

COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS  
**2023-2024**



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**(Updated: August 1, 2023)**

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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 Conference 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 all Conference competition generally, 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 may be cited in the regulations under the appropriate topic heading.

These regulations are approved by the appropriate 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. Each member institution must provide security and uniformed law enforcement presence around each team and game officials before, during, and after the event to prevent contact with spectators. The area where teams and officials are dropped off and their path to/from team areas must be secure and not accessible to the public. In the event of a field or court rush, the use of uniformed law enforcement personnel and equipment (e.g., - rope, barricade, expandable tunnels) to secure a clear path off the playing surface for the visiting team and all team personnel (e.g. equipment managers), is required. If a field/court rush ensues, the visiting team shall forgo the post-game handshake line and immediately move inside the barricade and get to their locker room as soon as possible. Each institution shall be responsible for implementing procedures to ensure compliance with this policy. Institutional penalties against individuals improperly entering the competition area may include expulsion from the facility, arrest for trespassing, loss of future ticket privileges, or other measures deemed appropriate by institutional law enforcement and administration. Violators who are students must also be subject to institutional student disciplinary measures. [Revised: 6/2/23]

**Communications Plan.** Each institution shall develop a communications plan for encouraging spectators to refrain from entering the competition area. This plan shall include proactive educational messaging from coaches, student-athletes and other athletic department representatives explaining the Conference policy restricting access to the competition area. The plan shall also include additional means for publicizing the policy, including associated penalties for violations, through means such as ticket-back statements, public address announcements, video/matrix announcements, facility signage, etc. Prior to August 1 each year, each institution shall provide the Conference office with its communication plan as well as its field/court rush plan.

**Penalties for Institutional Violations.** For the safety of participants and spectators alike, the Commissioner shall impose the following fines, which shall be paid directly to the opposing institution, for any field or court rush that occurs when the visiting team and/or game officials are still on the playing surface. An institution may adopt a policy allowing spectators to access the competition area once all visiting team personnel and game officials have safely exited the field and thereby avoid application of these penalties. The Commissioner may (in his or her sole discretion) impose additional penalties as he/she deems appropriate.

1. 1st Offense: \$100,000
2. 2nd Offense: \$250,000
3. 3rd and each Subsequent Offense: \$500,000

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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).** 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. See also, SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5(d)

**Availability of Alcoholic Beverages at Athletic Events.** Each institution is permitted to determine the permissibility of selling alcoholic beverages in athletics venues and shall establish a policy governing the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages in its athletics facilities. Institutions that offer alcohol sales in public areas must incorporate Conference-wide alcohol management expectations, which include: *[Adopted: 5/31/19, effective 8/1/19, Revised 5/3/23]*

1. Alcoholic beverages are to be sold and dispensed only at designated stationary locations;
2. Alcoholic beverages may not be sold by vendors within the seating areas;
3. Identification check is required at every point of sale to prevent sales to minors;
4. Limits must be established on the number of drinks purchased at one time by an individual;
5. Alcohol may be dispensed in cans or plastic bottles but must be opened prior to being served (seller must retain cap). If cans or plastic bottles are used as projectiles or otherwise cause game management issues, the institution is subject to an immediate fine and suspension of the alcohol sales privilege; *[Revised: 6/11/20]*
6. Safe server training and additional training for staff to handle high risk situations is required; and
7. Designated stop times for sale and/or distribution of alcohol must be enforced as follows:
  - A. Football (end of 3rd quarter);
  - B. Basketball (Men's—Second half 12-minute TV timeout; Women's—End of 3rd quarter);
  - C. Baseball (end of the top of 7th inning);
  - D. Softball (end of the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning); and
  - E. Other Sports (At a designated time, no later than when 75% of the event's regulation length competition is scheduled to be completed).

Each year, the Conference membership shall review this policy to determine institutional compliance with established expectations and evaluate fan conduct and alcohol-related incidents for the purpose of determining the need to revise the Conference's alcohol policy. Implementation of these management expectations does not include suites, clubs, or private leased areas. Each institution shall establish a policy for the admission of outside food and beverage into its facilities. As with all areas of the stadium, maintaining the safety of patrons and participants and maintaining an atmosphere suitable for families is of utmost importance.

**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 Conference 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 Conference 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 Conference 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 Conference 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 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. A nominee in graduate school must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.2 both as an undergraduate and as a graduate student.

- 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 will select an "Athlete of the Week" from nominations submitted to the Conference office by the sports information office from each member institution.
- 15. **Freshmen of the Week.** The Conference will select a "Freshman of the Week" from nominations submitted to the Conference office by the sports information office from each member institution.
- 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 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 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 Conference 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 student-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.

**Competition Area Lighting.** Competition facility light shows fall into the following two categories: 1) full facility light coloring in which the game lights are dimmed and/or change colors, or, 2) game lighting remains at competition level while lights perform movement, including chase and flickering effects. In order to ensure the safety of participants and the opportunity for instruction by coaches during breaks in competition, the following guidelines regarding lighting effects shall apply: [Adopted: 1/4/23]

- 1. Lights must remain on and at competition level over the competition surface from the start of the competition until teams have safely exited the competition area following the conclusion of competition.
- 2. White and color lighting movements may be performed (but lights shall not be dimmed or consist of color-only effects) at certain approved breaks in competition (e.g. halftime, media timeouts, between rotations,



between innings, etc.).

3. For any lighting effect, lights must return to normal game lighting fifteen seconds (0:15) prior to the end of the timeout or break.

**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.** The method of distributing net receipts is specified in the SEC Bylaws. Host institutions shall file a financial report with the Conference office not later than 60 days after the event. See also, SEC Bylaw 31.

**Forfeit Policy.** A team that is unable to compete in a regular season Conference contest due to the unavailability of participants (e.g. COVID-19, injuries, etc.), shall be deemed to have forfeit the contest and will be assigned a loss in the respective Conference standings. An opposing team that is ready to play shall be credited with a win, and both teams will be deemed to have completed the contest in the standings. If both (or multiple) teams are unable to compete due to the unavailability of participants (e.g. COVID-19, injuries, etc.), all unavailable teams shall be deemed to have forfeit and shall be assigned a loss and be considered to have played in the standings. The Commissioner may declare any contest as a "no contest" if extraordinary circumstances warrant at his/her discretion. Tie-breaker procedures specific to each sport shall apply in determining Conference champions, division champions, and/or seeding in Conference championship events. [Adopted: 8/17/22]

**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 administrator. 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.**

1. Each member institution must have the capability of determining when lightning strikes are within specified distances of the competition site for all outdoor events.
2. When lightning is detected within 15 miles of the competition site, the home institution shall notify the head referee-umpire.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

**Minimum Penalties for Violations of Specified NCAA Bylaws.** The Conference has established minimum penalties for violations of specified NCAA Bylaws. *See, Supplement E. [Revised: 12/13/16, Revised 6/2/23]*

**New Coaches Orientation.** Upon initial employment at a Conference institution, all new staff members who are involved in on or off-campus recruiting activities should be provided an educational video produced by the Conference office as an introduction to the Conference and its rules and regulations. Each institution is free to deliver the material in the manner it deems most efficient and effective (e.g. forwarding directly to each new staff member upon hire, showing in-person to a group of new staff hires, etc.), and the content may be used to satisfy the Conference rules education requirement outlined in SEC Bylaw 13.1. *[Revised: 1/16/23]*

**Officials.** 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. *See also, SEC Bylaw 30.20.*

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

**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.

**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.

**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. 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. In addition, all individuals shall also adhere to the following principles of good sportsmanship: *[Revised: 8/7/18]*

1. **Public Comments.** All individuals shall make every attempt to promote the Conference and its members in a positive manner.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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).

5. **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.

**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>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion.</p> <p>2 team awards given for Divisional Champions (trophy).</p> <p>1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.</p>	<p>12 All-Tournament Team (trophy).</p> <p>1 Tournament MVP (trophy).</p>	<p>12 First Team All-SEC (crystal award)</p> <p>12 Second Team All-SEC (crystal award)</p> <p>12 All-Freshman Team (crystal award)</p> <p>9 All-Defensive Team (crystal award)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Player of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Pitcher of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Freshman of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Community Service Team (certificate)</p>	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	<p>Player of the Week (certificate)</p> <p>Pitcher of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>
<b>Men's &amp; Women's Basketball</b>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion.</p> <p>1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.</p>	<p>5 All-Tournament Team (trophy).</p> <p>1 Tournament MVP (trophy).</p>	<p>8 First Team All-SEC (crystal award)</p> <p>8 Second Team All-SEC (crystal award)</p> <p>8 All-Freshman Team (crystal award)</p> <p>5 All-Defensive Team (crystal award)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Player of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> Man/Woman of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Defensive Player of the year (trophy)</p> <p>Freshman of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Community Service Team (certificate)</p>	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	<p>Player of the Week (certificate)</p> <p>Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>



<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 (crystal award) 7 Second Team All-SEC given to finishers 8-14 (crystal award) 7 All-Freshman Team (crystal award)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Runner of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	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 (certificate)	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 (trophy).	25 (number varies) First Team All-SEC (crystal award) 25 (number varies) Second Team All-SEC (crystal award) 24 (number varies) All-Freshman Team (crystal award)	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 (certificate)	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)

<b>Men's and Women's Golf</b>	1 team award for the Conference Champion.	2 top finishers given trophy. (Stroke Play Champion and Runner Up)  Each member of winning team receives medal (5)	8 First Team All-SEC (crystal award)  8 Second Team All-SEC (crystal award)  5 Male All-Freshman Team 8 Female All-Freshman Team (crystal award)	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)	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	Athlete of the Week – Fall and Spring Seasons (certificate)  Freshman of the Week - Fall and Spring Seasons (certificate)
<b>Gymnastics</b>	1 team award for the Conference Champion.	3 top place finishers for each event given medals.	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. (crystal award)  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. (crystal award)	Coach of the Year (trophy)  Gymnast of the Year (trophy)  Freshman of the Year (trophy)  Event Specialist of the Year (trophy)  Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy)  Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	Gymnast of the Week (certificate)  Event Specialist of the Week (certificate)  Freshman of the week (certificate)

<b>Women's Soccer</b>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion.</p> <p>1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.</p>	<p>11 All-Tournament Team (trophy).</p> <p>1 Tournament MVP (trophy).</p>	<p>14 First Team All-SEC (crystal award)</p> <p>14 Second Team All-SEC (crystal award)</p> <p>14 All-Freshman Team (crystal award)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Offensive Player of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Defensive Player of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Forward of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Defender of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Midfielder of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Goalkeeper of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Freshman of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Community Service Team (certificate)</p>	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	<p>Offensive Player of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Defensive Player of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>
<b>Softball</b>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion.</p> <p>1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.</p>	<p>11 All-Tournament Team (trophy).</p> <p>1 Tournament MVP (trophy).</p>	<p>21 First Team All-SEC (crystal award)</p> <p>21 Second Team All-SEC (crystal award)</p> <p>9 All Defensive Team (crystal award)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Player of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Pitcher of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Freshman of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Community Service Team (certificate)</p>	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	<p>Player of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Pitcher of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>

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

<b>Men's &amp; Women's Outdoor Track &amp; Field</b>	1 team award for the Conference Champion.	3 top place finishers for each event given medallions.  Commissioner's Trophy	First Team All-SEC given to winner in each event (crystal award)  Second Team All-SEC given to 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> place finished in each event (crystal award)  All-Freshman Team given to top Freshman finisher in each event, excluding relays (crystal award)	Coach of the Year (trophy)  Runner of the Year (trophy)  Field Athlete of the Year (trophy)  Freshman Runner of the Year (trophy)  Freshman Field Athlete of the Year (trophy)  Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy)  Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	Track Athlete of the week (certificate)  Field Athlete of the week (certificate)  Freshman of the week (certificate)
<b>Volleyball</b>	1 team award for the Conference Champion.	N/A	18 All-SEC (crystal award)  7 All-Freshman Team (crystal award)	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 (certificate)	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)



## 2023-24 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 Beach 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 (2023-2035)

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035
<b>BASEBALL</b>	Hoover, AL											
<b>MEN'S BASKETBALL</b>	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN						
<b>WOMEN'S BASKETBALL</b>	Greenville, SC	Greenville, SC										
<b>CROSS COUNTRY</b>	South Carolina	MSU	Tennessee	Texas A&M	Vanderbilt	Texas	Missouri	Oklahoma	Florida	Alabama	Georgia	Arkansas
<b>EQUESTRIAN</b>	Texas A&M	Georgia	Auburn	Texas A&M	South Carolina	Georgia	Auburn	South Carolina	Texas A&M	Georgia	Auburn	South Carolina
<b>FOOTBALL</b>	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>	Pelican Golf Club Belleair, FL	Pelican Golf Club Belleair, FL	Pelican Golf Club Belleair, FL									
<b>GYMNASTICS</b>	TBA											
<b>SOCCER</b>	Pensacola, FL	Pensacola, FL										
<b>SOFTBALL</b>	Auburn	Georgia	Kentucky	Ole Miss	Missouri	MSU	South Carolina	Texas A&M	Oklahoma	Texas	Tennessee	LSU
<b>SWIMMING/ DIVING</b>	Auburn	Georgia	Tennessee	Texas	Georgia	Texas A&M	Tennessee	Texas	Georgia	Texas A&M	Tennessee	Texas
<b>MEN'S TENNIS</b>	LSU	TBA	South Carolina	Texas A&M	Vanderbilt	Texas	Tennessee	Oklahoma	Georgia	MSU	Florida	Ole Miss
<b>WOMEN'S TENNIS</b>	Georgia	Auburn	Oklahoma	LSU	Missouri	Texas A&M	Vanderbilt	Texas	Tennessee	Oklahoma	South Carolina	MSU
<b>INDOOR T/F</b>	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas
<b>OUTDOOR T/F</b>	Florida	Kentucky	Auburn	Missouri	Texas A&M	Vanderbilt	MSU	Georgia	Oklahoma	Auburn	Texas	Florida
<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>	TBD											

### SEC Squad Size Policies

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Regular Season:</b> The below squad size limits apply only to Conference-sponsored regular season competition, rather than applying to any competition in which two or more Conference programs participate.	<b>SEC Championships:</b> The below limits apply to Conference Championship competition only and are not applicable to NCAA Championship competition.
<b>Baseball</b>	Only 27 student-athletes shall be allowed to participate in a Conference series. 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. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities.	Only 30 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Basketball</b>	Only 15 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities.	Only 15 student-athletes may participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Cross Country</b>	Only 12 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities.	Only 10 men's and 12 women's student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Equestrian</b>	All eligible student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. There is no travel squad size limit.	Only 28 student-athletes (20 competitors and eight non-competing alternates) will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Football</b>	<p><b>Home Team</b> - 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.)</p> <p><b>Visiting Team</b> - The visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 70 travel-eligible student-athletes. A student-athlete who has suffered a season ending injury and will no longer participate may travel without counting towards the visiting team's limit.</p> <p><b>Neutral Sites</b> - The squad size limit for neutral site games (no more than one game annually) is 70 travel-eligible student-athletes for both participating teams. A student-athlete who has suffered a season ending injury and will no longer participate may travel without counting towards</p>	

	the participating team's limit. <b>Junior Varsity</b> - The squad size for junior varsity teams is 55 eligible student-athletes.	
<b>Golf</b>	Only 6 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities.	Only 6 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Gymnastics</b>	Only 18 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities.	Only 18 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Soccer</b>	Only 24 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities.	Only 24 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Softball</b>	Only 22 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities.	Only 22 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Swimming</b>	Only 24 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest, except a home team may allow "exhibition" participants. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities.	Only 22 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Tennis</b>	Only 10 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities.	Only 10 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Track – Indoor</b>	Only 27 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities.	Only 27 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Track – Outdoor</b>	Only 30 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities.	Only 30 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Volleyball</b>	Only 17 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities.	Only 17 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.

## **Minimum Penalties for Violations of Specified NCAA Bylaws**

### **Application of a Minimum Penalty**

Upon discovery of a violation for which a minimum penalty is prescribed below, the institution shall immediately apply the prescribed penalty and shall report the associated violation(s) to the Conference in a timely manner. A minimum penalty may be increased at the Commissioner's discretion. If 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 from a Minimum Penalty**

An institution may request relief from application of a 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 seeks relief from a minimum penalty and there is a reasonable basis for consideration of the relief request, the penalty shall be stayed pending the Commissioner's determination as to whether relief shall be granted.

### **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.

### **Contact with a prospect prior to the first permissible date (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.1, 13.7.1)**

- The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any recruiting for 14 calendar days.
- In-person contact (on or off campus) with the involved prospective student-athlete shall be prohibited for 90 days following the first permissible date for in-person contact.
- The institution shall be limited to one off-campus contact per academic year with the involved prospect.

### **Contact with a prospect during an evaluation or quiet period after the first permissible date. (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 recruiting activity for 7 calendar days.
- In-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 30 days following the discovery of the violation.
- Telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 14 days.
- The institution shall be limited to one off-campus contact per academic year with the involved prospect.

### **Contact with a prospect during a dead period after the first permissible date. (NCAA Bylaw 13.02.5.5)**

- The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any recruiting activity for 14 calendar days.
- In-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 90 days.
- Telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 60 days.
- The institution shall be limited to one off-campus contact per academic year with the involved prospect.

### **Impermissible contact/communication with a four-year college prospect. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.3)**



- The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any recruiting activity for 14 calendar days.
- In-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 90 days.
- Telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 60 days following discovery of the violation.
- The institution shall be limited to one off-campus contact per academic year with the involved prospect.

**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 recruiting activity for 14 calendar days.
- In-person contact (on or off campus) with the involved prospective student-athlete shall be prohibited for 90 days following discovery of the violation or 90 days following the first permissible date for in-person ~~off-campus~~ contact with the prospect.
- Telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 30 days.
- The institution shall be limited to one off-campus contact per academic year 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 recruiting activity for 7 calendar days.
- In-person contact with the involved prospective student-athlete shall be prohibited until 45 days following discovery of the violation, or 45 days following the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact with the prospect.
- Telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 14 days.
- The institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

**Conference Office Liaisons.** Sport Administrator – Matt Evans; Communications – Tammy Wilson.

## **REGULAR SEASON COMPETITION**

**Administration.** 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.** 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. See also, SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e.

**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 electronic nomination form 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. There are no criteria for nominating a player. A player may only be named once and to one team. There will be no distinction between singles and doubles. First-team will be a combination of ITA rankings and a vote of the coaches. The top ranked doubles team and the top 8 ranked singles players (not part of the top doubles team) will be automatically named based upon the latest ITA rankings. 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 no later than the Tuesday after the SEC Tournament. There will be a mandatory coach's call the week after the SEC Tournament for the coaches to discuss their own nominees. The coaches must submit their online ballots by the deadline set by the Conference office.
1. **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.** Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in November at the Conference office. See also, SEC Bylaw 21.8.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Mississippi State serving as the chair in 2023-24. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

**Coaching.** ITA Regulation I.J. (Coaching) governs the coaching of players during a match. A coach may coach a player during the 25 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.**

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 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 Conference, NCAA and ITA rules and expectations regarding crowd control, facility restrictions, and other game management issues of importance.

**Inclement Weather.** Institutions shall play all Conference 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 called upon to decide whether the match will be played indoors in accordance with the Conference and ITA rules, 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, with the conference sport administrator making the final determination if both coaches do not agree. [Revised: 12/12/17, 1/29/20]

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. If inclement weather is forecasted on match day, each institution shall notify the visiting team head coach of the resources available to ready the court by Wednesday of each week of competition. [Revised: 1/29/20]
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** A Conference 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.** In the event of inclement weather and no indoor back-up court is available, a match may be moved up as early as 9 a.m. local time on the original play date, if both coaches agree. The decision to move the match time earlier must be made by 5 p.m. local time the day prior to the scheduled match. ITA standards for playable weather conditions will apply. If no indoor back-up court is available, a match may not start or resume after 10pm local time. [Adopted: 12/12/17, Revised: 1/29/20]
6. **Postponed Matches**
  - A. 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.

- B. If 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.
- C. If 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.
- D. 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. If a match is unable to be fully completed on the last Sunday of the regular season and the host institution does not have an indoor facility, the match may be completed on Monday. Institutions may not resume matches at the Conference Tournament site. *[Revised: 1/29/20]*

**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.**

- A. Coaches shall e-mail their entire singles and doubles line-ups to the Conference administrator by Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. (Eastern) each week of Conference 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.) *[Revised: 1/29/20]*
- B. 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...).
- C. If any coach desires to protest the line-up of another team, the coach must e-mail the protest request to the Conference administrator by 9:00 p.m. (Eastern) each Tuesday. The Conference administrator 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 12:00 p.m. (Noon)(Eastern) each Wednesday and make a ruling by Wednesday afternoon. Any coach whose line-up is being protested may participate on the call. *[Revised: 1/29/20]*

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 the head coaches do not exchange their substitutions within two minutes after the doubles point, the lineups shall remain as exchanged at the start of the match. Except for a previously scheduled special event (such as an awards presentation) occurring between doubles and singles, there shall be no exceptions for extending either the time for lineup changes or the time to start singles play. *[Revised: 12/13/16, 12/20/18]*

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 Conference 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. *[Revised: 12/20/18]*

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 if 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 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.** Seven ITA-certified umpires (six chair umpires and one head referee) shall 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 Conference administrator 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. 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 consist of the head coach from each institution and shall serve to hear all line-up protests during the regular season. All Committee decisions are final. 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. The Committee Chair shall annually rotate alphabetically, with Tennessee serving as Chair in 2023-24. *[Revised: 1/29/20]*

#### **Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.**

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. Teams participating in split weekend competition (*i.e.*, competition scheduled on the same date and at the same location as a Conference women's tennis contest) may reschedule their match within the Conference 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. 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.** Only 10 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities. *[Revised: 7/10/20, 6/9/21, 6/3/22]*



## **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 shall consist of three head coaches based upon an alphabetical rotation with one coach rotating off each year. The Championship Committee members for the 2024 championship will be Tennessee (Chair), Texas A&M, and Vanderbilt, [Revised: 1/29/20]

**Dates and Sites.** The tournament will be held two weeks prior to the NCAA Championships on Wednesday through Sunday. See [Supplement C](#) in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites. [Revised: 12/15/15, 12/12/17].

**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 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 office.

**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 administrator.

**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 to discuss and vote on protests. 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. If a protest is filed after the start of the championship, the 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.**

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 Conference, 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 administrator, 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, Conference, 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 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.** Only 10 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference. *[Revised: 7/10/20, 6/3/22]*

**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 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 administrator. 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 number 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.

**Warm-Up.** Players will have a minimum of 20 minutes to warm-up when changing playing surfaces. The referee is the timekeeper.

