

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.	<p>7 First Team All-SEC given to finishers 1-7 (crystal award)</p> <p>7 Second Team All-SEC given to finishers 8-14 (crystal award)</p> <p>7 All-Freshman Team (crystal award)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>Runner 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>Athlete of the Week (certificate)</p> <p>Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>
<b>Equestrian</b>	1 team award for the Conference Champion.	<p>4 All-Championship Team (one per event)</p> <p>Most Outstanding Performers (16 – one per competition per day)</p>	<p>20 All-SEC (top 5 athletes in each event voted by the coaches)</p> <p>20 All-Freshman Team (top 5 freshmen in each event voted by the coaches)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>4 Athletes of the Year (trophy)</p> <p>4 Freshman Athletes 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)	4 Athletes of the Month given to one athlete from each event (certificate)
<b>Football</b>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion.</p> <p>2 team awards given for Divisional Champions (trophy).</p>	1 Championship MVP (trophy).	<p>25 (number varies) First Team All-SEC (crystal award)</p> <p>25 (number varies) Second Team All-SEC (crystal award)</p> <p>24 (number varies) 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>Special Teams 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>Offensive Player of the Week (certificate)</p> <p>Defensive Player of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Special Teams Player of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Offensive Lineman of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Defensive Lineman of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>

<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 Boyer; Communications – Ben Beaty; Officiating – Paul Guillie

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

**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.

**Penalties for Violations.** The game umpires shall enforce the Conference ban on artificial noisemakers. The first time the home plate umpire detects the significant use of artificial noisemakers by those in the crowd, the umpire shall call a timeout and request that the public address (PA) announcer make a verbal warning through the public address system. Thereafter, the home plate umpire will work with home game management to enforce the Artificial Noisemaker policy and report any violations to the conference office.

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

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The coaches select 12 players for the first team and 12 for second team. Each squad consists of the following - a first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, shortstop, catcher, three outfielders, designated hitter/utility and three pitchers (one must be a relief pitcher). Each player receives two points for a first-team vote and one point for a second-team vote. The student-athlete with the most votes at each position will be named first-team All-SEC; while the next highest at each position will be named second-team All-SEC. The student-athletes selected for the designated hitter/utility positions must meet at least one of the following criteria; 1) play at least a total of 50 percent of the team's conference games at two or more positions, 2) play at least 50 percent of the team's conference games as the designated hitter, or 3) play at least 50 percent of the team's conference games at DH and a position. [Revised: 9/27/18]
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The coaches select 12 players for the team. The 12 student-athletes receiving the highest number of votes, regardless of position, will be named to the All-Freshman Team. [Revised: 9/27/18]
3. **All-Defensive Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
4. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Player of the Year during All-SEC process. The player they vote for must be listed on their first-team All-SEC team ballot. Each vote is worth one point.
5. **Pitcher of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Pitcher of the Year during All-SEC process. The player they vote for must be listed on their first-team All-SEC team ballot. Each vote is worth one point.
6. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Freshman of the Year during All-SEC process. The player they vote for must be listed on their All-SEC ballot. Each vote is worth one point.
7. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Coach of the Year during All-SEC process. Each vote is worth one point.
8. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Pitcher of the Week.** See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.

**Barrel Compression Testing.** The regular season and the Conference tournament will be governed by a Barrel Compression Testing Protocol as regulated by the NCAA. In Conference competition, testing shall occur at least one hour but not more than two hours prior to the scheduled start of each game of a Conference series (or first game of a double-header), and the crew chief shall be responsible for testing both team's bats (e.g., physically placing the bats in the machines). An administrator from the home team shall serve to observe the process, and only the crew chief, the administrator, and team personnel involved in administering the process may be present. Time and specific

location within the playing facility for testing will be determined by the home team and must be communicated by email to the crew chief and the visiting team no later than 48 hours prior to the first game of the series. Each institution shall be responsible for possessing and maintaining a ring testing device and barrel compression testing device, and the home team's devices will be used for testing during the regular season. *[Revised: 11/2/22]*

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

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

**Coaches Meeting.** Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting held in September 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 Kentucky serving as the chair for 2023-24. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

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

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

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

**Departure Times.** The visiting team shall make arrangements to depart the locale of the competition site following the final game of each Conference series via the last available flight, bus, etc. leaving that day and connecting to the visiting team's final destination. Prior to the start of the regular season schedule, the visiting team shall notify the proper game management official (who will notify the umpire in chief) at the competition site and the Conference office of the visiting team's designated departure time from the competition site following the final game of each Conference series. If the visiting team is utilizing air travel and has set a departure time, a Sunday game may start no later than 1 p.m. local time unless dictated by television. If a contest is called due to travel arrangements, the following procedures will be used:

1. No inning shall start with less than 60-minutes remaining until the designated departure time. *[Revised: 4/18/23]*
2. If the contest is called and is a regulation game according to NCAA Rule 5.8, the contest and all averages shall count in the final playing record.
3. The contest will be considered a regulation tie game if it meets the conditions set forth in NCAA Rule 5.10 and all averages shall count in the final playing record.
4. If the contest is called prior to reaching regulation game status per NCAA Rule 5.8, the contest shall be considered "No Game" (NCAA Rule 5.12).
5. Teams shall not stay over Sunday night, in order not to miss classes on Monday, except during the final weekend of the regular season. A school may request a waiver from the Conference office in a situation when school is out of session. *[Revised: 2/5/18]*
6. In no case shall the departure time of umpires be a factor in completing games.

**Dugouts.** During a game, no one except players in uniform, coaches, managers, trainers, physicians, scorekeepers

and bat persons shall occupy a team's dugout. The visiting team shall have the right to utilize its choice of isotonic beverage (product and equipment) in the dugout area during Conference regular season competition. If the visiting team does not arrange to have its own product and equipment at a contest, the home team shall supply the isotonic beverage (product and equipment) of its choice in the visiting team dugout area. Equipment utilized in the visiting team dugout area must be standard size.

**Ejection Policy.**

1. Any game official may eject a student-athlete, coach or team representative for misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. If an individual is ejected from the contest, the ejected individual shall leave the dugout and field area immediately without further communication with the teams or game officials. The ejected individual shall remain out of sight and sound of the contest for the remainder of the contest. "Out of sight and sound" means that the ejected individual(s) may not view the contest, communicate with his or her team, or be in a location where the game officials can hear him or her. The ejected individual may not return to the dugout, field, or grandstands until all game officials are escorted to their dressing area by security or game management. If an ejected individual does not comply with the ejection policy set forth in this subparagraph 2 in a timely manner (as determined in the game officials' sole discretion), the game will be forfeited.
3. Upon first offense, a head coach ejected from a Conference contest for misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct shall receive a written warning cautioning further like conduct. Upon second and subsequent offense(s) in the same academic year, a head coach ejected from a Conference contest for misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be suspended for the team's next previously scheduled and completed contest. If a previously scheduled contest is postponed or halted, that make-up contest against the originally scheduled opponent will count as a regularly scheduled contest. Contests may not be added after the incident to fulfill the requirements of this policy. End of season suspensions will be carried forward to the next season. (See also, NCAA playing rules regarding ejections/suspension of assistant coaches and other team personnel.) [Revised: 3/23/22]
4. A suspended individual shall remain out of sight and sound of the applicable contest (as defined in subparagraph 2). Additionally, a suspended individual may not:
  - A. Be dressed in game uniform;
  - B. Communicate with any team personnel or umpires;
  - C. Take part in any pregame activities at the site of competition; or
  - D. Be in the stadium or on the field once pregame activities have started.
5. If a suspended individual does not comply in a timely manner (as determined in the game official's sole discretion) with the suspension policy set forth above, the game will be forfeited. If a suspended individual participates in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game will be forfeited.
6. This policy is in effect for all regular season and conference tournament games only.

**Electronic Equipment.** The use of telephones, cellular telephones, walkie-talkies, etc., is permitted for two-way communication between a team's dugout/bench and bullpen. Electronic communication between a coach in the dugout and the catcher shall also be permitted in accordance with NCAA rules. Any other form of communication and any other communication between other areas is prohibited.

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

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

**A. Friday through Sunday Series**

1. If a game is postponed on Friday or Saturday due to inclement weather, the game shall be completed from the point of interruption on the following day prior to the regularly scheduled game.
2. Televised Games Affected by Weather
  - A. If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised on a linear network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the

regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.

- B. If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised on a linear network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
  - C. A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on the SEC Network Alternate Channel or on SEC Network+.
4. Length of Games
- A. All games played on Friday and Saturday should be scheduled for nine innings. If a postponed game is resumed on Sunday, the regularly scheduled game shall be seven innings.
  - B. If weather prevents playing both the Friday and Saturday games, or if the Saturday game does not begin because of rain, there shall be two seven-inning games on Sunday. If a Friday game is postponed and no games are played on Saturday, the postponed game shall be resumed on Sunday, followed by a seven-inning game.
  - C. If a postponed game is unable to be completed because of inclement weather and has reached official game status (five innings or more per NCAA Rule 5.8), it shall be declared a game.
5. Restart Times
- A. In the event of rain on Friday or Saturday, no game may start after 10:00 p.m. local time or resume after midnight local time.
  - B. In the event of a rain-delay prior to the beginning of play on Sunday, the game must begin at least two hours and thirty minutes prior to the visiting team's scheduled departure time from the field, but no later than 5:00 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game unless the visiting team's institution does not have classes the following day (Monday), in which case curfew shall be waived. If curfew is waived, no game may start after 10:00 p.m. local time or resume after midnight local time. (See Departure Time of this section.) *[Revised: 10/10/19, 11/2/22]*
  - C. If the game begins and is delayed (Sunday game), it must resume by 7:00 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game unless the visiting team's institution does not have classes the following day (Monday), in which case curfew shall be waived. If curfew is waived, the game must be resumed prior to midnight local time. *[Revised: 10/10/19, 11/2/22]*
6. Travel Considerations
- A. In all instances, departure time takes priority. A team may not stay over until Monday to begin or complete a game or series.
  - B. In the event the visiting team is not scheduled to leave the host city until Monday and there are no prior travel limitations for the game's umpires that would dictate departure to enact these deadlines, with Conference approval, it would be permissible to waive the 4:00 p.m. deadline for the start of a game and a 6:00 p.m. deadline for the resumption of the game.
7. Authority to Play Doubleheaders
- A. If weather forecasts on Friday or Saturday morning call for a high occurrence of inclement weather on Sunday, the home team with approval of the visiting team may request permission from the Conference office to play a doubleheader on Saturday.
  - B. Approval of a prospective Saturday doubleheader shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on the final day of the series. *[Revised: 10/10/19]*
  - C. Approval of a prospective Friday doubleheader will be granted by the Conference Office only if there is a chance of rain of 80 percent or higher according to weather.gov for both Saturday and Sunday as of no earlier than 5 p.m. local time on Thursday and it is agreed upon by both head coaches. (This is not applicable to Thursday through Saturday series.) *[Adopted: 10/10/19]*
- B. Thursday through Saturday Series**



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

### C. Other

1. Authority to Rule on Game Stoppage. The umpire-in-chief has sole authority to suspend, postpone, or cancel the game if conditions become unfit for play.
2. Lightning Strikes

- A. Each member institution shall be responsible for having the capability to determine when lightning strikes are within specified distances from the competition site. When lightning is detected within 10 miles of the competition site, home team game management shall utilize the public address system to inform those in attendance that inclement weather including lightning is within 10 miles and that should patrons vacate the facility for safe shelter, they will be allowed to re-enter with a ticket stub. When lightning is detected within eight miles of the competition site, the competition shall be suspended.
- B. Competition may be resumed after 30 minutes of no detected lightning strikes within an eight mile radius. A 10-minute warm-up period may be granted following this 30-minute suspension.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

distribution of pre-game information packets before a game.

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

**Pace of Play.** The following procedures shall be utilized during Conference competition to improve the “pace” at which games are played by using at least one visible on-field timer. These policies are intended as an extension of existing NCAA Playing Rules, which shall be applied unless expressly prescribed otherwise below. *[Adopted 11/2/22, Revised 1/9/23]*

1. **Between Batters Clock.** A 30-second timer shall start at the conclusion of the prior play as indicated by the ball being in the possession of the pitcher in the proximity of the mound. In the event the batter/runner ends an at bat on second base and needs to hand protective equipment to a coach, the timer should start when the batter-runner hands his equipment to the coach. NCAA rules regarding the stop and enforcement of the pitch clock shall apply (e.g. pitcher must begin motion to pitch prior to expiration of the clock and hitter must be alert to the pitcher with 10 or more seconds remaining).
2. **Mound Visit Clock.** A 30-second timer shall begin when a coach exits the dugout or when a defensive player leaves their position to visit the pitcher's mound. The home plate umpire shall proceed to the mound when the timer reaches nine (9) seconds. Unless the coach signals for a pitching change, the coach must leave the mound when (or before) the timer expires. If the coach has not left the mound or signaled for a pitching change by the time the clock expires, the umpire shall break up the visit and direct the coach back to the dugout or to signal for a pitching change. If a coach does not immediately leave the mound or signal for a pitching change upon being directed by the home plate umpire, a warning shall be issued for a first offense with a ball automatically awarded to the batter for any subsequent offense. The mound visit clock shall not operate when a doctor or trainer accompanies a coach to evaluate a bona fide medical issue. Upon expiration of the clock, the 20-second NCAA pitch clock shall commence.
3. **Pitching Change Clock.** A 2:30 (2 minutes and 30 seconds) timer shall begin when a new pitcher who is entering the game, either at the start of an inning or as part of a mid-inning pitching change, crosses the warning track (or otherwise leaves the bullpen area if the bullpen is on the playing field). A pitcher warming in the bullpen must immediately leave the bullpen when signaled by the umpire. If the pitcher does not immediately leave the bullpen when signaled, the umpire shall signal for the timer to start. An entering pitcher may throw up to eight warm-up pitches during the period but must throw their last warm-up pitch with at least 30 seconds remaining on the clock. Upon expiration of the clock, the 20-second NCAA pitch clock shall commence.
4. **Umpire Authority.** The home plate umpire may direct the clock operator to start, stop, or reset the clock or otherwise overrule or correct the decisions or errors of the clock operator at any time in his/her sole discretion. The umpire may also determine whether or not to apply the penalties associated with expiration of the clock if the umpire determines in his/her sole discretion that the clock operator did not properly operate the timer under the circumstances. Such decisions by an umpire may not be appealed or reviewed by video review.
5. **Clock Operator.** A host institution shall assign a clock operator to operate the visible pitch clock and timers. The operator shall be provided accommodations in the press box that provides a direct and unobstructed view of the playing field which shall be shielded from all public interference. The host institution shall also ensure that the operator is properly trained and educated on clock operations and shall ensure that the operator communicates with the umpiring crew no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of each contest during which emphasis should be placed on in-game communication (signals, etc.) from the field to the individual operating the clock.

**Practice during Conference Series.** Weather permitting, visiting teams shall be permitted to practice on the field used for competition on either the night prior to, or the morning of, the first game of a Conference series. It is the responsibility of the visiting team to notify the host institution prior to the start of a series to arrange for such a practice. The host institution shall determine whether weather and/or field conditions are acceptable for practice and

the visiting team may be required to assist in the field preparation (e.g., removal or placement of the tarp). The host institution will make best efforts to accommodate the visiting team and will notify the visiting team as soon as possible if the field is not available due to field conditions or if there will be limited availability of the field due to field conditions. A practice the night before the first game of a series may last no more than two hours. A practice on the morning of the first game of a series may last no more than 30 minutes, must be concluded by no later than 12pm (noon) local time, and players may not wear spikes during the practice. During practices the night before the first game of the series or on the day of any game in the series, including during pre-game batting practice, the host institution will make available to the visiting team all areas of the field and all practice facilities. A host institution may restrict access to any practice area that contains exclusive, institutionally owned equipment (e.g. pitching lab) at its discretion. The visiting team will otherwise have access to the same or comparable facilities as the home team such that the visiting team is not disadvantaged in its preparation. [Revised: 12/13/16, 2/16/22]

**Protest Procedure.** If a protest is filed in accordance with the NCAA Baseball Rules, the umpire-in-chief shall notify the Conference Coordinator of Umpires immediately following the game. In consultation with the Commissioner, a course of action will be determined using the NCAA Baseball Rules Book, the rules of organized baseball, precedents from baseball and other sports decisions, and Conference policies. [Adopted: 11/2/22]

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

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

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

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

1. Each institution will play a 30-game Conference schedule. This schedule will include 3-game series with all six division members each year and four non-division members on a two-year rotation basis. The dates and sites for the 30-game Conference schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference.
2. Each game shall be scheduled for nine innings and shall be played at least nine innings except when inclement weather or travel constraints are taken into account.
3. Conference series will be played with single games on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, unless the stadium does not have lights, and in which case there will be two games on Saturday and a single game on Sunday. The final Conference series of the season shall be played with single games on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, unless the stadium does not have lights, and in which case there will be two games on Friday and a single game on Saturday. One series during the second weekend of the Conference season will be a Thursday-Saturday series. Two series per weekend beginning on the third weekend of the Conference season will be a Thursday-Saturday series. All inclement weather and curfew policies will remain for these series with the exception of the following:
  - A. On Saturday (get-away day), all curfew times will be waived in order to get the game in on Saturday. No games will be continued to Sunday, however, teams can stay over until Sunday to get game completed on Saturday.
  - B. On Saturday, game start times may be set for evening based on request from Conference and institutional television partners.
  - C. In the event of Saturday doubleheaders, these will continue to be seven innings each.

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

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

**Squad Size.** 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. *[Revised: 10/4/18, 7/10/20, 6/3/22]*

**Ten Run Rule.** A Conference contest shall be stopped after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least ten (10) runs, in accordance with NCAA playing rules. The ten-run rule shall also be utilized for all non-conference contests, unless the opposing coach objects before the start of the contest, in which case the game shall be played in its entirety consistent with NCAA playing rules. *[Adopted: 11/2/22]*

**Tickets.** The home team shall provide up to 100 complimentary tickets to the visiting team for each game in a Conference series. A minimum of 75 of the 100 tickets shall be reserved seats. The visiting team must notify the home team of its needs no later than 3 p.m. on the Monday prior to the weekend series. *[Revised: 6/12/20]*

**Uniforms.**

1. Only eligible student-athletes and members of the baseball coaching staff (in accordance with NCAA Bylaws 11.01.5 (Student-Assistant), 11.01.6 (Volunteer Coach), and 11.7.6 (Countable Coaches)) may wear a team uniform prior to, during, or following conference and non-conference baseball contests. Non-coaching staff, managers, operations personnel and others not designated as a coach under NCAA rules shall not wear the team uniform prior to, during or following conference and non-conference baseball contest.
2. All student-athletes must wear numbers on batting practice tops. *[Adopted: 12/13/16]*

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

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



## **CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP**

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

**Dates & Sites.** The tournament will be played in late May, one week prior to the start of the NCAA championship. The site of the tournament will be determined by a vote of the Athletics Directors. See [Supplement C](#) in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Squad Size.** Only 30 student-athletes will be allowed to participate 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. [Revised: 12/12/17, 7/10/20, 6/3/22]

**Team Expenses and Allowances.** Each participating institution will be provided a per diem of \$75 per day for 30

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

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

**Uniforms.**

1. Only eligible student-athletes and members of the baseball coaching staff (in accordance with NCAA Bylaws 11.01.5 (Student-Assistant), 11.01.6 (Volunteer Coach), and 11.7.6 (Countable Coaches)) may wear a team uniform prior to, during or following conference and non-conference baseball contests. Non-coaching staff, managers, operations personnel and others not designated as a coach under NCAA rules shall not wear the team uniform prior to, during or following conference and non-conference baseball contest.
2. All student-athletes must wear numbers on batting practice tops. [*Adopted 12/13/16*]



