the umpire's attention.

**Practice.** The visiting team representative is responsible for contacting the home team's representative to coordinate practice time on the field the day before the series begins. Visiting teams shall be limited to two hours of practice time; weather permitting, no other restrictions shall apply, other than a coach, administrator, or trainer from the visiting team must be on-site during the practice. Due to field preparations on the day of the game, game day field access may be limited or restricted. *[Revised: 12/15/15, 10/27/16]*

**Pre-Game Protocol.** Games will follow a pre-game protocol (see Supplement B of this section) that allows both the home team and the visiting team a 35-minute warm-up period and a seven-minute in-field period. The pregame protocol will also include a period for player and coach introductions and the National Anthem. Coaches are required to turn in line-ups 30 minutes prior to the start of the game.

The home team shall designate the space provided for home and visiting teams to conduct its 35-minute batting practice/warm-up. Home and visiting teams shall be permitted to do offensive and defensive drills, or any combination thereof, during its designated 35-minute batting practice/warm-up. If the home team designates the playing field as the batting practice/warm-up area, they must provide a suitable and convenient alternative site for the visiting team to stretch and throw during the home team's batting practice/warm-up period. This site will be available for stretching and throwing only.

Each institution may establish field rules related to permissible activities for a team not in a designated warm-up period. This will assist the home team with implementing a policy that is respectful of the grounds' crew time to prepare the field for play. As an example, if Team A (home) is in the designated 35 minute warm-up at the one hour and 45 minutes prior to first pitch, then Team B (visitor) will follow Team A's established protocol for what activities may or may not occur on the field, inside/outside the lines, etc.

The established pre-game protocol specific to each stadium must be followed by the home and visiting

team. Additionally, the institution's established stadium protocol must be the same for each visiting Conference institution. Home teams must provide visiting teams with the established pre-game rules and regulations at the same time practice times are coordinated.

Lastly, there is a two minute "turnover" period that occurs between home and visiting team warm-up. The home team must be free and clear of the field and batting cages following this two minute warm-up period in order for the visiting team to receive a full 35 minute warm-up period.

**Public Address Announcer.** A public address announcer shall be present at all Conference games. The announcer must be impartial and give only necessary information in good taste and acceptable language.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** The regular-season Conference schedule shall be a revolving schedule with each team playing eight, three game series for a total of 24 games. Unless otherwise permitted by administrative action of the Conference, the three-game series will be played on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. When the visiting team is on spring break during the weekdays immediately prior to a series, the participating teams may mutually request the series begin on Thursday and conclude on Saturday. The Conference schedule is set by administrative action of the Conference. Institutional administrators may change the date of a Conference game with mutual consent and upon approval by the Conference staff liaison. Revisions to a Conference schedule that are associated with spring break require the approval of the Commissioner. In no case shall a team stay over on Monday to start or complete a Conference game or series (unless otherwise permitted by administrative action of the Conference). There must be a minimum of 20-minutes between games in a double header and game management personnel shall be available to escort umpires during this interval period. [Revised: 12/12/17]

**Rosters.** For each series and prior to the first game of the series, teams shall submit a roster designating its 22 players. This roster is submitted to the home plate umpire prior to the first game and cannot be changed during the series. [Revised: 8/18/15]

**Scouting.** [Revised: 10/27/16]

**Non-Conference Opponents.** Coaches shall be required to share scouting information relating to non-conference opponents with other SEC programs.

**Conference Opponents.** Coaches shall not share scouting information relating to other SEC programs with anyone.

**Squad Size.** The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 22 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. [Revised: 8/18/15]

**Suspension/Ejection Policy.**

1. Any game official may eject a student-athlete, coach or team representative for misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. If an individual is ejected from the contest, the ejected individual shall leave the dugout and field area immediately without further communication with the teams or game officials. The ejected individual shall remain out of sight and sound of the contest for the remainder of the contest. "Out of sight and sound" means that the ejected individual(s) may not view the contest, communicate with his or her team, or be in a location where the game officials can hear him or her. The ejected individual may not return to the dugout, field, or grandstands until all game officials are escorted to their dressing area by security or game management. In the event that an ejected individual does not comply with the ejection policy set forth in this subparagraph 2 in a timely manner (as determined in the game officials' sole discretion), the game will be forfeited.
3. Upon first offense, a student-athlete, coach, or team representative ejected for misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct shall receive a written warning cautioning further like conduct. Upon second and subsequent offense(s) in the same academic year, a student-athlete, coach, or team representative ejected for misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be suspended for the team's next previously scheduled and completed contest. If a previously scheduled contest is postponed or halted, that make-up contest against the originally scheduled opponent will count as a regularly scheduled contest. Contests may not be added after the incident in order to fulfill the requirements of this policy. End of season suspensions will be carried forward to the next season.
4. A suspended individual shall remain out of sight and sound of the applicable contest (as defined in subparagraph 2). Additionally, a suspended individual may not:
  - A. Be dressed in game uniform;

- B. Communicate with any team personnel or umpires;
- C. Take part in any pregame activities at the site of competition; or
- D. Be in the stadium or on the field once pregame activities have started.

In the event that a suspended individual does not comply with the suspension policy set forth in this subparagraph 4 in a timely manner (as determined in the game official's sole discretion), the game will be forfeited. In the event that a suspended individual participates in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game will be forfeited.

5. This policy is in effect for all regular season games and the Southeastern Conference Tournament only.

**Tickets.** The home team shall provide up to 75 complimentary tickets/admissions to the visiting team for each game in a Conference series.

**Tie-breaker.** In regular season Conference games, the NCAA tie-breaker rule, as defined by NCAA Softball Rule 6.15, will not be utilized.

**Uniforms.** During Conference series, the home team shall wear its light/white uniform on the first day of the series, its dark uniform on the second day, and its light/white uniform on the final day. The visiting team will wear its dark uniform on the first day of the series, its light/white uniform on the second day, and its dark uniform on the final day. Head coaches will verify the color of uniform to be worn when they discuss practice times.

**Video Boards/Replays.** Institutions are not limited in the use of replays (including number of replays shown), except as set forth in NCAA Softball Playing Rules (See Appendix H - Rules for Video, Audio, or Matrix Boards). The time during which permissible replays may be shown is from the end of a play until the next batter enters the batter's box. Replays may also be shown at a later time during the game as part of a package of highlights during a middle-of-inning or end-of-inning break. In no circumstances will the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an umpire or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the stadium video board.

**Video and Electronics Equipment.** An institution may only videotape its own contests. The home and visiting teams may video the contest from a centerfield camera location. The home team may also video the contest from any location outside the team area. If the home team elects to video from a location or angle other than centerfield, the home team must video the game in its entirety from that location or angle. The home team shall provide the same video including all angles to the visiting team. The home team shall provide a video feed from its equipment to the visiting team or, if providing the video feed is not possible, a DVD or external drive copy of the video captured during the contest to the visiting team. If the home team does not utilize a camera angle or a camera is not operating properly, the home team must cover the camera to indicate that the angle is not available and neither team has access. Cameras may not be manned during play. Teams may only access such cameras during warm-up and between innings. Under no circumstances may institutional videographers capture film for scouting purposes.

The home team must provide video produced on the digital platform to the visiting team, when available.

No electronic equipment (*e.g.*, phones, tablets, palm pilots, iPhones, iPads, etc.) is permitted inside the dugout. Exceptions shall be limited to medical personnel for medical necessity and credentialed media (*e.g.*, television cameras). Information (*e.g.*, tagging video, etc.) from training programs such as Right View Pro and Dartfish may only be gathered from outside the team areas. There is absolutely no evaluating of video or other technology devices during the game.

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Administrative Teleconference.** Coaches and administrators from each institution competing in the Conference tournament shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the tournament to review policies and procedures.

**Awards.**

1. **All-Tournament Team.** After each semifinal game, the losing coach will submit two individual players from their team for selection on the All-tournament Team. Three players will be submitted from the losing team in the championship game and four players will be submitted by the winning team in the championship game for a total of 11 players.
2. **Tournament MVP.** The Tournament MVP will be chosen by the championship winning coach.

**Credentials.** Each team will receive 28 participant credentials for the official members of their travel party.

**Dates and Sites.** The Conference tournament shall be conducted the week prior to the first round of the NCAA Division I Women's Softball tournament. The 2019 tournament will be held May 8-11, in College Station, Texas by Texas A&M University.

2020	Alabama	2024	Auburn
2021	Florida	2025	Kentucky
2022	Arkansas	2026	LSU
2023	Georgia		

**Dugouts/Home Team Determination.** The home team shall occupy the third base dugout, warm-up first and wear light uniforms. The visiting team will wear a contrasting color.

The higher seed in each game of the tournament will be designated the home team.

**Format.** The tournament shall be a 12-team, single-elimination format, beginning on Wednesday and concluding with the championship game on Saturday. The 12 tournament teams shall be determined based on the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition. The winner of the tournament receives the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

**Game Times.** The Conference administrator in consultation with the host institution will determine the game times. The host institution will have first choice of the time it prefers to play its first game of the tournament and the bracket will be adjusted accordingly throughout the remainder of the tournament. All times are local to the host institution. Start times may be adjusted to accommodate television schedule, weather delays or other unforeseen situations.

**Host Institution Responsibilities.** The responsibilities of the host institution's tournament director and sports information contact are listed in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference staff and is under separate cover.

**Lodging.** Each institution is responsible for arranging its own lodging for the tournament.

**Length of Game.** All games shall be seven innings, unless a team holds at least an eight-run lead after five innings of play, at which time the game shall be declared complete. If play has been stopped before a seven-inning game has been completed, it shall be resumed at the point of interruption, with the exception of the eight-run rule. If the eight-run rule does not apply, at least five innings must be played in order for the game to be considered regulation or complete.

**Manual.** The tournament host shall distribute a tournament manual outlining the policies and procedures for the tournament, as well as information specific to the host site, to each institution no later than four weeks prior to the tournament.

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event that inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the highest remaining seed in the tournament at the time of suspension shall be designated as the automatic qualifier. *[Adopted: 4/27/17]*

**Pre-Game Warm-up.** The tournament field shall be available (weather permitting) two and a half (2.5) hours prior to each team's game and may be available for throwing and stretching. Each team will have 35 minutes in the batting

cages.

**Seeding.** The team with the highest percentage of wins during the regular season Conference competition will be the No. 1 seed; the remainder of the tournament field will be seeded 2-10 based on the Conference winning percentage. Ties shall be broken in the following manner:

1. **Two-Team Tie.** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
  - A. Won-lost record of head-to-head competition between the tied teams.
  - B. Won-lost record of the two teams versus the highest seeded common opponent.
  - C. Fewest runs allowed in head to head competition. If head to head competition between two tied teams did not occur, then fewest runs allowed against all common opponents.
  - D. Fewest runs allowed versus all opponents.
  - E. Coin flip by the Commissioner.
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** If three or more tied teams have three different records against each other, they shall be seeded in best percentage order. Otherwise, once the tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tie breaker procedure shall be utilized. The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
  - A. Total won-loss percentage of games played among the tied teams.
  - B. Won-loss percentage of the tied teams versus the highest seed common opponent.
  - C. Fewest runs allowed in head to head competition. If head to head competition between the tied teams did not occur, then fewest runs allowed against all common opponents.
  - D. Fewest runs allowed versus all opponents.
  - E. If three or more teams are still tied, the Commissioner will conduct a draw.

**Squad Size.** Only 22 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests. [*Revised: 8/18/15*]

**Tickets.** The host institution of the tournament may decide whether or not to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, ticket prices shall be set by the host institution, but must be approved by the Conference office. In addition, if admission is charged, the host institution must make contact with each participating school to communicate the ticket policy for the tournament, including payment instructions and player/pass gate information. Institutions are not required to purchase a specific number of tickets.

**Uniforms.** Teams must be prepared to wear light and dark uniforms. The higher seeded team in each game will wear light uniforms.

**Videotaping.** Participating teams may only videotape the games in which they are competing in and only from pre-determined assigned areas. Each team must provide its own video equipment and appropriate accessories (e.g. cords).

**SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE  
SOFTBALL BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING (BCT) PROTOCOL**

**GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

1. Southeastern Conference institutions shall follow the NCAA Bat Compliance Testing Program. The SEC Barrel Compression Testing (BCT) protocol is meant to work in concert with the NCAA Bat Compliance Testing program except where policies are specific to the SEC.
2. Coaches and administrators of Conference institutions are obligated by the NCAA Softball Rules to play with legal equipment and to remove any illegal equipment from play.
3. Barrel compression testing will be conducted prior to each Conference game in the SEC regular season. Testing will occur prior to each game in the SEC Tournament.
4. Each SEC institution is required to use the LV Sports (formerly WSU) bat testing machine for the SEC softball season.

**BCT EQUIPMENT TO BE USED**

1. The home team's machine is used for testing.
2. If home team does NOT have a working BCT machine but the visiting team does have a working BCT machine – the visiting team will travel with machine to the series and the visiting team's machine shall be used for testing.
3. If neither the home team nor visiting team has a working BCT machine –the home team will make every attempt to borrow a machine.
4. If neither team has a working BCT machine AND the home team cannot borrow a machine – the home team will notify the softball sport administrator at the SEC office and the visiting team's head coach and SWA (or softball sport administrator) no later than 48 hours prior to the first game of the series. In this instance, bat testing will not take place. However, institutions are reminded that all NCAA softball playing rules (including playing with legal equipment) must be followed.

**LOCATION AND TIME OF TESTING** *[Revised: 1/25/18]*

1. The home team shall designate the sport administrator, event manager or other administrative designee to oversee the administrative process of the testing (e.g., overseeing the meeting and filling out the form).
2. The crew chief will be responsible for actually testing both team's bats (e.g., physically placing the bats in the machines). The home team's administrator will serve as the observer and record the results.
3. Both coaches (or appointed designee(s)) will bring all bats to the testing location, as well as their logo stickers provided by the SEC. Each team's logo stickers must be available in the testing location prior to the start of the home team's testing.
4. Bat testing for the home team shall begin 135 minutes (two hours and 15 minutes) prior to the scheduled start time of each game of the series. Bat testing for the visiting team shall begin 120 minutes (two hours) prior to the scheduled start time of each game. In the event of a doubleheader, BCT will only be conducted prior to the first game of the doubleheader.
5. Location of the testing will be determined by the home team and communicated via email to the visiting team's head coach no later than 48 hours prior to the first game of the series.
6. The crew chief must be present during testing and shall be made aware of when/where testing will take place. Each team has the option to have a designated staff member present during their opponent's testing.
7. Testing shall not be conducted in public view or near fans/media.

**TESTING PROCEDURE**

1. On the WSU or LV fixture, 1550psi shall be the lowest (softest) passing score except as noted on the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List for specific models granted a lower passing score.
2. Each bat will be tested until it receives two pass results or two fail results whichever comes first.
3. Each bat will be tested approximately 6 inches from the end of the barrel. The bat will then be rotated 90 degrees and tested again.
4. If after the first two tests:
  - A. The bat has two pass results, the bat receives the appropriate sticker and is ready to be used in competition;
  - B. The bat has two fails, the bat is surrendered and will not be returned for use; or
  - C. The bat has one pass result and one fail result after the second test, the bat will be removed from the machine and inspected for cracks. If none is found, the bat will be inserted into the machine and tested the third and final time.
    - (1) If the bat has a second pass result, the bat will be identified as passed and the sticker affixed.
    - (2) If the bat receives a second failed result, the bat will be deemed unacceptable and surrendered to the testing team.
5. Bats passing both tests will receive a tamper-proof sticker to be placed on the taper of the bat so that it is easily visible.
6. The opponent's sticker will be placed on bats that have passed. (e.g., if Arkansas is playing Georgia, the Arkansas sticker is placed on the passing Georgia bat and the Georgia sticker is placed on the passing Arkansas bat.)
7. The visiting team shall always travel with its own stickers to be used during the testing. The home team is not responsible for stickers of the opposing teams.
8. The stickers should be removed after the series has been completed.
9. The SEC staff will purchase each institution's stickers and ship to each head coach prior to the start of SEC play.

**PROCEDURES FOR FAILED BATS**

1. A bat that fails the BCT testing during a series will be deemed illegal and remain in the immediate possession of the home team's event manager until the end of the series.
2. If a bat fails testing, the bat is dead for that series and cannot be re-tested for that series.
3. The home team's sport administrator, event manager or appointed administrative designee will return a visiting team's illegal bat to the visiting team head coach at the conclusion of the last game of the series.
4. The home team's sport administrator, event manager or appointed administrative designee will give a home team's illegal bat to the home team's SWA.
5. For each failed bat, the home team event manager (or administrative designee) will complete the SEC Failed Bat Form and submit the form via email *no later than 48 hours after completion of bat testing for the series* to the SEC office, with copies of the form sent to the head coach and SWA of the affected institution.
6. It is the responsibility of the head coach to give the failed bat to his/her SWA upon the team's return to campus.
7. All failed bats shall not be used in any subsequent game.
8. The SEC office will submit failed bat information to the NCAA Bat Testing Administrator.

**SOFTBALL PRE-GAME TIMING PROTOCOL****(EXAMPLE)***UPDATED 11-19-13*

<b>1:00 p.m. Start</b>		<b>Time Prior to Game</b>
<b>11:15 A.M.</b>	<b>HOME TEAM WARM-UP (35 MINUTES)</b>	1 HOUR, 45 MINUTES
<b>11:50 A.M.</b>	<b>TURNOVER (2 MINUTES)</b>	1 HOUR, 10 MINUTES
<b>11:52 A.M.</b>	<b>VISITING TEAM WARM-UP (35 MINUTES)</b>	1 HOUR, 8 MINUTES
<b>12:27 P.M.</b>	<b>FIELD PREP (3 MINUTES)</b>	33 MINUTES
<b>12:30 P.M.</b>	<b>HOME TEAM INFIELD (7 MINUTES)</b>	30 MINUTES
<b>12:37 P.M.</b>	<b>VISITING TEAM INFIELD (7 MINUTES)</b>	23 MINUTES
<b>12:44 P.M.</b>	<b>FIELD CREW PREP (6 MINUTES)</b>	16 MINUTES
<b>12:50 P.M.</b>	<b>UMPIRE/COACHES MEETING (2 MINUTES)</b>	10 MINUTES
<b>12:52 P.M.</b>	<b>INTROS (5 MINUTES)</b>	8 MINUTES
<b>12:57 P.M.</b>	<b>NATIONAL ANTHEM &amp; CEREMONIAL FIRST PITCH (3 MINUTES)</b>	3 MINUTES
<b>1:00 P.M.</b>	<b>FIRST PITCH PLAY BALL!</b>	

- If possible, institutions should combine field crew prep and umpire meeting.
- As a reminder, intro videos are limited to 60 seconds in length.
- If televised game, media relations and marketing will work with producer to adjust pre-game timing protocol to accommodate timing of requested first pitch. In most cases, the national anthem and intros will be reversed as to allow time to conclude anthem before start of live broadcast.
- Weather issues may dictate a need to adjust the recommended protocol. For example, if there is rain or has been rain, then the field crew may need more than 5 minutes to get the field ready. Coaches, umpires, field crew, media and marketing will need to work together to coordinator any adjustments to the pre-game protocol.
- If mutually agreed upon, senior day activities may occur prior to the start of intros. The timing sheet will need to be adjusted to account for these activities.

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for men's and women's swimming and diving: Sport Administrator – Matt Boyer; Communications – Jill Skotarczak.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Teams.** The first team consists of the top finisher in each event. The second team consists of the second and third place finishers in each event.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The team consists of any redshirt or true freshman who finishes either in the top eight or is the highest scoring freshman of each event, excluding relay events. Ties will not be broken. If no freshman scores, there is no representative for that event.
3. **Swimmer of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The ballot will be provided to coaches following completion of the NCAA Championships.
4. **Diver of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The ballot will be provided to coaches following completion of the NCAA Championships.
5. **Freshman Swimmer of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The ballot will be provided to coaches following completion of the NCAA Championships.
6. **Freshman Diver of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The ballot will be provided to coaches following completion of the NCAA Championships.
7. **Swimmer of the Meet.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote by write-in, there will not be a nomination process. Each coach must drop their ballot into the scratch box prior to the last relay of the meet. The award will be announced at the conclusion of the championship. [Coaches may not vote for their own student-athlete]
8. **Diver of the Meet.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote by write-in, there will not be a nomination process. Each coach must drop their ballot into the scratch box prior to the last relay of the meet. The award will be announced at the conclusion of the championship. [Coaches may not vote for their own student-athlete]
9. **Commissioner's Trophy.** The recipient will be determined by total individual points scored at the Conference Championship. The award will be announced at the conclusion of the championship.
10. **Coaches of the Year.** A swimming coach of the year and a diving coach of the year will be chosen annually. The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The ballot will be provided to coaches following NCAA competition.
11. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. The ballot will be provided to coaches following NCAA competition.
12. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
13. **Swimmer of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
14. **Diver of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
15. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Coaches Committee.** [SEC Bylaw 21.9] The coaches committee will be made up of three head coaches from different institutions and will follow an alphabetical rotation with one coach rotating off the committee each year. The head diving coach from each of the three institutions shall be included in any diving-specific issues, however, the swimming coaches will have the final vote on all non-technical situations. For 2018-19, the coaches committee will include Auburn, Florida, and Georgia. Subsequent years will be as follows: Florida, Georgia, and Kentucky (2019-2020), and Georgia, Kentucky, and LSU (2020-21). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Coaches Meeting** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in April at

the SEC Office. The diving coach for the next year's championship host may also attend.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Georgia serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Kentucky (2020), LSU (2021), and Missouri (2022). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. Coaches may not serve as chair during their first year as an SEC coach.

**Conference Championship.** The Conference champions (men and women) will be determined by a meet of all member institutions sponsoring a team. The championship shall be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Officials.** Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** Each member institution having a swimming/diving team shall participate in Conference competition. The Conference office shall schedule these meets. Each institution shall set the dates and times. Score shall be kept during these events.

**Squad Size.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 24 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 24 eligible student-athletes. For invitational meets, the host shall determine the squad size.

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Administrative Meeting.** Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall attend a mandatory meeting prior to the start of the championships to review policies and procedures.

**Appeals.** Appeals will be considered in accordance with NCAA rules. Appeals may be lodged only for errors in entries, scratches, recording of data, scoring and non-judgment errors in the application of rules. Films or videotape will not be used in the appeals process, except for the relay take-offs (see the Video Replay section of the regulations). Appeal forms may be obtained from the referee. The written statement made on the appeal form must be submitted to the referee no later than 15 minutes after the finish of the final heat/round of that event in which the appeal is applicable. The meet committee will act upon all appeals. The decision of the committee is final. (NCAA Rule 8.4.9)

**Awards Ceremony.** An awards ceremony will be conducted immediately after the championship heat of each event (finalist for the diving event will be announced before the swimming award presentations where applicable). The top three finishers will go directly to the awards stand after they complete their event and before they begin their warm-down. The host institution may use dignitaries to present awards for the relays only. For individual events, a member of the coaching staff from the top finisher will present awards. Individuals must wear team sweat suits during the presentation of awards. The winners must be in team warm-ups and will not be allowed to bring towels or other items to the award stand. Hats cannot be worn, unless they are a part of the official team warm-up. Media personnel will not be allowed to interview student athletes before the award ceremony. All winners must participate in the award ceremony unless they have been given an exception by the meet committee.

**Banners.** Only one team banner may be placed in each team's seating area.

**Dates and Sites.** The SEC Championships shall be held Tuesday through Saturday four weeks prior to the NCAA Women's Championships. The 2019 Championships will be February 19-23, at the University of Georgia. Future sites of the championship are:

2020	Auburn	2022	Tennessee
2021	Missouri	2023	Texas A&M

If another institution acquires facilities that meet the minimum hosting specifications set forth in these Commissioner's Regulations, such institution will enter the hosting rotation beginning in 2018 (before any institution in the 5-school rotation repeats as host).

**Entries for Diving.** Divemeets.com will be utilized for the diving portion of the meet and divers should register at divemeets.com prior to the meet. Diving entries must be submitted with the swimming entries and must list the participant's name and the event(s) the diver will be diving.

**Entries for Swimming.** Entries must be submitted using the Hy-Tek file. The entry deadline for events is Noon Central Time the Monday preceding the week of the championship. For swimming entries, only the best time achieved during the school year may be submitted on the entry form (actual or aggregate, whichever is faster). Failure to enter an event properly will be reviewed by the meet committee. A "no time" entry may be submitted only if the event has NOT been contested or an aggregate relay time cannot be submitted.

**Format.** The championships will be a common-site, men's and women's event, with each meet scored separately. In swimming, each institution may enter one relay team per relay event. For preliminaries and finals, all eight lanes will be used per NCAA rule 5.1.5. During finals there shall be three heats of 8 swimmers each swum in the following order C-B-A. In diving, only the top 8 divers from preliminaries will advance to the finals. Places 9 through 24 will be determined based upon the results of the preliminaries.

**Heats.** [NCAA Rule 5.1.5.] When eight lanes are available, all eight lanes should be used in preliminary heats and finals. When seeding the swimmers, intentionally leaving empty lanes between them is not permitted.

**Host Institution Responsibilities.** The responsibilities of the host institution's tournament director and sports information contact are listed in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference staff and is under separate cover.

**Manual.** A championships manual, outlining the policies and procedures for the event, as well as information specific to the event, will be distributed by the host to each institution no later than four weeks prior to the championships.

**Meet Committee.** The coaches committee shall serve as the meet committee and shall supervise the conduct of the championships, including appeals. A committee member who is directly involved in an appeal shall remove

himself/herself from the committee, and the next coach in the committee rotation order shall substitute. The committee may defer any issue to the SEC staff liaison at the championship, whose decision shall be final.

The diving coaches will have a separate diving meet committee to handle the technical aspects of the diving events; however, when a situation arises that is outside the technical realm (e.g., conduct, behavior, etc.), the matter will come directly to the swim meet committee. The diving meet committee members will be from the same schools as the swim meet committee.

**Minimum Hosting Specifications.** The championships may only be hosted by a member institution with a facility that meets the following criteria:

- Minimum of 1,000 spectator seats
- Adequate deck space for a minimum of 600 participants and championship staff and officials
- Minimum of eight (8) warm up / cool down lanes
- Minimum of two (2) 1M and two (2) 3M springboards
- 5M, 7.5M, and 10M platforms
- Dedicated warm-up area for divers
- Locker rooms – If a facility's visiting locker room is not adequate for all participants, then home team locker rooms must be available to all participants
- Adequate and accessible treatment space
- Pool with NCAA required depth
- For replay purposes – a minimum of two steady HD cameras, mounted at the start and elevated to a point of an unobstructed view. A minimum of one camera should be made available on either side or a minimum of two in the same location above the starting lanes. [Adopted 10/27/17]

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2] The coaches shall select the following head officials: referee, stroke and turn judge, starter and diving referee. The host shall assign the other officials, however, coaches will be allowed to recommend stroke and turn judges.

The assignment of judges shall be as follows:

1. Turns: Four judges at the turn end, two at the start end, plus the referee and starter;
2. Strokes: One on each side of the pool, plus the referee and starter;
3. Timers: Two on each lane; and
4. Relay Take-offs: Head timer in each lane; two additional officials, plus the referee and starter will serve as dual confirmation officials (two lanes per official).

A panel of seven non-affiliated judges and the diving referee will be assigned to score the diving events. These judges will be selected by the diving coaches in consultation with the diving referee. The diving referee shall be selected by the coaches.

**Order of Events.** The order of events for trials and finals will be determined at the annual spring head coaches meeting each year. Swimming events will begin with women followed by men, while diving will alternate each year with men first in odd years and women in even to be consistent with the zone diving rotation. [Revised: 6/3/16]

**Player Pass Gate Admissions.** Complimentary admissions will be provided only through a pass list for individuals designated by the student-athlete. "Hard tickets" may not be issued. The individual using the complimentary admission must present identification to the person supervising the use of the pass list at the admission gate. The individual then will be provided a ticket stub or other identification of a specified reserved seat or seating area or treated as a general-admission ticket holder.

**Pool Safety Manager.** The host institution shall appoint a pool safety manager to monitor and designate lanes in the warm up / warm down pool (lane 1 or 8 for sprint and lane 2 or 7 for pace). Monitoring will begin an hour before each session and run through its completion.

**Psych Sheets, Heat Sheets and Results.** The host shall compile a psych sheet for each championship and make it available to all coaches at check-in. The host also shall compile heat sheets for all preliminary and finals sessions, as well as results of each day's competition. A complete set of results shall be forwarded to each institution in a timely manner. Three sets of results shall be forwarded to the Conference office.

**Relays.** Relays will be contested as timed finals in the evening, but a time trial may be contested in the morning, if

requested. If a relay is contested in the morning, that swim will constitute a time-standard trial for purposes of qualifying for NCAA championships, inasmuch as the morning option is not a preliminary event. A school may enter only one team in the time-standard trial. Relay time trials do not count toward the maximum number of events a swimmer may enter. A team's seed time cannot be changed by a timed-trial.

**Scoring.** The NCAA 24-place scoring system shall be used. A comparable scoreboard for both the men's and women's championships must be visible and updated frequently.

**Scratches.** Scratches may be made only by the coach (or official team representative) by depositing scratch cards in the designated scratch box. A scratch verification form will be provided and must be used. All entries not scratched will become official entries. The scratch box for all swimming events shall open two hours prior to the start of the swimming finals each evening and close one hour prior to the start of the swimming finals. Only the SEC staff liaison will have access to the scratch box (i.e., sign the scratch receipts, remove the scratches from the box at the deadline, check the scratches and turn them over to the computer operator for entry into the computer).

**Seeding.** All swimming events will be seeded according to short-course standards. When seeding the swimmers or relays, intentionally leaving empty lanes between them is not permitted. In addition, the heats for the 1,650 freestyle will be seeded according to actual 1,650-yard times and will be swum slowest to fastest with the heats alternating between men and women. The 1,650 will begin at a time in the afternoon that will ensure the next to last heats will finish by 5:00 p.m.

**Spectator Seating.** The order of selection for the spectator seating will rotate in reverse order as the team seating. The drawing for spectator seating for the championships will be done during a conference call of all head coaches during the fall semester. Each institution will receive an equal number of spectator seating. Each institution will receive two blocks of seating, one for swimming and a corresponding one for diving. These blocks should rotate by session during the course of the championship. The order for spectator seating for the 2018 championships is as follows: South Carolina, Missouri, Texas A&M, Tennessee, Arkansas/Vanderbilt, Georgia, LSU, Alabama, Kentucky, Florida, and Auburn.

**Squad Size.** The squad size limit for the SEC Championships is 22 competitors with a maximum of 19 swimmers.

**Team Seating.** The drawing for team seating will take place during the coaches meeting in conjunction with the championships. Each institution will receive an equal number of seats. Men's and women's teams will sit together according to the school. The locations for team seating will rotate by session during the course of the championship. The order for team seating for the 2019 championships is as follows: Florida, Kentucky, Alabama, LSU, Georgia, Arkansas/Vanderbilt, Tennessee, Texas A&M, Missouri, South Carolina, and Auburn.

Athletes should stay in their team section during competition events. No team member shall be allowed behind the blocks during a race.

**Tickets.** The host institution may decide whether or not to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, ticket prices shall be set by the host institution, but must be approved by the Conference liaison. In addition, if admission is charged, the host institution should make prior contact with each participating school to determine the form of payment and staffing for the player/guest gate. Institutions are not required to purchase a set amount of tickets. The host institution is encouraged to create a general admission seating section.

**Time Trials.** Time Trials will be held daily after each session (preliminaries and finals).

**Touch Pads and Electronic Take-Off Pads.** NCAA rule 4.14.6. Relay Judging Platforms (RJP's) will be utilized for the Conference Championship.

**Uniforms.** See General Administration section of Commissioner's Regulations.

**Video Replay.** Video replay may be used to dispute disqualifications declared by the relay judging platforms. The host institution should assure that cameras are placed in an adequate position to display the take-off platforms for all lanes. Procedures for disputing a disqualification will be reviewed with the coaches and the head referee during the pre-championship meeting. Any video replay must take place after the final heat of an event.

**Warm-Up.** One hour before the start of each session, lanes for specific types of warm-up will be designated.

2019 SEC Swimming & Diving Competition Schedule

	<i>Tuesday, February 19</i>	<i>Wednesday, February 20</i>	<i>Thursday, February 21</i>	<i>Friday, February 22</i>	<i>Saturday, February 23</i>
<b>PRELIMS</b>	<b>Time Trials</b> (10:00 am start)  <b>Men's 1-meter*</b> (10:30 am start)  <b>Women's 3-meter*</b> (One hour after the conclusion of the Men's 1-meter)	<b>500 Free</b> (10:00 am start)  <b>200 IM</b>  <b>50 Free</b>  <b>Women's 1-meter*</b> (12:30 pm start)	<b>400 IM</b> (10:00 am start)  <b>100 Fly</b>  <b>200 Free</b>  <b>Men's 3-meter*</b> (12:30 pm start)	<b>200 Fly</b> (10:00 am start)  <b>100 Back</b>  <b>100 Breast</b>  <b>Women's Platform*</b> (12:30 pm start)	<b>200 Back</b> (10:00 am start)  <b>100 Free</b>  <b>200 Breast</b>  <b>Men's Platform*</b> (12:30 pm start)  <b>1650 Free</b> (start TBD)
<b>FINALS</b>	<b>Men's 1-meter*</b> (4:20 pm start)  <b>200 Medley Relay</b> (5:00 pm start)  <b>Women's 3-meter*</b> (5:20 pm start)  <b>800 Free Relay</b> (6:00 pm start)	<b>500 Free</b> (6:00 pm start)  <b>200 IM</b>  <b>50 Free</b>  <b>Women's 1-meter*</b>  <b>200 Free Relay</b>	<b>400 IM</b> (6:00 pm start)  <b>100 Fly</b>  <b>200 Free</b>  <b>Men's 3-meter*</b>	<b>200 Fly</b> (6:00 pm start)  <b>100 Back</b>  <b>100 Breast</b>  <b>Women's Platform*</b>  <b>400 Medley Relay</b>	<b>1650 Free</b> (6:00 pm start)  <b>200 Back</b>  <b>100 Free</b>  <b>200 Breast</b>  <b>Men's Platform*</b>  <b>400 Free Relay</b>

**\*Note: The rotation for swimming events at the SEC Championships begin with women followed by men, and the diving rotation begins with men in odd years and women in even years consistent with the zone diving rotation.**

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for men's tennis: Sport Administrator – John Gibson; Communications – Tammy Wilson.

## **REGULAR SEASON COMPETITION**

**Administration.** [SEC Bylaw 17.30] The administration of Conference regular-season and championship competition is governed by ITA regulations, except where these Commissioner's Regulations expressly supersede or conflict with ITA regulations.

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Teams.** The recipients will be determined by a combination of ITA rankings and vote of the head coaches as set out in this subsection. An online nomination form (links provided by the Conference office) will be due the Monday morning before the SEC Tournament. Coaches will nominate only players from their own teams and should nominate all players they believe deserve the honor, including ranked players, those with good doubles records, etc. There are no criteria for nominating a player. The nomination form will include information on the player's singles and doubles records, and space for supporting information (e.g., wins over ranked opponents, win streaks, etc.). If a school declines to submit any nominations, it must inform the SEC media contact via email.

First-team will be a combination of ITA rankings and a vote of the coaches. The Conference office will acquire the most updated ITA rankings. The top ranked doubles team and the top 8 ranked singles players (not part of the top doubles team) will be automatically named. There will be two wildcard spots based on the coaches' votes for a total of no less than 12 first-team members. Second-team will be based solely on the coaches' vote for a total of no less than 12 second-team members.

A link to the online ballot and nomination information will be sent to the coaches the Tuesday after the SEC tournament. There will be a mandatory coach's call on Wednesday for the coaches to discuss their own nominees. The coaches must submit their online ballots by the following morning (Thursday) and teams will be announced later Thursday afternoon. A player may only be named once and to one team. There will be no distinction between singles and doubles.

2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined in the same manner as the All-SEC Teams, and it will consist of six players.
3. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches using the same process as the All-SEC Teams.
4. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches using the same process as the All-SEC Teams.
5. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. All coaches are eligible, and there is no nomination process. The vote will be at the same time as other awards.
6. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. Coaches will nominate their own players for consideration and the same online nomination and voting processes used to select All-SEC Teams will be utilized.
7. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Coaches Meeting.** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in November at the SEC Office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Auburn serving as the chair in 2018-2019. Subsequent years will be as follows: Florida (2019-2020), Georgia (2020-21), and Kentucky (2021-22). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. Coaches may not serve as chair during their first year as an SEC coach.

**Coaching.** ITA Regulation I.J. (Coaching) governs the coaching of players during a match. For the avoidance of doubt, a coach may coach a player during the 20 seconds between points and during the 90-second change of sides. However, conversations with players may not impede the continuous-play rule.

**Conference Championship/Tournament.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

1. The team with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared the Conference champion. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins, they will be declared Conference co-champions.
2. There will be a Conference tournament at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular season in order to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. The Conference tournament will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Dual-Match Format.** Teams will play the format set forth under ITA Regulations, except in the event of inclement weather when teams may mutually agree to play the singles matches first.

Notwithstanding the forgoing provision, once a team clinches the doubles point, the teams may not complete the remaining doubles match, unless both coaches agree to complete the doubles match before the start of the team match. In addition, teams shall complete all remaining singles matches, unless, prior to the start of the team match, both coaches agree to end the team match once a team clinches four points. If the third set has begun, the match would play out according to rule. If the third set has not begun, a 10-point tiebreaker shall be played for the third set. A coach may suspend play without a default when singles matches do not start when singles play begins in indoor facilities with less than six courts. Following the clinch of the team match, a two minute break for celebration can occur. [Revised: 12/15/15]

**Equipment.** NCAA championship rules will be followed for ball changes. The host coach shall see that towels, scoreboards and drinks are provided for each court in use throughout the match. The host coach shall provide information to the visiting coach regarding match time, location of rest rooms and the conduct of the match prior to the beginning of the match. The host coach shall provide water during the visiting team's practice. The host institution shall also provide a place for the visiting team to shower, especially following the Sunday matches.

**Game Management Meeting.** At least one hour prior to the scheduled start of a match, the host institution's designated game management director shall meet jointly with the visiting head coach and head referee to review SEC, NCAA and ITA rules and expectations regarding crowd control, facility restrictions, and other game management issues of importance.

**Inclement Weather.** Institutions shall play all SEC matches outside, except in the event of inclement weather or when both coaches agree to play indoors. ITA Regulations govern the determination of whether a match will be delayed, suspended, postponed, or moved indoors due to inclement weather, except as otherwise stated in this subsection. In situations in which the conference sport administrator must be consulted prior to the scheduled start of the match, the home event manager shall contact the conference sport administrator sixty-five minutes prior to the scheduled start of the match. The event manager, both head coaches, and the referee (when appropriate) shall all jointly take part in the discussion. [Revised: 12/12/17]

1. **Delay or Suspension Due to Rain** In the event of a delay or suspension due to rain, institutions shall use their best efforts to ready the courts within one hour.
2. **Suspended Matches** In the event of a suspension, ITA Regulations govern the procedures related to the continuation of the match.
3. **Permissible Indoor Tennis Facilities** An SEC match may only be played indoors at a varsity quality indoor tennis facility with at least three courts available. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a match in progress is suspended due to inclement weather and both coaches mutually agree, the matches may be moved indoors, even if the facility has fewer than three courts available.
4. **No Indoor Facility Available** If no indoor back-up court is available, ITA standards for playable weather conditions will apply, except that a wind speed of 25 mph or less and a temperature of at least 40 degrees will be the numerical standards used to determine playable outdoor weather conditions. Coaches may agree to play despite inclement weather.
5. **Starting or Resuming a Delayed or Suspended Match When no Indoor Facilities Available.** If no indoor back-up court is available, a match may not start or resume after 10pm local time. [Adopted: 12/12/17]
6. **Postponed Matches**

Authority to postpone a match (*i.e.*, defer or resume the match on a date other than that originally scheduled) is vested *only* with the Commissioner or his/her designee.

In the event that a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday competition is postponed, the visiting team must remain overnight to play the following day. If the postponed match does not begin by 10 a.m. local time the following day, the visiting team may depart.

In the event that a Sunday competition is postponed, the visiting team may stay overnight until Monday to complete the match. A visiting team must wait a minimum of four hours (no maximum wait) after the match is scheduled to begin before departing on Sunday. Sunday match scheduling may only be adjusted if both coaches agree to a modification.

If it is determined that a match cannot be completed within the parameters established by these Commissioner's Regulations, the involved institutions' senior-level administrators shall decide when to resume the postponed match, which must occur prior to the end of the Conference regular season. Institutions must complete any and all postponed matches. Institutions may not resume matches at the Conference Tournament site.

**Injuries.** ITA Regulations govern the procedures related to injuries.

**Line-Ups.** This subsection supersedes all ITA Regulations related to Team Line-Ups. This line-up procedure is for Conference matches only. ITA Regulations govern nonconference matches for lineups and substitutions.

1. **Initial Exchange and Protest of Line-ups.** Coaches shall e-mail their entire singles and doubles line-ups to the SEC staff liaison by Tuesday at noon CST each week of SEC competition. (Note: Line-ups will be due on Monday the week of the SEC Championship and follow the same timeline as the regular season, but one day earlier.)

Coaches must list all eligible student-athletes to compete that week on the singles line-up in their order of ability (*i.e.*, the best player on the team listed at No. 1, the second best at No. 2, etc...). If a player is not listed on the singles line-up, the player may not participate that week in doubles or singles. Coaches shall also list three doubles teams in order of ability (*i.e.*, the strongest doubles team listed at No. 1, etc...).

If any coach desires to protest the line-up of another team, the coach must e-mail the protest request to the SEC staff liaison by 6 p.m. CST each Tuesday. The SEC staff liaison will then immediately email a summary of all protests to the head coaches' distribution list. The Protest Committee shall review any protest on a conference call at 10 a.m. CST each Wednesday and make a ruling by Wednesday afternoon. Any coach whose line-up is being protested may participate on the call. If there is a conflict in regards to the timing of the weekly protest call (*e.g.*, travel to a Thursday match), the protest call will move to 6 p.m. CT on Tuesday. Institutions must inform the Conference office of the conflict by the end of the day on the Sunday prior to the call.

2. **Change of Line-up after Protest Call.** Once a team submits its line-ups and the Protest Committee rules on any protest requests, a team may not change their line-ups for that week's competitions except as set out below.
3. **Exchange of Final Line-ups Prior to Match.** Coaches shall exchange doubles line-ups (with the head referee present) 30 minutes prior to the start of the doubles matches. Coaches shall exchange singles line-ups (with the head referee present) within two minutes of the completion of the doubles matches. A coach may only make one change to the line-up. If more time is needed following doubles to assess an injury, then this will be allowed as long as the time is reasonable. If more than two minutes passes, then the opposing team is allowed five minutes to adjust if a change is made in the line-up. [Revised: 12/13/16]
4. **Players Listed in Line-ups.** Coaches may only list players in the line-up if they are physically able to play.
5. **Change of Line-up for Following Week.** Coaches may not move a player more than one position (up or down) in their line-up from the last SEC match.
6. **Removing Players from Singles Line-Up.** A coach may remove a singles player or players from the line-up until two minutes following completion of doubles matches. Each player listed below the removed player will move up the appropriate number of spots. If more time is needed following doubles to assess an injury, then this will be allowed as long as the time is reasonable. If more than two minutes passes, then the opposing team is allowed ten minutes to adjust if a change is made in the line-up.
7. **Removing Players from Doubles Line-Up.** A coach may remove any player from the doubles line-up until the beginning of the doubles matches. However, if a player is removed from the doubles line-up within 30

minutes of the start of the doubles matches, the player may not play in singles.

If one member of the doubles team is removed from the line-up, the remaining player will move down one spot and the next highest doubles team will move up. If both members of the doubles team are removed from the line-up, then all teams move up and the replacement team moves into the third position. If more than one player is removed from the doubles line-up, affecting more than one doubles team, the substitutions will be a direct-line substitution. This policy will be used unless both coaches agree to play a new doubles lineup in order of strength. Substitutions for doubles must be pulled from the roster of available singles players.

8. **Insufficient Number of Players** ITA Regulations related to a "Team that is short on players" apply.
9. **Protests Concerning Unfair Line-ups** ITA Regulations relating to "Protests concerning unfair line-ups" do not apply, except in the event that a player is listed in the line-up who is physically unable to play. All other protests concerning unfair line-ups must be submitted pursuant to subsection 1 above.

**Match Times.** Institutions shall schedule Thursday and Friday matches between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. local time. Institutions shall schedule all Saturday and Sunday matches to begin by no later than 1 p.m. local time, or at least six hours prior to the last available departure flight from a reasonably located airport, unless both coaches agree to a later start time which may be no later than 2 p.m. If the visiting team travels by air, the visiting team must schedule air travel on the last available departure flight from a reasonably located airport. Institutions may play the next day at the host site (outside or at an indoor facility). [Revised: 12/15/15, 12/13/16]

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event that inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the highest remaining seed in the tournament at the time of suspension shall be designated as the automatic qualifier. [Revised: 12/12/17]

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.1] Seven ITA-certified umpires (six chair umpires and one head referee) will be assigned to each Conference match during the regular season, and the head referee may not serve as a chair umpire. During doubles matches, the three "additional" umpires shall act as far-side line officials to assist the three chair umpires. The umpires shall be empowered to administer the penalties prescribed for court conduct. Each institution shall be responsible for providing the name and contact information of the head referee to SEC staff liaison who will email a copy of these regulations to each institution's head referee. Following each match, both coaches shall evaluate the head referee. The referee, along with the assistance of the head coach of the host institution, shall be responsible for spectator behavior. The referee will make the decision if a match should be played indoors in accordance with SEC and ITA rules. It is the duty of the head referee to make this assignment, upon request.

**Tickets** – Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition.

**Penalties.** A player may be penalized in accordance with ITA rules for engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as cursing, throwing a racket, making obscene gestures, stalling, and any other conduct that is intended to disrupt the course of the match (e.g., trading insults with the crowd) or adversely affecting the concentration of his opponent.

**Protest Committee.** The Protest Committee shall serve to hear all line-up protests during the regular season, and their decision is final. The committee members for 2018-19 will be Kentucky (chair), LSU, Ole Miss, Missouri, and South Carolina. There must always be a minimum of five coaches on a protest call. If one or more members of the current committee is involved in a protest or cannot otherwise participate, then other coaches must fill-in (in alphabetical order by school).

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** Regular-season competition and scheduling are subject to the following:

1. Each member institution having a tennis team shall play other member institutions once each year. The schedule will be approved by administrative action of the Conference. Coaches may not agree to move matches once the schedule has been approved, except as otherwise set out in this subsection or the relevant scheduling parameters.
2. Travel partners may reschedule their match within the SEC season if both coaches agree prior to December 1 of each year. If both coaches do not agree on a date, the match must be played as originally scheduled. Approval by the Commissioner is required.
3. Teams participating in split weekend competition (*i.e.*, competition scheduled on the same date and at the same location as a SEC women's tennis contest) may reschedule their match within the SEC season if both

coaches agree prior to December 1 of each year. If both coaches do not agree on a date, the match must be played as originally scheduled. Approval by the Commissioner is required.

4. When the visiting team is on spring break during the weekdays immediately prior to Conference competition, the participating teams may mutually request the playing days for matches be adjusted to alternate dates during that same week. Approval by the Commissioner is required.

**Squad Size.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 8 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 8 eligible student-athletes.

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Administrative Teleconference.** Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference tournament shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the tournament to review policies and procedures.

**Awards.** There will be a 10-minute break after the championship match concludes before the awards ceremony begins. The team runner-up will be verbally recognized, followed by the winning team trophy presentation, then the MVP trophy.

The following procedures shall be used to determine the All-Tournament Team and Most Valuable Player:

1. **All-Tournament Team.** After each semifinal match, the losing head coach will submit one player from his or her own team for consideration onto the all-tournament team. Two players will be submitted from the championship runner-up, and two players will be submitted from the champion team. The all-tournament team will have no more (or less) than six players, including the most valuable player.
2. **Most Valuable Player.** The MVP will be chosen by the championship winning coach and must be one of the two players submitted for consideration onto the all-tournament team.

**Championship Committee.** The Championship Committee will consist of the first three coaches alphabetically on the regular-season Protest Committee.

**Dates and Sites.** The tournament will be held one week prior to the NCAA Championships on Wednesday through Sunday. The 2019 tournament dates are April 17-21, and will be hosted by the University of Florida. [*Revised: 12/15/15, Revised: 12/12/17*]. Future sites of the championship are:

2020	Arkansas	2022	Auburn
2021	Georgia	2023	Kentucky

**Equipment.** The Conference office shall provide tennis balls. The balls will be the same as those used for the NCAA Men's Tennis Championship. NCAA Championship ball change rules apply during the SEC Championship.

**Format.** The championship will consist of a single-elimination tournament using the format approved under ITA regulations. Once a team clinches the match, all play stops immediately for matches in progress. There will be no consolation matches. Singles and doubles champions shall not be named. The host institution (with approval from the Championship Committee) shall set match times.

**Host Institution Responsibilities.** The responsibilities of the host institution's tournament director and sports information contact are listed in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference staff and is under separate cover.

**Inclement Weather.** The Championship Committee shall make the decision on all weather-related issues. The Championship Committee may approve a weather plan prior to the tournament beginning and delegate its duty to make weather-related decisions to an On-site Championship Committee, consisting of the Tournament Director, the Head Referee, and the Conference staff liaison.

**Line-Ups.** The regular-season regulations related to line-ups apply. In the event of a line-up protest prior to the start of the championship, all coaches not directly involved shall participate on a teleconference in order to discuss and vote on protests. For the avoidance of doubt, once the tournament begins, the only lineup changes permitted are those permitted under the regular-season regulations related to line-ups.

**Line-up Protest Committee.** The Line-up Protest Committee will include all coaches that are not directly involved. In the event of a line-up protest filed after the start of the championship, the Line-up Protest Committee will be comprised of three coaches on the opposite side of the bracket from the protested match. The three coaches will be chosen by the reverse order of seed.

**Manual.** The host institution shall distribute a championship manual, outlining the policies and procedures for the event, as well as information specific to the championship, to each institution no later than six weeks prior to the championship.

**Match Times.** The host institution shall recommend (and the coaches shall approve) match times during the annual coaches meeting. The host institution will be assigned preferred times and/or preferred courts. Teams should schedule air travel on the last available departure flight. If necessary to maintain the match schedule, the doubles competition may be staggered. If inclement weather is predicted, the match times may be adjusted accordingly. If matches must

be moved indoors, the higher seed will be given preference. If the site is conducive to having a "premier" match played "under the lights," the Championship Committee may adjust the schedule. The host team will be assigned preferred times.

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2]

1. **Head Referee.** The head referee will be selected by a majority vote of the coaches during the annual coaches' meeting each year and contracted by the host institution. The referee must be a certified USTA official. The referee's duties include:
  - A. Ensuring that the championship is conducted according to the rules of the USTA with modifications by the SEC, NCAA and ITA;
  - B. Ruling on defaults with regard to tardiness or improper conduct (with approval of the championship committee);
  - C. Assigning umpires to each match;
  - D. Enforcing the USTA point-penalty system;
  - E. Assisting in scheduling of matches, including decisions concerning inclement weather or darkness;
  - F. Rendering decisions necessary to ensure the proper conduct and operation of the championship; and
  - G. Be on-site at least 1 hour prior to match time for each match of the championship.
  - H. Be prepared to stay until Monday following the Championship in the event of a rain delay.
2. **Deputy Referee.** The deputy referee will be appointed by joint decision of the head referee, conference liaison, and the host institution. The deputy referee must be a certified USTA official, and his/her duties shall be as directed by the head referee.
3. **Solo Chair Umpires.** The host institution is responsible for providing certified ITA chair umpires for the championship, in cooperation with the head referee. The chair umpire shall keep the score of the match, ensuring it is conducted under USTA, SEC, NCAA, and ITA rules and regulations, and shall have the authority to enforce the ITA point-penalty system.
4. **Line Judges during Doubles Matches.** During doubles matches, the three "additional" umpires shall act as far-side line officials to assist the three chair umpires.

**Penalties.** The Southeastern Conference is seriously concerned about the conduct of participants at championship events. Each coach should make his/her student-athletes aware of the penalties for misconduct, which are listed in the regular-season section of these regulations. It is mandatory that the chair umpire and/or the championship referee enforce the ITA point-penalty system in the event there is a delay in play or unsportsmanlike conduct. The decision to disqualify a student-athlete for conduct and/or tardiness should be made by the championship referee with the approval of the Championship Committee, which always remains the ultimate authority on all such championship issues and policies.

**Playing Court Restrictions.** Only players and coaches are allowed on the playing courts or on adjacent courts, except in case of injury or illness.

**Practice.** The host institution shall provide facilities at no charge and monitor a sign-up system one day prior to and throughout the championship. Each coach shall be responsible for signing up his team and individuals for practice times. Teams playing on Thursday will have priority practice times on Wednesday.

**Protests.** Protests relating to matters that develop during a match shall be made to the championship referee. If the protest is other than an interpretation of ITA rules governing play, the referee shall request the presence and decision of the Championship Committee.

**Rest Periods.** Rest periods will be provided in accordance with ITA Regulations.

**Seeding.** The teams will be seeded 1-13, regardless of division, based on conference match winning percentage. The teams seeded number 12 and 13 will play on Wednesday and the winning team will be the number 12 seed in the tournament. In case of ties in team standings, the following tie-breaker procedure will be utilized:

1. **Two-Team Tie.** Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the two tied teams;
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken: (Note: once the tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tiebreaker will be used.)
  - A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the tied teams;

- B. Won-lost record of tied teams versus the No. 1 team (and proceeding down through the No. 13 team, if necessary);
- C. Most recent ITA rankings; and
- D. Coin toss or draw by the Commissioner or his or her designee.

**Squad Size.** The SEC Championship squad size is 10.

**Tickets.** Each institution will be allowed 15 passes for its official traveling party (coaches, players, trainers, managers, etc.). The host institution of the championship may decide whether or not to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, the ticket prices will be set by the host institution, but must be approved by the Conference liaison. In addition, if admission is charged, the host institution should make prior contact with each participating school to determine the form of payment and staffing for the player/guest gate. Institutions are not required to purchase a set amount of tickets.

**Uniforms.** All competitors must wear exclusively the official uniform of their institution in competition, warm-up for competition, and during the awards ceremonies. The uniforms must identify the institution either by name or school colors. In addition, all NCAA policies regarding commercial logos on uniforms and equipment shall be followed. Matches will not be delayed to conform to this policy. (See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations)

**Warm-Up.** Players will have a minimum of 20 minutes to warm-up when changing playing surfaces. The referee is the timekeeper.

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for women's tennis: Sport Administrator – Lauren Taylor; Communications – Tammy Wilson.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Administration.** [SEC Bylaw 17.30] The administration of Conference regular-season and championship competition is governed by ITA regulations, except where these Commissioner's Regulations expressly supersede or conflict with ITA regulations.

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Teams.** The recipients will be determined by a combination of ITA rankings and vote of the head coaches as set out in this subsection. An online nomination form (links provided by the Conference office) will be due on the Monday morning before the SEC Tournament. Coaches shall nominate only players from their own teams and should nominate all players they believe deserve the honor, including ranked players, those with good doubles records, etc. There are no criteria for nominating a player. The nomination form will include information on the player's singles and doubles records, and space for additional supporting information (e.g., wins over ranked opponents, win streaks, etc.). If a school declines to submit any nominees, it must inform the SEC media contact via email.

First-team will be a combination of ITA rankings and a vote of the coaches. The Conference office will acquire the most updated ITA rankings. The top ranked doubles team and the top 8 ranked singles players (not part of the top doubles team) will be automatically named. There will be two wildcard spots based on the coaches' votes for a total of no less than 12 first-team members. Second-team will be based solely on the coaches' vote for a total of no less than 12 second-team members.

A link to the online ballot and nomination information will be sent to the coaches the Monday after the SEC tournament. There will be a mandatory coaches' call on Tuesday for the coaches to discuss their own nominees. Coaches must submit their online ballots by the following morning (Wednesday) and teams will be announced later Wednesday afternoon. A player may only be named once and to one team. There will be no distinction between singles and doubles. [Revised: 12/13/16]

2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined in the same manner as the All-SEC Teams, and it will consist of six players.
3. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches using the same process as the All-SEC Teams.
4. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches using the same process as the All-SEC Teams.
5. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. All coaches are eligible, and there is no nomination process. The vote will be at the same time as other awards.
6. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. Coaches will nominate their own players for consideration and the same online nomination and voting processes used to select All-SEC Teams will be utilized.
7. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Coaches Meeting.** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in November at the SEC Office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Alabama serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Arkansas (2019-20) and Auburn (2020-21). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. Coaches may not serve as chair during their first year as an SEC coach.

**Coaching.** ITA Regulation I.J. (Coaching) governs the coaching of players during a match. For the avoidance of doubt, a coach may coach a player during the 20 seconds between points and during the 90-second change of sides. However, conversations with players may not impede the continuous-play rule.

**Conference Championship/Tournament.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

1. The team with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared the Conference champion. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins, they will be declared Conference co-champions.
2. There will be a Conference tournament at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular season in order to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. The Conference tournament will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Dual Match Format.** Teams will play the format used in the NCAA Championships, except in the event of inclement weather when institutions may mutually agree to play the singles matches first.

Notwithstanding the forgoing provision, once a team clinches the doubles point, the teams may not complete the remaining doubles match, unless both coaches agree to complete the doubles match before the start of the team match. In addition, once a team clinches four points, the referee shall declare the clinching team the team match winner. However, the teams may complete all remaining singles matches if both coaches agree to play out the singles matches prior to the start of the team match. [Revised: 12/12/17]

**Equipment.** NCAA championship rules will be followed for ball changes. The host coach shall see that towels, scoreboards and drinks are provided for each court in use throughout the match.

**Game Management Meeting.** At least one hour prior to the scheduled start of a match, the host institution's designated game management director must meet jointly with the visiting head coach and head referee to review SEC, NCAA and ITA rules and expectations regarding crowd control, facility restrictions, and other game management issues of importance.

**Inclement Weather.** Institutions shall play all SEC matches outside, except in the event of inclement weather or when both coaches agree to play indoors. ITA Regulations govern the determination of whether a match will be delayed, suspended, postponed, or moved indoors due to inclement weather, except as otherwise stated in this subsection. In situations in which the conference sport administrator must be consulted prior to the scheduled start of the match, the home event manager shall contact the conference sport administrator sixty-five minutes prior to the scheduled start of the match. The event manager, both head coaches, and the referee (when appropriate) shall all jointly take part in the discussion. [Revised: 12/12/17]

1. **Delay or Suspension Due to Rain** In the event of a delay or suspension due to rain, institutions shall use their best efforts to ready the courts within one hour.
2. **Suspended Matches** In the event of a suspension, ITA Regulations govern the procedures related to the continuation of the match.
3. **Permissible Indoor Tennis Facilities** An SEC match may only be played indoors at a varsity quality indoor tennis facility with at least three courts available. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a match in progress is suspended due to inclement weather and both coaches mutually agree, the matches may be moved indoors, even if the facility has fewer than three courts available.
4. **Match Format for Indoor Matches.** If a match is moved indoors due to inclement weather and the home team has less than six indoor courts, or if a varsity level indoor facility is not available and the match is rescheduled, then doubles matches shall be played first.

Once a team clinches a doubles point, the team may not complete the remaining doubles match, unless both coaches agree before the start of the team match. Once a team clinches four points, the team may not complete the remaining singles matches unless both coaches agree before the start of the team match. [Adopted 12/13/16]

5. **Starting or Resuming a Delayed or Suspended Match When no Indoor Facilities Available.** If no indoor back-up court is available, a match may not start or resume after 10pm local time. [Adopted: 12/12/17]
6. **Postponed Matches** Authority to postpone a match (*i.e.*, defer or resume the match on a date other than that originally scheduled) is vested *only* with the Commissioner or his/her designee.

In the event that a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday competition is postponed, the visiting team must remain overnight to play the following day. If the postponed match does not begin by 10. a.m. local time on the

following day, the visiting team may depart.

In the event that a Sunday competition is postponed, the visiting team may stay overnight until Monday to complete the match. A visiting team must wait a minimum of four hours (no maximum wait) after the match is scheduled to begin before departing on Sunday. Sunday match scheduling may only be adjusted if both coaches agree to a modification.

If it is determined that a match cannot be completed within the parameters established by these Commissioner's Regulations, the involved institutions' senior-level administrators shall decide when to resume the postponed match which must occur prior to the end of the Conference regular season. Institutions must complete any and all postponed matches. Institutions may not resume matches at the Conference Tournament site.

**Injuries.** ITA Regulations govern the procedures related to injuries.

**Line-Ups.** This subsection supersedes all ITA Regulations related to Team Line-Ups. This line-up procedure is for Conference matches only. ITA Regulations govern nonconference matches for substitutions.

1. **Initial Exchange and Protest of Line-ups.** Coaches shall e-mail their entire singles and doubles line-ups to the SEC staff liaison by Tuesday at 6 p.m. ET each week of SEC competition. (Note: Line-ups will be due on Monday the week of the SEC Championship and follow the same timeline as the regular season, but one day earlier).

Coaches must list all eligible student-athletes to compete that week on the singles line-up in their order of ability (*i.e.*, the best player on the team listed at No. 1, the second best at No. 2, etc...). If a player is not listed on the singles line-up, the player may not participate that week in doubles or singles. Coaches shall also list three doubles teams in order of ability (*i.e.*, the strongest doubles team listed at No. 1, etc...).

If any coach desires to protest the line-up of another team, the coach must e-mail the protest request to the SEC staff liaison (and copy all head coaches) by 10 p.m. ET each Tuesday. The SEC staff liaison will then immediately email a summary of all protests to the head coaches' distribution list. The Protest Committee shall review any protest on a conference call at noon ET each Wednesday and make a ruling by Wednesday afternoon. Any coach whose line-up is being protested may participate on the call.

2. **Change of Line-up after Protest Call.** Once a team submits its line-ups and the Protest Committee rules on any protest requests, a team may not change their line-ups for that week's competitions except as set out below.
3. **Exchange of Final Line-ups Prior to Match.** Coaches shall exchange doubles line-ups (with the head referee present) 30 minutes prior to the start of the doubles matches. Coaches shall exchange singles line-ups (with the head referee present) within two minutes of the completion of the doubles matches. If more time is needed following doubles to assess an injury, then this will be allowed as long as the time is reasonable. If more than two minutes passes, then the opposing team is allowed ten minutes to adjust if a change is made in the line-up.
4. **Players Listed in Line-ups.** Coaches may only list players in the line-up if they are physically able to play.
5. **Change of Line-up for Following Week.** Coaches may not move a player more than one position (up or down) in their line-up from the last SEC match.
6. **Removing Players from Singles Line-Up.** A coach may remove a singles player or players from the line-up until two minutes following completion of doubles matches. Each player listed below the removed player will move up the appropriate number of spots. If more time is needed following doubles to assess an injury, then this will be allowed as long as the time is reasonable. If more than two minutes passes, then the opposing team is allowed ten minutes to adjust if a change is made in the line-up.
7. **Double Substitutions.** As it relates to doubles substitutions, if a change is necessary after a line-up has been declared to the SEC office, the substitution must be a direct line substitution. The opposing coach may move the new doubles team up one spot or down two spots.
8. **Insufficient Number of Players.** ITA Regulations related to a "Team that is short on players" apply.
9. **Protests Concerning Unfair Line-ups.** ITA Regulations relating to "Protests concerning unfair line-ups" do not apply, except in the event that a player is listed in the line-up who is physically unable to play. All other protests concerning unfair line-ups must be submitted pursuant to subsection 1 above.
10. **Postponed/Suspended Matches.** The lineup used for a postponed match shall be the lineup that was used the week of the rescheduled match. A match that was suspended shall continue play from where it was halted

without any changes to lineups. [Adopted 12/15/15]

**Match Times.** Institutions shall schedule Thursday matches between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. local time. Institutions shall schedule Friday matches between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. local time. Institutions shall schedule all Saturday and Sunday matches to begin at least six hours prior to the last available departure flight and the visiting team must schedule air travel on that flight. Institutions may play the next day at the host site (outside or at an indoor facility). [Revised: 12/15/15]

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event that inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the highest remaining seed in the tournament at the time of suspension shall be designated as the automatic qualifier. [Revised: 12/12/17]

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.1] Seven ITA-certified umpires (six chair umpires and one head referee) will be assigned to each Conference match during the regular season, and the head referee may not serve as a chair umpire. During doubles matches, the three "additional" umpires shall act as far-side line officials to assist the three chair umpires. The umpires shall be empowered to administer the penalties prescribed for court conduct. Each institution shall be responsible for providing the name and contact information of the head referee to SEC staff liaison who will email a copy of these regulations to each institution's head referee. Following each match, both coaches shall evaluate the head referee. The referee, along with the assistance of the head coach of the host institution, shall be responsible for spectator behavior. The referee will make the decision if a match should be played indoors in accordance with SEC and ITA rules. It is the duty of the head referee to make this assignment, upon request.

**Tickets** – Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition. [Revised: 12/13/16]

**Penalties.** A player may be penalized in accordance with ITA rules for engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as cursing, throwing a racket, making obscene gestures, stalling, and any other conduct that is intended to disrupt the course of the match (e.g., trading insults with the crowd) or adversely affecting the concentration of his opponent.

**Protest Committee.** The Protest Committee shall serve to hear all line-up protests during the regular season their decision is final. Each institution's head coach shall serve on the Protest Committee. The Protest Committee chair for 2018-2019 shall be the head coach from the University of Tennessee (the institution that hosted the previous championship). If one or more members of the current committee are involved in a protest or cannot otherwise participate, then he or she will be excused.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** Regular-season competition and scheduling are subject to the following:

1. Each member institution having a tennis team shall play other member institutions once per year. The schedule will be approved by administrative action of the Conference liaison. Coaches may not agree to move matches once the schedule has been approved, except as otherwise set out in this subsection or the relevant scheduling parameters.
2. Travel partners may reschedule their match within the SEC season if both coaches agree prior to December 1 of each year. If both coaches do not agree on a date, the match must be played as originally scheduled. Approval by the Commissioner is required.
3. Teams participating in split weekend competition (*i.e.*, competition scheduled on the same date and at the same location as a SEC men's tennis contest) may reschedule their match within the SEC season if both coaches agree prior to December 1 of each year. If both coaches do not agree on a date, the match must be played as originally scheduled. Approval by the Commissioner is required.
4. When the visiting team is on spring break during the weekdays immediately prior to Conference competition, the participating teams may mutually request the playing days for matches be adjusted to alternate dates during that same week. Approval by the Commissioner is required.

**Squad Size.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 10 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 10 eligible student-athletes.

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Administrative Teleconference.** Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference tournament shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the tournament to review policies and procedures.

**Awards.** There will be a 10-minute break after the championship match concludes and before the awards ceremony begins. The team runner-up will be verbally recognized, with presentations to the all-tournament team, most valuable player and winning team.

The following procedures shall be used to determine the all-tournament team and most valuable player.

1. **All-Tournament Team.** After each semifinal match, the losing head coach will submit one player from his or her own team for consideration onto the all-tournament team. Two players will be submitted from the championship runner-up, and two players will be submitted from the champion team. The all-tournament team will have no more (or less) than six players, including the most valuable player.
2. **Most Valuable Player.** The MVP will be chosen by the championship winning coach and must be one of the two players he or she submits for consideration onto the all-tournament team.

**Championship Committee.** The Championship Committee will consist of the head referee (chair), deputy referee and SEC staff liaison.

**Dates and Sites.** The tournament will be held three weeks prior to the start of the NCAA Championships on Wednesday through Sunday. The 2019 SEC Tournament will be held April 17-21, and hosted by Texas A&M University. The order of rotation for hosting the SEC Tournament shall be:

2020	Alabama	2023	Georgia
2021	Florida	2024	Auburn
2022	Arkansas	2025	Kentucky

**Equipment.** The Conference shall provide tennis balls. The balls will be the same as those used for the NCAA Women's Tennis Championship. NCAA Championship ball change rules apply during the SEC Tournament.

**Format.** The championship consists of a single-elimination tournament using the format approved for use during the NCAA Championship. Once a team clinches the match, all play stops immediately for matches in progress. There will be no consolation matches. Singles and doubles champions shall not be named.

**Host Institution Responsibilities.** The responsibilities of the host institution's tournament director and sports information contact are listed in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference staff and is under separate cover.

**Inclement Weather.** All inclement weather decisions at the Conference tournament shall be made by the championship committee, which has the authority to determine when to stop play outside and shall use ITA guidelines, with the following exception: the ITA definition of inclement weather may not be used as the sole reason for stopping play outside. In the event of a suspension, ITA rules shall be followed with regard to continuation of the match.

**Line-Ups.** The regular season regulations related to line-ups apply. In the event of a line-up protest prior to the start of the championship, all coaches not directly involved shall participate on a teleconference in order to discuss and vote on protests. For the avoidance of doubt, once the tournament begins, the only lineup changes permitted are those permitted under the regular-season regulations related to line-ups.

**Line-up Protest Committee.** The Line-up Protest Committee will include all coaches that are not directly involved. In the event of a line-up protest filed after the start of the championship, the Line-up Protest Committee will be comprised of the Championship Committee.

**Manual.** The host institution shall distribute a championship manual, outlining the policies and procedures for the event, as well as information specific to a championship, to each institution no later than six weeks prior to the championship.

**Match Times.** The host institution shall recommend (and the coaches shall approve) match times during the annual coaches meeting. The host institution will be assigned preferred times and/or preferred courts. Teams should schedule air travel on the last available departure flight. If necessary to maintain the match schedule, the doubles competition may be staggered. If inclement weather is predicted, the match times may be adjusted accordingly. If matches must be moved indoors, the higher seed will be given preference.

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2]

1. **Head Referee.** The head referee will be selected by a majority vote of the coaches during the annual coaches' meeting each year and contracted by the host institution. The referee must be a certified USTA official. The referee's duties include:
  - A. Ensuring that the championship is conducted according to the rules of the USTA with modifications by the SEC, NCAA and ITA;
  - B. Ruling on defaults with regard to tardiness or improper conduct (with approval of the championship committee);
  - C. Assigning umpires to each match;
  - D. Enforcing the USTA point-penalty system;
  - E. Assisting in scheduling of matches, including decisions concerning inclement weather or darkness; and
  - F. Rendering decisions necessary to ensure the proper conduct and operation of the championship.
2. **Deputy Referee.** The deputy referee will be recommended by the host institution and approved by the head referee. The deputy referee must be a certified USTA official, and his or her duties shall be as directed by the head referee.
3. **Solo Chair Umpires.** The head referee is responsible for securing certified USTA umpires for the championship. The chair umpire shall keep the score of the match, ensuring it is conducted under USTA, SEC, NCAA and ITA rules, and shall have the authority to enforce the USTA point-penalty system. An umpire, who has been provided by an institution, shall not call matches in which a member of that institution's team is competing.
4. **Line Judges during Doubles Matches.** During doubles matches, the three "additional" umpires shall act as far-side line officials to assist the three chair umpires. [Adopted 12/13/16]

**Penalties.** The Southeastern Conference is seriously concerned about the conduct of participants at championship events. Each coach should make his/her student-athletes aware of the penalties for misconduct, which are listed in the regular-season section of these regulations. It is mandatory that the chair umpire and/or the championship referee enforce the ITA point-penalty system in the event there is a delay in play or unsportsmanlike conduct. The decision to disqualify a student-athlete for conduct and/or tardiness should be made by the championship referee with the approval of the Championship Committee, which always remains the ultimate authority on all such championship issues and policies.

**Playing Court Restrictions.** Only players and coaches shall be allowed on the playing courts or on adjacent courts, except in case of injury or illness.

**Practice.** The host institution shall provide facilities and monitor a sign-up system one day prior to and throughout the championship. Each coach shall be responsible for signing up his team and individuals for practice times. Teams playing on Thursday will have priority practice times on Wednesday.

**Practice Courts.** Practice courts will be available at least one day prior to the start of the championship at no charge. A reservation system will be used to ensure equal use of courts and will be included in the entry information packet.

**Protests.** Protests relating to matters that develop during a match shall be made to the championship referee. If the protest is other than an interpretation of ITA rules governing play, the referee shall request the presence and decision of the Championship Committee.

**Rest Periods.** Rest periods will be in accordance with ITA rules.

**Seeding.** All dual matches must be played prior to the end of the regular season to determine tournament seeding, which will be 1-14, regardless of division. In case of ties in team standings, the following tie-breaker procedures will be utilized:

1. **Two-Team Tie.** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
  - A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the tied teams;
  - B. Won-lost record of tied teams versus the No. 1 team (and proceeding down through the No. 14 team, if necessary).
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken: (Note: once the tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tiebreaker will be used.)

- A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the tied teams;
- B. Won-lost record of tied teams versus the No. 1 team (and proceeding down through the No. 14 team, if necessary);
- C. Most recent ITA rankings; and
- D. Coin toss or draw by the Commissioner or his or her designee.

**Squad Size.** The SEC Championship squad size is 10.

**Tickets.** Each institution will be allowed 15 passes for its official traveling party (coaches, players, trainers, managers, etc.). The host institution of the championship may decide whether or not to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, the ticket prices will be set by the host institution, but must be approved by the Conference liaison. In addition, if admission is charged, the host institution should make prior contact with each participating school to determine the form of payment and staffing for the player/guest gate. Institutions are not required to purchase a set amount of tickets.

**Uniforms.** All competitors must wear exclusively the official uniform of their institution in warm-up, competition, and during the awards ceremonies. The uniforms must identify the institution either by name or school colors. In addition, all NCAA policies regarding commercial logos on uniforms and equipment shall be followed. Matches will not be delayed to conform to this policy. (See the General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations).

**Warm-Up.** Players will have a minimum of 20 minutes to warm-up when changing playing surfaces. The referee is the timekeeper.

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for men's and women's indoor track and field: Sport Administrator – John Gibson; Communications – Ben Beatty.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Administration.** [SEC Bylaw 17.30] The administration of Conference regular-season and championship contests are governed by NCAA rules, except where these Commissioner's Regulations expressly supersede or conflict with NCAA rules.

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Teams.** The first team consists of the top finishers in each event. The second team consists of the second and third place finishers in each event. And for award purposes, ties are not broken.
2. **All-Freshman Teams.** The all-freshman team (one men's and one women's) consists of the highest freshman (true or redshirt) finisher in each event, excluding relays, and ties are not broken.
3. **Runners of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. Coaches may nominate their own athletes, but may not vote for them on the final ballot.
4. **Field Event Athletes of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. Coaches may nominate their own athletes, but may not vote for them on the final ballot.
5. **Freshman Runners of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. Coaches may nominate their own athletes, but may not vote for them on the final ballot.
6. **Freshman Field Event Athletes of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. Coaches may nominate their own athletes, but may not vote for them on the final ballot.
7. **Coaches of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by a vote of the head coaches.
8. **Scholar-Athletes of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. One men's award and one women's award is presented annually for the sport of indoor track and field.
9. **Community Service Teams.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. One men's team and one women's team is named annually for track and field, which includes the sports of cross country and indoor track and field, at the end of the outdoor track and field season.
10. **Track/Field Athletes of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Freshmen of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Coaches Committee.** [SEC Bylaw 21.9] The coaches committee will be made up of the head coach from the championship host institution along with two other head coaches from different institutions. For 2018-2019, the coaches committee will include: LSU, Ole Miss, and Arkansas. A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Coaches Meeting.** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head track and field coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting held in September at the SEC office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with LSU serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Ole Miss (2019-2020), Mississippi State (2020-21), and Missouri (2021-22). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Conference Championship.** The Conference Champions (men and women) will be determined by a meet of all SEC member institutions sponsoring a team. The championship will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** The indoor track and field season shall begin with the first scheduled meet and continue until the last regularly-scheduled indoor meet, or through the NCAA Championships, whichever is later.

**Reporting Meet Results.** Results of field events shall be reported in both meters/centimeters and feet/inches. Public address announcements must be made in feet/inches and metrically. Any event performance indicator displays must be made in feet/inches and may include metric.

**Squad Size.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 27 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 27 eligible student-athletes.

## **CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Administrative Teleconference and Meeting.** Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall attend a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the championships to review policies and procedures. In addition, coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall attend a mandatory meeting the evening prior to the start of the championships to review additional information and procedures.

**Championships Committee.** This committee shall be composed of the chairs of the men's and women's coaches committees, plus a representative from the host institution (either the meet director or head coach), the head referee and the SEC liaison. Its duties shall include:

1. Supervising the declaration of entries;
2. Heating and lighting the meet (the mechanics will be delegated to meet management after the start of competition); and
3. Serving as the final authority on all matters concerning the conduct of the championships, other than those handled by the referees and/or jury of appeals.

**Credentials.** [SEC Bylaw 12.3.1] All credentials shall be issued according to a numbering system (or other comparable method) to ensure only appropriate individuals have access to specified areas.

**Dates and Sites.** The SEC Championships shall be held Friday and Saturday on the weekend two weeks prior to the NCAA Championships. The 2019 SEC Championships will be held February 23-24, and hosted by the University of Arkansas. Institutional facilities which meet the Minimum Hosting Specifications herein shall be part of the Championship host rotation. The rotation for future SEC Indoor Championships is: [Revised: 3/7/18]

2020	Texas A&M
2021	Arkansas
2022	Texas A&M

**Declarations and Rosters.** The declaration deadline will be at least two days prior to the start of the championships. A team may declare no more than 27 student-athletes per gender. Once declarations are made final, no student-athletes may be added to the competition or entered into any additional events. Information regarding the online entry for rosters and declarations will be provided by the host institution at least a month before the event, and the declaration of entries must be made online. [Revised: 11/18/15]

**Electronic Devices.** The host institution shall determine if electronic devices may be used in the warm-up area by student-athletes and coaches. The use of such devices in the competition area by coaches for communication regarding inclement weather or other event management matters shall be permitted.

**Electronic Timing Procedures.** Fully electronic time and photos will be official. Time will be recorded officially to the 1,000<sup>th</sup> of a second when needed. The finish evaluators will determine the results of each race from the photos. Two fully automatic, electronic timing devices should be used at the finish line and be independent of each other. In the event of a protest (pertaining to the reading of the picture), the meet referee and the two official evaluators will make the final decision. Total timing failure requires re-running the heat as decided by the running referee.

**Entry Information.** All entries for the SEC Championships will be submitted according to NCAA standards for conversion. (i.e., If the NCAA converts all times to a banked board, 200 meter track, the same will be done for the SEC Championships. If the NCAA converts all times to a flat 200-meter track, the same conversion will be used.)

Performances used on the entry forms must have been achieved during the current indoor season. No outdoor or relay performances will be accepted. If an athlete has a performance standard for the event, it must be used. If there is no time standard available for seeding, the participant will be placed at the bottom of the list. All competitors, including those in field events, must have a competition number. Every competitor must have his/her year of eligibility listed on the entry forms.

Once declarations are made final, no student-athletes may be added to the competition or entered into any additional events. [Revised: 11/18/15]

**Events.** The following events will be contested:

1. **Men's Events.**

60-Meter Dash	5000-Meter Run	Triple Jump
200-Meter Dash	60-Meter Hurdles	Pole Vault
400-Meter Dash	35-Pound Weight Throw	Shot Put
800-Meter Run	Long Jump	1600-Meter Relay
Mile Run	High Jump	Distance Medley Relay
3000-Meter Run	Heptathlon	

**2. Women's Events.**

60-Meter Dash	5000-Meter Run	Triple Jump
200-Meter Dash	60-Meter Hurdles	Pole Vault
400-Meter Dash	20-pound Weight Throw	Shot Put
800-Meter Run	Long Jump	1600-Meter Relay
Mile Run	High Jump	Distance Medley Relay
3000-Meter Run	Pentathlon	

**Format.** Institutions may enter up to 27 individuals. Each institution may enter one relay team per relay event. The men's and women's championships will be scored separately, although they are conducted together at a common site.

**Foul Camera Minimum Standards.** To be eligible to host the SEC Championships, the host institution must meet the foul camera protocols set out in Supplement A.

**Heating.** Setting heats will be done by, and in the presence of, the championships committee and will be administered in accordance with the guidelines listed for each event. The committee shall supervise the 200-meter and 400-meter draws, including modifying the running events schedule based on the number of declared entrants in those races. In any event that requires more than one heat; the fastest heat will be run last. A computer-generated rank order list should be provided and all SEC parameters for heating should be programmed into the computer. Heat sheets will only be provided the night before the championships at the coaches meeting and will include declared and seeded times.

**Host Institution Responsibilities.** In addition to the responsibilities set forth in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference office, the Championships Director and Championships Sports Information Director shall:

**Championships Director Responsibilities:**

- Obtain the following officials: referee for track events; referee for field events; starter; three-person jury of appeals; and two finish evaluators. In addition, the director will obtain the remaining officials needed to conduct the meet. The director will submit names of referees and the jury of appeals for approval at the annual head coaches meeting;
- Serve as the administrator and supervisor of the championships; and
- Oversee the support staff in the conduct of the SEC Championships.

**Championships Sports Information Director Responsibilities:**

- Produce a championships program insert that includes the event schedule, championships personnel, and facts about the championships;
- Coordinate credentialing for all media, which includes assigning and distributing credentials after ensuring all credentialed media have signed off on the SEC Media Policy;
- Prepare and distribute advance publicity for the Conference championship event;
- Provide information to local, regional and national media during the championships;
- Supervise and coordinate media interviews and the media work area;
- Send each day's results to all other Conference schools and the SEC office, including the SEC website;
- Write a general, unbiased summary following each day of competition and send to the SEC website;
- At the end of the championships, provide copies of the final results to the SEC office;
- Provide a photographer for the championships and awards ceremonies;
- Perform any other duties pertaining to the media aspect of conducting the event; and
- Work with the championship director as needed.

**Minimum Hosting Specifications.** The championships may only be hosted by a member institution with a facility that meets the following criteria: [Adopted: 3/7/18]

- Minimum seating capacity of 2,500 seats
- 200 meter banked track based on NCAA specifications (i.e. inclinations, surface type, curbing)
- Jump (pole vault, high jump, triple jump) facilities based on NCAA specifications
- Shot put and high jump areas should be able to handle competitions at the same time with competitor and spectator safety
- Adequate space for management of the event including a clerking area large enough to accommodate 50 athletes
- Adequate warm-up space
- Permanent restroom facilities
- Concessions and an athletic training facility must be available on site. If permanent facilities are not available for athletic training/message therapy, tents set up in or adjacent to the facility may be used to meet this requirement.

**Official Party.** Each participating team will be issued credentials for its official traveling party (e.g., athletes, coaches, managers, trainers, etc.). Each institution must notify the host of its traveling party size.

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2] The host institution is responsible for training all officials in accordance with SEC and NCAA rules. The Conference office shall maintain a working list of head officials from which the host institution must select the officials for the championships.

**Tickets** – Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition.

**Order of Events.** The order of events shall be approved at the annual head coaches meeting. The order shall not change, except in field events where the host institution may make modifications in the time schedule to accommodate a facility conflict. However, the host may not change the day of an event without prior approval of the head coaches. When comparable men's and women's events are contested back-to-back, the women will compete first in even-numbered years, and the men will compete first in odd-numbered years.

**Practice.** The facility must be available for practice the entire day before the championship event begins and each day of the championship until two hours prior to the start of the first event of the day. The host institution shall determine the practice schedule.

**Protests.** If an athlete is disqualified, the head coach, or his/her representative, must be notified immediately by the meet referee of the disqualification. All protests must be filed (at the protest table) at once and no later than 30 minutes after notification or after the event results are posted, whichever is earlier. Inquiries may be made by a competitor to the head official for the event, but competitor's coach must file the official protest at the protest table within 30 minutes. All protests will be submitted to the referee, who will render a decision. Decisions of the jury of appeals shall be final. If there is a tie to the 1,000<sup>th</sup> of a second, the Lynx system's camera angles from both sides of the finish line will be evaluated.

**Video Evidence in Protests.** For future championships, the only official video permissible for use as evidence in protests shall be television footage and/or video supplied by the host institution, as determined by the host institution. Coaches must inform the head referee of their desire to access available video footage within the permissible 30 minutes. Further, coaches may request to review a picture or video after results are announced and before the protest is filed. [NOTE: Due to technical constraints, it may not always be possible to view a picture or video before the 30-minute protest window closes.]

**Results.** All results of preliminaries, semifinals and finals must be posted in locations to which coaches and athletes have access. Results and pertinent information will be posted after each event. The official timing system will break ties for the last qualifying position to the 1,000<sup>th</sup> of a second. A run-off shall be conducted to break a tie to the 1,000<sup>th</sup> of a second in qualifying rounds for advancement in running events, and the head referee shall determine when the run-off is conducted.

**Scoring.** The scoring system shall be: 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1.

**Seeding.** In all events, one more competitor than can score shall advance to the finals, if possible.

**Squad Size.** The SEC Championship squad size is 27.

**Tickets.** Each head coach may receive eight tickets, each assistant coach may receive four, and student-athletes may receive four player/guest admissions. The host institution may decide whether or not to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, the ticket prices shall be set by the host institution, but must be approved by the SEC office. In addition, if admission is charged, the host institution should make prior contact with each participating school to determine the form of payment and staffing for the player/guest gate. Institutions are not required to purchase a set amount of tickets.

**Uniforms.** (See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations) All team members must wear the proper uniform of the institution they represent.

**Weighing Implements.** A "Trackmaster" or comparable unit should be used. The time and site for weigh-in will be determined by the host institution. If an implement is on the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) list, it may be used in the SEC Championships. This list will be provided by the host with the meet information packet. A descending order list per event will be provided to coaches prior to the championships, and no later than the pre-event coaches meeting.

**FOUL CAMERA PROTOCOLS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION****Cameras**

- **Camera Requirements.** If cameras will be used, they must be operational for all throw and horizontal jump competitions, including Combined Event competition. Meet management may not use cameras unless they will be used in all events.
- **Technical Requirements.** Enough cameras must be available to monitor all throw and horizontal jump competitions, including Combined Event competition. There must be two (2) memory cards available for each competition camera. Cameras must be high speed cameras and must be capable of shooting at 120 fps. Cameras with the capability of starting/stopping via remote control are greatly preferred. If cameras do not have this capability, then a minimum of three (3) memory cards must be available for each competition camera. The number of cameras to be used and camera positioning for each event are as follows.
  - **Javelin.** Two (2) cameras are suggested, and must be positioned at opposite ends of the foul arc. A minimum of one (1) camera is required.
  - **Shot Put.** Two (2) cameras are required, positioned at opposite ends of and just behind the toeboard.
  - **Discus.** Two (2) cameras are suggested, and must be positioned at the 60 and 300 degree marks with respect to the throwing direction. Cameras must be distant enough so that they do not create a hazard to a thrower. A minimum of one (1) camera is required.
  - **Hammer.** Two (2) cameras are suggested, and must be positioned at the 60 and 300 degree marks with respect to the throwing direction. Cameras must be distant enough so that they do not create a hazard to a thrower. A minimum of one (1) camera is required.
  - **Long Jump.** One (1) camera is required, and must be positioned in line with the foul line on the side opposite the official's position.
  - **Triple Jump.** One (1) camera is required, and must be positioned in line with the foul line on the side opposite the official's position. The operator must be prepared to move the camera if multiple takeoff boards are being used.

**Camera Operators**

- **Operator Assignments and Numbers.** A camera operator must be assigned to every event in which a camera will be used. This person must be trained in setup and operation of the cameras, including starting, stopping, and changing the memory card. This person must be present at the event for the entire duration of the event. Sufficient operators must be available so that if an event lasts longer than expected, camera usage protocols will not be affected.
- **Operator Instructions – Remote Control Cameras**
  - **Starting/Stopping and Recording.** The camera operator must start and stop each camera to capture each trial in a separate video file. In addition, the operator must, on meet issued scoresheets, write the identification number of the video file associated with each trial in the appropriate place on the sheet.
  - **Handling Protests.** In the event of a protest, the operator must perform the duties listed below.
    - **Fouls and Protests That Occur in a Flight that is Not the Final Flight or the Finals**
      - The operator shall indicate the protest, measurement, and competitors shoe color in the appropriate place on the scoresheet, in addition to the video file identification number.
      - The operator shall continue after the protest as before, but extract and replace the memory card at the end of this flight so that the referee can review the video during the time between flights.

- **Fouls and Protests That Occur in the Final Flight or the Finals**
  - The operator shall indicate the protest, measurement, and competitors shoe color in the appropriate place on the scoresheet, in addition to the video file identification number.
  - The operator shall immediately extract and replace the memory card so that the referee can review the video immediately and any adjustments to the results can be made as early as possible.
- **Operator Instructions – Non-Remote Control Cameras**
  - **Starting/Stopping and Recording.** The camera operator must have available a set of competition scoresheets. The camera operator must start the camera at the beginning of the competition. The camera must be stopped at the end of each flight or final and started again at the beginning of the next flight or final so that only official attempts are recorded and no warmup trials are recorded.
  - **Handling Protests.** In the event of a foul and protest at any time, the operator shall indicate the protest, measurement, and competitor's shoe color in the appropriate place on the scoresheet. Also at this time the memory card(s) must be extracted and replaced, so that the final trial on the video record is the trial in question.

#### Official Instructions

- **Marking All Trials.** Officials must mark (but not necessarily measure) each trial, legal or not.
- **Protest Opportunity.** Officials must hold the position of the mark on a fouled attempt for a reasonable time, during which a coach or competitor has the opportunity to express a verbal protest of the foul ruling.
- **Time Available for Protests.** A reasonable amount of time and opportunity to express a protest must be offered the athlete or coach. Generally speaking, when a long or triple jumper has proceeded back beyond the takeoff board after a trial, this protest opportunity may be considered complete. In a throwing event, when the thrower has left the ring or runway and proceeds beyond the immediate position of the officials towards the competitor's area, this protest opportunity may be considered complete.
- **Handling Protests.** In the event of a verbal protest by a competitor or coach, the fouled mark must be measured. The protest, the trial on which the protest takes place, and the measurement of the foul must be recorded apart from the official scoresheets. The referee must be notified immediately and time allowances must be made for camera operators to perform their duties.
- **Official Protests.** The verbal protest alone does not constitute an official protest. Coaches must file formal written protests subsequent to the verbal protests. Referees should, whenever possible, view video evidence in advance of the receipt of the official written protest to facilitate smooth, uninterrupted competition. Officials must continue to operate as though no protest has occurred until the referee notifies them otherwise, with the exception of the situation noted below.
- **Handling Ensuing Competition.** In the event of such a protest in the trials, and while awaiting the referee's decision, officials must determine whether an upheld protest would alter the composition of the finals. If this is the case, the affected competitor will be allowed to compete in the finals until the protest has been ruled upon and the referee's action is taken. This competitors seeding in the finals will be determined by the competitor's best legal mark, the protested trials measurement may not be used for seeding purposes.

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for men's and women's outdoor track and field: Sport Administrator – John Gibson; Communications – Ben Beatty.

### **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Administration.** [SEC Bylaw 17.30] The administration of Conference regular-season and championship contests are governed by NCAA rules, except where these Commissioner's Regulations expressly supersede or conflict with NCAA rules.

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Teams.** The first team consists of the top finisher in each event. The second team consists of the second and third place finishers in each event. And for award purposes, ties are not broken.
2. **All-Freshman Teams.** The all-freshman team (one men's and one women's) consists of the highest freshman (true or redshirt) finisher in each event, excluding relays, and ties are not broken.
3. **Runners of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. Coaches may nominate their own athletes, but may not vote for them on the final ballot.
4. **Field Event Athletes of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. Coaches may nominate their own athletes, but may not vote for them on the final ballot.
5. **Freshman Runners of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. Coaches may nominate their own athletes, but may not vote for them on the final ballot.
6. **Freshman Field Event Athletes of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. Coaches may nominate their own athletes, but may not vote for them on the final ballot.
7. **Coaches of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by a vote of the head coaches.
8. **Scholar-Athletes of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. One men's award and one women's award is presented annually for the sport of outdoor track and field.
9. **Community Service Teams.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. One men's team and one women's team is named annually for track and field, which includes the sports of cross country and indoor track and field, at the end of the outdoor track and field season.
10. **Track/Field Athletes of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Freshmen of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

**Coaches Committee.** [SEC Bylaw 21.9] The coaches committee will be made up of the head coach from the championship host institution along with two other head coaches from different institutions. For 2018-2019, the coaches committee will include LSU, Ole Miss, and Arkansas. A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Coaches Meeting.** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head track and field coach is required to attend the annual coaches

meeting held in September at the SEC office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with LSU serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Ole Miss (2019-20) and Mississippi State (2020-21). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

**Conference Championship.** The Conference Champions (men and women) will be determined by a meet of all SEC member institutions sponsoring a team. The championship will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** The outdoor track and field season shall begin with the first scheduled meet and continue until the last regularly-scheduled outdoor meet, or through the NCAA Championships, whichever is later.

**Reporting Meet Results.** Results of field events shall be reported in both meters/centimeters and feet/inches. Public address announcements must be made in feet/inches and metrically. Any event performance indicator displays must be made in feet/inches and may include metric.

**Squad Size.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 30 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 30 eligible student-athletes.

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Administrative Teleconference and Meeting.** Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the championships to review policies and procedures. In addition, coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall attend a mandatory meeting the afternoon prior to the start of the championships to review additional information and procedures.

**Championships Committee.** This committee shall be composed of the chairs of the men's and women's coaches committees, plus a representative of the host institution (either the meet director or head coach), the head referee and the SEC liaison. Its duties shall include:

1. Supervising the declaration of entries;
2. Heating and lighting the meet (the mechanics will be delegated to meet management after the start of competition); and
3. Serving as the final authority on all matters concerning the conduct of the championships, other than those handled by the referees and/or jury of appeals.

**Credentials.** [SEC Bylaw 12.3.1] All credentials shall be issued according to a numbering system (or other comparable method) to ensure only appropriate individuals have access to specified areas.

**Dates and Sites.** The SEC Championships shall be held Thursday through Sunday two weeks prior to the NCAA Championships and as determined by the host institution. The 2019 SEC Championships will be held May 9-11 and hosted by the University of Arkansas. If an institution is unable to host during its scheduled year, notification must be given at least one year in advance at the annual coaches meeting. In this circumstance, the championships shall rotate to the next institution in sequence. The championships will be a three-day meet. The order of rotation for hosting future SEC Outdoor Championships shall be: [Revised: 12/13/16]

2020	Texas A&M	2023	Florida
2021	Ole Miss	2024	Kentucky
2022	Georgia	2025	Auburn

**Declarations and Rosters.** The declaration deadline will be at least two days prior to the start of the championships. A team may declare no more than 30 student-athletes per gender. Once declarations are made final, no student-athletes may be added to the competition or entered into any additional events. Information regarding the online entry for rosters and declarations will be provided by the host institution at least a month before the event, and the declaration of entries must be made online. [Revised: 11/18/15]

**Electronic Devices.** The host institution shall determine if electronic devices may be used in the warm-up area by student-athletes and coaches. The use of such devices in the competition area by coaches for communication regarding inclement weather or other event management matters shall be permitted.

**Electronic Timing Procedures.** Fully electronic time and photos will be official. Time will be recorded officially to the 1,000<sup>th</sup> of a second when needed. The finish evaluators will determine the results of each race from the photos. Two fully automatic, electronic timing devices should be used at the finish line and be independent of each other. In the event of a protest (pertaining to the reading of the picture), the meet referee and the two official evaluators will make the final decision. Total timing failure requires re-running the heat as decided by the running referee. In the combined events, when there is a discrepancy, the electronic photo and time may be used by the referee and head timer as a guideline in determining proper time for the competitor. Wind readings must be taken and recorded in all appropriate events.

**Entry Information.** Performances used on the entry forms must have been achieved during the current outdoor season. No indoor or relay performances will be accepted. If an athlete has a performance standard for the event, it must be used. If there is no time standard available for seeding, the participant will be placed at the bottom of the list. Times used to declare athletes into the championships may only have wind readings of 4.0 and below. All competitors, including those in field events, must have a competition number. Every competitor must also have his/her year of eligibility listed on the entry forms.

Once declarations are made final, no student-athletes may be added to the competition or entered into any additional events. [Revised: 11/18/15]

**Events.** The following events will be contested:

1. **Men’s Events.**

100-Meter Dash	110-Meter Hurdles	Shot Put
200-Meter Dash	400-Meter Hurdles	Discus
400-Meter Dash	3000-Meter Steeplechase	Javelin
800-Meter Run	High Jump	Hammer Throw
1500-Meter Run	Long Jump	Decathlon
5000-Meter Run	Triple Jump	400-Meter Relay
10000-Meter Run	Pole Vault	1600-Meter Relay

2. **Women’s Events.**

100-Meter Dash	100-Meter Hurdles	Shot Put
200-Meter Dash	400-Meter Hurdles	Discus
400-Meter Dash	3000-Meter Steeplechase	Javelin
800-Meter Run	High Jump	Hammer Throw
1500-Meter Run	Long Jump	Heptathlon
5000-Meter Run	Triple Jump	400-Meter Relay
10000-Meter Run	Pole Vault	1600-Meter Relay

**Format.** Institutions may enter up to 30 individuals. Each institution may enter one relay team per relay event. The men’s and women’s championships will be scored separately, although they are conducted together at a common site.

**Foul Camera Minimum Standards.** To be eligible to host the SEC Championships, the host institution must meet the foul camera protocols set out in Supplement A.

**Heating.** Setting heats will be done by, and in the presence of, the championships committee and will be administered in accordance with the guidelines listed for each event. The committee shall supervise the 200-meter and 400-meter draws, including modifying the running events schedule based on the number of declared entrants in those races. In any event that requires more than one heat; the fastest heat will be run last. A computer-generated rank order list should be provided and all SEC parameters for heating should be programmed into the computer. Heat sheets will only be provided the night before the competition at the coaches meeting and will include declared and seeded times.

**Host Institution Responsibilities.** In addition to the responsibilities set forth in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference office, the Championships Director and Championships Sports Information Director shall:

**Championships Director Responsibilities:**

- Obtain the following officials: referee for track events; referee for field events; starter; three-person jury of appeals; and two finish evaluators. In addition, the director will obtain the remaining officials needed to conduct the meet. The director will submit names of referees and the jury of appeals for approval at the annual head coaches meeting;
- Serve as the administrator and supervisor of the championships; and
- Oversee the support staff in the conduct of the SEC Championships.

**Championships Sports Information Director Responsibilities:**

- Produce a championships program insert that includes the event schedule, championships personnel, and facts about the championships;
- Coordinate credentialing for all media, which includes assigning and distributing credentials after ensuring all credentialed media have signed off on the SEC Media Policy;
- Prepare and distribute advance publicity for the Conference championship event;
- Provide information to local, regional and national media during the championships;
- Supervise and coordinate media interviews and the media work area;
- Send each day’s results to all other Conference schools and the SEC office, including the SEC website;
- Write a general, unbiased summary following each day of competition and send to the SEC website;
- At the end of the championships, provide copies of the final results to the SEC office;
- Provide a photographer for the championships and awards ceremonies;

- Perform any other duties pertaining to the media aspect of conducting the event; and
- Work with the championship director as needed.

**Official Party.** Each participating team will be issued credentials for its official traveling party (e.g., athletes, coaches, managers, trainers, etc.). Each institution must notify the host of its traveling party size.

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2] The host institution is responsible for training all officials in accordance with SEC and NCAA rules. The Conference office shall maintain a working list of head officials from which the host institution must select the officials for the championships.

*Tickets* – Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition.

**Order of Events.** The order of events shall be approved at the annual head coaches meeting. The order shall not change, except in field events where the host institution may make modifications in the time schedule to accommodate a facility conflict. However, the host may not change the day of an event without prior approval of the head coaches. The direction of running and field events will be determined by the referees. The combined events schedule on Thursday and Friday may be modified by the championships committee if the number of entries warrants such action. When comparable men's and women's events are contested back-to-back, the women will compete first in even-numbered years, and the men will compete first in odd-numbered years, except in combined events, which shall be scheduled women first on the first day of competition and men first on the second day of competition, regardless of year. In the 10,000 meters and 3,000 meter steeplechase, the championships committee may adjust the start time, no less than four hours before the event is scheduled to begin, if there are student-athlete safety concerns related to the heat and humidity.

**Practice.** The facility must be available for practice the entire day before the championship event begins and each day of the championship until two hours prior to the start of the first event of the day. The host institution shall determine the practice schedule.

**Protests.** If an athlete is disqualified, the head coach, or his/her representative, must be notified immediately by the meet referee of the disqualification. All protests must be filled (at the protest table) at once and no later than 30 minutes after notification or after the event results are posted, whichever is earlier. Inquiries may be made by a competitor to the head official for the event, but competitor's coach must file the official protest at the protest table within 30 minutes. All protests will be submitted to the referee, who will render a decision. Decisions of the jury of appeals shall be final. If there is a tie to the 1,000<sup>th</sup> of a second, the Lynx system's camera angles from both sides of the finish line will be evaluated.

**Video Evidence in Protests.** For future championships, the only official video permissible for use as evidence in protests shall be television footage and/or video supplied by the host institution, as determined by the host institution. Coaches must inform the head referee of their desire to access available video footage within the permissible 30 minutes. Further, coaches may request to review a picture or video after results are announced and before the protest is filed. [NOTE: Due to technical constraints, it may not always be possible to view a picture or video before the 30-minute protest window closes.]

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**Squad Size.** The SEC Championship squad size is 30.

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**Uniforms.** (See the General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.) All team members must wear the proper uniform of the institution they represent.

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  - **Triple Jump.** One (1) camera is required, and must be positioned in line with the foul line on the side opposite the official's position. The operator must be prepared to move the camera if multiple takeoff boards are being used.

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- **Time Available for Protests.** A reasonable amount of time and opportunity to express a protest must be offered the athlete or coach. Generally speaking, when a long or triple jumper has proceeded back beyond the takeoff board after a trial, this protest opportunity may be considered complete. In a throwing event, when the thrower has left the ring or runway and proceeds beyond the immediate position of the officials towards the competitor's area, this protest opportunity may be considered complete.
- **Handling Protests.** In the event of a verbal protest by a competitor or coach, the fouled mark must be measured. The protest, the trial on which the protest takes place, and the measurement of the foul must be recorded apart from the official scoresheets. The referee must be notified immediately and time allowances must be made for camera operators to perform their duties.
- **Official Protests.** The verbal protest alone does not constitute an official protest. Coaches must file formal written protests subsequent to the verbal protests. Referees should, whenever possible, view video evidence in advance of the receipt of the official written protest to facilitate smooth, uninterrupted competition. Officials must continue to operate as though no protest has occurred until the referee notifies them otherwise, with the exception of the situation noted below.
- **Handling Ensuing Competition.** In the event of such a protest in the trials, and while awaiting the referee's decision, officials must determine whether an upheld protest would alter the composition of the finals. If this is the case, the affected competitor will be allowed to compete in the finals until the protest has been ruled upon and the referee's action is taken. This competitors seeding in the finals will be determined by the competitor's best legal mark, the protested trials measurement may not be used for seeding purposes.

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for volleyball: Sport Administrator – Lauren Taylor; Communications – Jill Skotarczak; Officiating – Melinda Voorhies/Sylvia Hagan Barnes.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between member institutions. Each institution must have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas.

**Awards.** The General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations provides a complete list and guidelines for all Conference awards. In addition, the recipients of the sport-specific awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Two weeks before the end of regular season, the SEC office will send out nomination forms for All-SEC voting, which are due back on Monday of Thanksgiving week. Ballots will be available online on the Friday following Thanksgiving and must be completed by 10pm CT the next day (Saturday). All-SEC teams will be announced on the Sunday afternoon prior to the NCAA Selection Show.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined in the same manner as the All-SEC Team. This team will be voted on at the same time as the All-SEC Team. There will only be one team of seven for the All-Freshman Team. Student-athletes must be in their first year of collegiate eligibility to be eligible for the team.
3. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The recipient will be selected in a manner similar to that of the Coach of the Year.
4. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The recipient will be selected in a manner similar to that of the Coach of the Year.
5. **Libero Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The recipient will be selected in a manner similar to that of Coach of the Year. The Libero Player of the Year must be a member of either the first or second All-SEC team.
6. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. The following criteria will be considered: success of the team; improvement of the team from the previous season; ability to use the talents of the team to the fullest, and professional manner and attitude.
7. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Players of the Week (Offensive, Setter, and Player).** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Institutions with first team All-SEC players, Coaches and Player of the Year are responsible for sending in nominations for all-region selections (AVCA).

**Bands and Cheerleaders.** The band is allowed to play only during the pre-match, timeouts, and between games and matches. If the band is seated on the same side as the team benches, there should be at least 15 feet between the bench area and the first row of band seating. Cheerleaders must not be directly behind the opponent's team bench or on the end line of the opponent's side. Megaphones must never be turned toward the playing court. Cheerleaders also must not use amplified microphones and should remain silent between the whistle that initiates the serve and service.

**Broadcast Personnel.** When possible, institutional broadcast personnel should not be seated at the scorer's table, with the understanding that some facilities do not provide an option.

**Coaches Meeting.** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach shall attend the annual coaches meeting held in January at the SEC office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Georgia serving as the chair for 2018-19. Subsequent years will be as follows: Ole Miss (2019-2020), Mississippi State (2020-21), and Missouri (2021-22). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference

office.

**Conference Champion.** The team with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared the Conference champion. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins, they will be declared Conference co-champions.

1. **Two-Team Tie.** In the event of a percentage tie between two teams for the Conference championship, the following criteria will be used in the following order to determine which team shall represent the Conference as its automatic qualifier in the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship:
  - A. Head-to-Head competition in Conference matches;
  - B. Number of sets won between the two teams;
  - C. Highest number of points scored between the two teams;
  - D. Number of Conference sets won;
  - E. Number of points scored in Conference matches; and
  - F. Coin toss conducted by Conference staff liaison.
2. **Three or More Team Tie.** In the event of a percentage tie between three or more teams for the Conference championship, the following criteria will be used in the following order to determine which team shall represent the Conference as its automatic qualifier in the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship (once the tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tie breaker procedure will be used):
  - A. Number of sets won between all the tied teams;
  - B. Number of points scored between all the tied teams;
  - C. Number of sets won in all Conference matches;
  - D. Number of points scored in all Conference matches; and
  - E. Coin toss conducted by Conference staff liaison.

**Equipment.** Equipment that shall be provided in the visiting team locker room includes a dry-erase or chalkboard, towels and water. Prior to the start of the season, coaches will designate the brand of game ball that will be used for home matches. A minimum of 50 volleyballs, which must be of the same brand, quality, and PSI of the match ball, shall be made available to the visiting team for the pre-match practice. [Revised: 3/9/16]

**Game Management.** Fans should not be allowed to be seated close enough to the playing court that they can touch an athlete during play. Additionally, doors shall remain closed to the public until 60 minutes prior to the beginning of the match. The scorekeeper and libero tracker must be certified.

**Line Judges.** Line judges are part of the officiating crew and will be assigned by the Conference office. Coaches should evaluate the line judges, along with match officials, following each match on the SEC officiating website.

**Match Protocol.** The following protocol will be used at all SEC matches during the regular season: [Revised: 3/9/16]

1. Only the starting players will be introduced. Player introductions may be no more than 5 minutes, except for Senior Day presentations;
2. The game clock shall start 99 minutes prior to first serve;
3. For conference matches only, there will be a 3-minute break at the end of each set. During the breaks the host may conduct an entertainment/promotional activity, if desired, subject to the following: [Revised: 6/8/17]
  - A. The court must be cleared with :30 remaining on the countdown clock,
  - B. The full court may be used for promotional activities only – not spirit squads,
  - C. If using the visiting team's side of the court, the home team side of the court must also be used, and;
  - D. Team huddles must be protected from errant ball/objects.
4. Unless otherwise noted in this section, NCAA championship pre-match protocol will be used. If there is a deviation from this protocol, the visiting team must be notified in writing at least one week prior to the match; and
5. Coaches will discuss on an individual match basis the protocol for the National Anthem and the introduction of the teams.

**NCAA Automatic Qualification.** The Conference champion will be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event of a tie for the Conference championship, the criteria set forth in the Conference Champion subsection above will be used to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship.

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.1] The Conference office shall make the assignment of officials for all matches. Notification of game officials and all information pertaining to officiating can be found on [www.spotfoul.com](http://www.spotfoul.com). Access to the website can be obtained by contacting Sylvia Hagan Barnes. The first referee must have a national rating (USVBA or NAGWS). Officials' uniforms for SEC matches shall be a collared white shirt, navy slacks and white shoes.

Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is absolutely prohibited. Comments on officiating are to be directed only to the Conference office. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed only to the Conference staff. Public airing of such matters by officials, coaches or institutional personnel serves no worthwhile purpose and is prohibited.

Films or videotapes shall not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating (e.g., the use of game films to produce clips for television or newspapers depicting officiating calls). No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches' radio and/or television shows.

Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone, and all matters pertaining to officials or officiating will be directed to the SEC staff only. Likewise, this policy will preclude officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.

The officials' dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as suggested below:

1. Towels and soap;
2. Chairs and a table;
3. Soft drinks and water (in a cooler of ice); and
4. Sandwiches, fruit, or light snack following the match.

Absolutely no one shall be allowed access to the officials' dressing room without the permission of the SEC except (1) officials assigned to the game, (2) the event manager and (3) Southeastern Conference staff.

*Compensation* – Payment of the game officials will be handled by a third-party service (Dwolla). Each institution will be invoiced for their share of the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials. The fees and travel/expense policies shall be set by the Conference office and athletics directors.

*Tickets* – Each official assigned to a competition is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to that competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition.

**Postponed Matches.** If a match is postponed for any reason, there will be a conference call with the two participating team coaches, the original officiating crew and the Conference liaison to determine the protocol for re-scheduling the match.

**Practice.** The SEC visiting team has priority over non-conference teams regarding practice times. The SEC visiting coach must make arrangements with the host well in advance of the event. The host institution shall confirm practice times for the visiting team at least five (5) days prior to the match. The host institution shall make a best effort to schedule match day pass & serve on the competition court with lighting at competition level. If the host institution is unable to schedule match day pass & serve on the competition court, the institution must provide written notice of the inability to utilize the competition court to the Conference office at least ten (10) days prior to the match. An athletic training room should be available for the visiting team one hour prior to their practice time. On football weekends, the host must provide specific instructions for parking and other pertinent matters to the visiting team. [Revised: 3/9/16]

**Pre-Match.** The competition area must be ready at least two hours prior to the beginning of the match to allow each institution a 30-minute warm-up segment. The home team shall be allowed the first 30-minute segment with the visiting team following thereafter. The visiting team has the right to request that there be no music played during their 30-minute segment. No players or coaches from the opposing team should be allowed on the court area during the 30-minute time period. In the event of an uncontrollable circumstance that prevents the court from being available for the requisite two-hour time, the two teams must split the available time equally. Teams are limited to one hitting line

while the court is being shared. The match will begin at the contractual time. The home team shall supply at least 12 balls for warm-up. Ball-shaggers during the warm-up period should be reminded to extend the same courtesies to the visiting team as they do to the home team.

**Public Address Announcer.** Only the PA announcer may use the microphone. The announcer is responsible for whatever is said over the PA system. The primary function of the announcer is to give specific information to the fans, not to incite them by unnecessary inflection of voice. The public address announcer may display uniform commentary for both teams. Officials should be introduced by stating their name function (e.g., linespersons, first referee, second referee, etc.). Announce the location of all emergency exits prior to the start of the match.

**Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.** Regular-season competition and scheduling are subject to the following:

1. The regular season Conference schedule shall consist of 18 matches in which each member institution sponsoring the sport shall play each other member institution sponsoring the sport at least once. The additional eight matches shall be determined by a random computer draw. The dates and sites of the Conference schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference.
2. Competition shall be conducted under NCAA and SEC volleyball rules and regulations.
3. Conference play shall begin on a Wednesday nine weeks prior to the NCAA First and Second Round matches and end the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Sunday matches shall begin no later than 1p.m. (local time) if the team is traveling by commercial air, unless a later time is dictated by television.
4. Saturday matches played during the last week of the Conference season shall begin no later than 1:00 pm (local time).

**Squad Size.** The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 17 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 17 eligible student-athletes. [Revised: 8/8/15]

**Statistics.** The home team is responsible for recording AVCA recommended statistical information for both teams. The visiting team may provide one spotter for the purpose of improving the accuracy of data collection during the match. After each SEC match, the visiting coach should receive a copy of the official score sheet. The home stats crew must send a completed NCAA statistics form to each SEC institution and the Conference office on the first working day following the match. Score sheets and libero tracking sheets in triplicate will be provided by the Conference office. If possible, stat monitors will be provided near both team benches.

**Strobe Lights.** NCAA parameters for strobe lights will be used. The host institution sports information contact must inform the visiting team if strobe lights will be used during the match. The visiting team coach has the right to refuse the strobe lights being used.

**Uniforms.** For all Conference matches, the home team must wear the light uniforms and the visiting team must wear contrasting dark uniforms. Coaches will confer before arrival to confirm that light/dark is contrasting.

**Video Exchange.** The SEC operates with an open exchange policy. Therefore, all schools must provide video of all matches to the other SEC programs. All teams shall use VolleyMetrics video sharing software as the primary means for transferring video of matches with the following guidelines: [Revised: 3/9/16, 7/24/17]

1. All Volleyball programs shall purchase a VolleyMetrics video sharing subscription, which will guarantee access to the SEC open video exchange throughout the season;
2. VolleyMetrics will guarantee that each institution will have the possibility to install a camera in their facility. VolleyMetrics cameras will upload video for any home match automatically to the VolleyMetrics portal. Institutions that have a VolleyMetrics camera are still required to record a backup video on their own camera;
3. The video of each match is required to be uploaded to the corresponding match slot on the VolleyMetrics portal. The away team has no responsibility for uploading matches when playing at a participating team's facility, but when a neutral match is played, both teams share responsibility for uploading the video. [Revised: 7/24/17]
  - A. The video of each match must be uploaded to the corresponding match slot by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on the day the match is played. Failure to adhere to the upload timeline will result in an institution being locked out of accessing any other matches (except the institution's own matches) until the match is uploaded.
  - B. Copies of each match scoresheet and final box score shall be uploaded to the corresponding match slot

- with the same deadline as video uploads. Failure to adhere to the upload timeline will result in an institution being locked out of accessing any other matches (except the institution's own matches) until the match is uploaded. Scoresheets and box score should be uploaded in picture or PDF format and as a single file. If the institution is using the VolleyMetrics computerized scoresheet system, the upload will happen automatically and the host school should simply verify the upload happened properly.
- C. SEC Programs will have access to each other's folders and participating non-conference programs within the VolleyMetrics Video Sharing program which will enable them to select and download any match they choose for the purpose of match preparation.
  - D. Due to these posting requirements, there will be no need for formal tape requests; video of all matches played by a school in a participating conference must be available to other teams in participating conferences through VolleyMetrics. Schools that are part of a participating conference will have access to each other's matches on the VolleyMetrics Portal, which will enable them to select and download any match they choose for the purpose of match preparation. Each week's matches will become available to other inter-conference exchange teams at 2 p.m. Pacific Time on Sunday.
4. All matches shall be filmed from a central position behind the end line. It is preferred that only the competition court and the head referee be in the frame. [Revised: 7/24/17]
- A. Cameras shall be elevated so that the far end line is visible through the net.
  - B. All four corners of the court, the top of the antennae, and a few feet behind the near end line must be visible.
  - C. The camera should be positioned so that jersey numbers are legible; jerseys shall be a contrasting color.
  - D. The video should be High Definition quality (at least 720p at 1280 x 720).
  - E. The video should include sound.
  - F. The home team must be on the near side in the 1<sup>st</sup> set. The camera must remain in the same position and not switch sides as the teams change sides.
  - G. The camera should not be turned off at any time during the match, so that no video is omitted (i.e. video between rallies or sets).
  - H. If a facility does not provide a location to produce the required angle for video, the home team must provide the visiting team a feed in the home team's permanent camera.
5. It is permissible to exchange non-VolleyMetrics scout files (.dvw) between conference teams if it is agreed upon by both institutions.

**Video Boards/Replays.** Institutions are not limited in the use of replays (including number of replays shown), except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. In no circumstances will the in-arena video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, incite the crowd, or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-arena video board.

*Procedure for stoppage for an official review:*

When a stoppage occurs for an official review in a televised game, the in-arena video board operator must use the unaltered television network program feed as the exclusive video source for replays of the play under review. When a stoppage occurs for an official review in a non-televised game, the in-arena video board operator must use the unaltered in-arena feed as the exclusive video source for replays of the play under review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-arena video board during stoppage for an official review. No live coverage of any coach, student-athlete, or fan reaction may be shown from the program feed during the review. Replays of plays under review are permitted only during actual stoppage of play for the official review.

