

COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS

2023-2024



2023-2024

COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS

(Updated: August 1, 2023)

**GOVERNING CONFERENCE COMPETITION,
CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TOURNAMENTS**

2201 Richard Arrington Boulevard North - Birmingham, Alabama 35203-1103

Phone (205) 458-3000

www.secsports.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CONFERENCE COMPETITION.....	2
BASEBALL	22
MEN'S BASKETBALL.....	33
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL.....	43
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY.....	52
EQUESTRIAN	55
FOOTBALL	58
MEN'S GOLF	77
WOMEN'S GOLF	85
GYMNASTICS.....	91
WOMEN'S SOCCER.....	97
SOFTBALL	103
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING	117
MEN'S TENNIS.....	123
WOMEN'S TENNIS.....	130
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD.....	127
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD	145
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL	153

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 5th 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
Baseball	<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>
Men's & Women's Basketball	<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>6th 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>

Men's & Women's Cross Country	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>
Equestrian	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)
Football	<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>

Men's and Women's Golf	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)
Gymnastics	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)

Women's Soccer	<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>
Softball	<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>

Swimming & Diving	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 nd and 3 rd 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)
Men's & Women's Tennis	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)
Men's & Women's Indoor Track & Field	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 nd and 3 rd 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)

Men's & Women's Outdoor Track & Field	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 nd and 3 rd 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)
Volleyball	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	
MEN'S SPORTS															
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
WOMEN'S SPORTS															
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
BASEBALL	Hoover, AL											
MEN'S BASKETBALL	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN						
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	Greenville, SC	Greenville, SC										
CROSS COUNTRY	South Carolina	MSU	Tennessee	Texas A&M	Vanderbilt	Texas	Missouri	Oklahoma	Florida	Alabama	Georgia	Arkansas
EQUESTRIAN	Texas A&M	Georgia	Auburn	Texas A&M	South Carolina	Georgia	Auburn	South Carolina	Texas A&M	Georgia	Auburn	South Carolina
FOOTBALL	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA								
MEN'S GOLF	Sea Island Golf Club** St. Simons Island, GA											
WOMEN'S GOLF	Pelican Golf Club Belleair, FL	Pelican Golf Club Belleair, FL	Pelican Golf Club Belleair, FL									
GYMNASTICS	TBA											
SOCCER	Pensacola, FL	Pensacola, FL										
SOFTBALL	Auburn	Georgia	Kentucky	Ole Miss	Missouri	MSU	South Carolina	Texas A&M	Oklahoma	Texas	Tennessee	LSU
SWIMMING/ DIVING	Auburn	Georgia	Tennessee	Texas	Georgia	Texas A&M	Tennessee	Texas	Georgia	Texas A&M	Tennessee	Texas
MEN'S TENNIS	LSU	TBA	South Carolina	Texas A&M	Vanderbilt	Texas	Tennessee	Oklahoma	Georgia	MSU	Florida	Ole Miss
WOMEN'S TENNIS	Georgia	Auburn	Oklahoma	LSU	Missouri	Texas A&M	Vanderbilt	Texas	Tennessee	Oklahoma	South Carolina	MSU
INDOOR T/F	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas
OUTDOOR T/F	Florida	Kentucky	Auburn	Missouri	Texas A&M	Vanderbilt	MSU	Georgia	Oklahoma	Auburn	Texas	Florida
VOLLEYBALL	TBD											

SEC Squad Size Policies

Sport	Regular Season: 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.	SEC Championships: The below limits apply to Conference Championship competition only and are not applicable to NCAA Championship competition.
Baseball	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.
Basketball	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.
Cross Country	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.
Equestrian	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.
Football	<p>Home Team - 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>Visiting Team - 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>Neutral Sites - 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. Junior Varsity - The squad size for junior varsity teams is 55 eligible student-athletes.	
Golf	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.
Gymnastics	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.
Soccer	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.
Softball	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.
Swimming	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.
Tennis	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.
Track – Indoor	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.
Track – Outdoor	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.
Volleyball	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 – William King; Championship Game/Game Management – Jeremy Hammond; Communications –Chuck Dunlap; Officiating – John McDaid; Scheduling/Television – Mark Womack.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

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

Artificial Noisemakers. See SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5

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

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

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

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

Permitted Bags.

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

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

Bands. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5d] The following guidelines apply to Conference contests:

1. Marching bands should exit the field toward the end zones or outside the team areas. Under no circumstances may marching bands exit the field into the visiting bench area.
2. The home band must be located on the opposite side of the field from the visiting team bench; or if located on the same side as the visiting team bench, the band must be seated from the 30-yard line toward the goal line. Any band seats located toward midfield from the 30-yard line may be no closer than 25 rows from the field.

3. Bands, and any component thereof (e.g. drums), shall not play from the time the offensive center puts a hand on the football until the football has been snapped. *[Revised: 6/1/18]*
4. It is the responsibility of the visiting band director to notify the host institution's event management director no later than 30 days prior to a game that the visiting band will be attending. This will allow the host institution to make the necessary arrangements for security, parking and access.
5. Visiting team marching bands shall arrive at the stadium no later than one hour prior to kick-off. This does not apply to smaller pep bands of 50 members or less.
6. Amplification of the home team band is permitted during times the band is allowed to play.
7. In the event both marching bands perform at halftime, each band shall have up to six minutes to perform. *[Revised: 12/13/16]*
8. In order for the visiting team marching band to perform at half-time, the visiting team must request permission from the host institution's Athletics Director by April 1. If the host institution's Athletics Director does not grant permission, the visiting team marching band may not perform at half-time. *[Revised: 12/13/16]*
9. In the event of inclement weather, the decision on whether to permit marching bands on the field shall be at the sole discretion of home team game management personnel.
10. Band members (as well as instruments and equipment) shall not occupy the area between the 45-yard lines after the three-minute mark on the pre-game clock. Also, during this time, "tunnels" may not be formed that cause team members to enter the field in this area.
11. The visiting institution's band shall be limited to the playing of two songs (i.e., fight song, alma mater) following the conclusion of a game.
12. If a band does not comply with these regulations, the Athletics Director of the involved institution shall be asked to rectify the situation. Failure to comply with the regulations fully may also subject that institution to financial penalties, as prescribed by the Commissioner.
13. In order to allow for the home team to conduct certain traditional events, presentations or announcements uninterrupted by the play of the visiting band, the home team game production and/or band director will communicate to the visiting band director no later than Thursday before the game the times on game day when the visiting band is restricted from performing in the stadium. A follow-up communication will take place at the stadium no less than sixty (60) minutes prior to kick-off for delivery of the final game script and to review the times during which the visiting band is restricted from performing.
 Events, presentations or announcements during which the visiting band may be restricted from performing may include, but are not limited to: 1) team introductory videoboard presentation, 2) traditional pre-game chant or cheer, 3) Hall of Fame class/members recognition, 4) Olympians recognition, 5) individual/team accolades, i.e., Championships, Player of Year, Coach of Year, 6) commemorative anniversary/reunion of accomplished team, 7) significant donation to the university, 8) faculty presentation, 9) military recognition, 10) 3rd/4th Quarter transition.
 In addition, the visiting team band may not perform during Senior Day presentations. These regulations are separate and apart from Halftime Performances for which time will be allocated by the home institution. *[Adopted: 5/31/19]*

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

Bench Covers. A team may install an item or structure that provides cover over bench seating on its sideline in accordance with the following parameters: *[Adopted: 6/12/20]*

1. All elements of the item or structure must be inside the team area on its sideline;
2. A cover/tarp shall only exist on the top and not on the sides or back of the item utilized to provide cover;
3. The item used to provide the cover shall be no higher than five feet, six inches (5'6") from the ground at its highest point;
4. Corporate branding, marks or words are not permitted on any cover/tarp or on the structure, items, equipment or associated materials used to construct and/or provide the cover; and

5. Institutional, athletics, and/or Conference branding, marks or words are permitted on the cover/tarp and on the structure, items, equipment or associated materials used to construct and/or provide the cover.

Cheerleaders. The following guidelines will apply:

1. The Athletics Director of the home stadium shall designate an official representative who shall be responsible for and monitor use of megaphones, microphones, and amplified sound systems, and ensure that all cheerleaders at that home stadium comply with the Conference guidelines.
2. It is the responsibility of the visiting cheerleader coach to notify the host institution's event management director no later than 10 days prior to a game that the visiting institution's cheerleaders will be attending. This will allow the host institution to make the necessary arrangements for security, parking, and access.
3. Once a game begins, cheerleaders and mascots shall be restricted to designated sideline areas between the bench boundary and the end line, as well as behind the respective end zone to the goal post, and behind the photographer zone. The home team shall inform each squad of the respective areas. At no time may cheerleaders or mascots enter the playing field (defined as any area beyond the 6-foot limit lines surrounding the playing field) while the game is in progress. Cheerleaders and mascots may access the field during media timeout, pre-game, halftime and post-game when the game is not in progress or neither team is on the field (warm-up or competition). *[Revised: 6/5/20]*
4. Home team mascots are permitted to enter the seating areas where home team fans are located but shall not enter any visiting team area. At no time may the home team mascot enter the visiting team cheerleader/mascot area while the game is in progress. Any type of physical contact is strictly prohibited between the two opposing teams' cheerleaders and/or mascots. "Skits" are permitted during pre-game and halftime as long as there is no actual contact of any nature between the two.
5. The use of amplifiers, microphones, and megaphones shall be restricted to the cheerleaders and shall not be used from the time the offensive center puts a hand on the football until the football has been snapped. *[Revised: 6/1/18]*
6. Megaphones and speakers used with microphones and amplifiers shall be directed at the student-section stands only and never toward the playing field, the benches or toward any players, coaches or game officials.
7. The main stadium public address system shall be used by home team cheerleaders only during media timeout, pre-game, halftime and post-game when neither team is on the field (warm-up or competition). *[Revised: 6/5/20]*
8. Cheerleaders' amplified sound systems shall be used only at home games or neutral sites. Amplified sound systems shall have no more than four speakers and shall be mounted or situated to ensure the system does not interfere with the view of the crowd.
9. A mic-person and/or cheerleader shall never express disagreement with an official's call over any amplified sound system, microphone or megaphone. Guidelines for the mike-person shall be:
 - A. Comments and/or chants or cheers shall never be directed toward the opposing team, players, coaches, fans or game officials;
 - B. Comments and/or chants or cheers should be positive, enthusiastic and supportive of the home team. Vulgar, obscene and offensive language shall not be used; and
 - C. Comments should be kept to a minimum; the purpose of the mic-person is to lead the crowd in chants and cheers, not to provide commentary for the fans.
10. Failure to comply with these guidelines shall result in the following action: Complaints shall be directed to the Athletics Director's officially designated representative who is authorized to take the following action:
 - A. If the violation is obvious, the enforcement official shall, depending on the seriousness of the offense, take any of the following actions: issue a warning, place the squad on probation, have the sound system disconnected, have microphones or megaphones taken away for the remainder of that game and/or any number of future games. If the squad is given a warning or placed on probation, any second violation shall result in revocation of the use of any amplified sound system or microphone or megaphone for the rest of the season.
 - B. If the alleged violation is not obvious, the enforcement official shall immediately review the alleged violation with the cheer coach and/or the squad captain(s) and any other persons as necessary. If there is sufficient doubt of the violation the official shall issue a warning. If the official determines that there has been a violation, he/she may take the action outlined in No. 1 above.

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

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

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Alabama serving as the chair for 2023-24. A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. An individual must have attended two annual coaches' meetings and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Conference Championship. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

1. The Conference champion will be determined by a game between the two division champions. The team in each division with the highest percentage of wins during all regular-season Conference competition will be declared division champion. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins, they will be declared division co-champions. Division standings will be calculated on a percentage basis, using only those Conference games which are a part of the regular rotating schedule. Only those teams which have played and completed all eight scheduled Conference contests shall be eligible for a division championship. Details on all tie-breaking procedures are outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations. The site of the championship game shall be set by a vote of the Conference member institutions. [Revised: 5/3/17]
2. If the championship game is cancelled (due to act of God, war, terrorist attack, or other reason beyond the control of the Conference), the two divisional champions (utilizing any divisional tie-breakers as outlined) shall be declared co-champions.
3. The Conference champion shall automatically qualify as the Conference representative for the Sugar Bowl, or the relevant College Football Playoff (CFP) access Bowl if the Sugar Bowl serves as a CFP semifinal game. If the champion is selected to play in a CFP semifinal, the next highest ranked team in the final CFP Selection Committee Rankings that is not also selected to a CFP semifinal will serve as the Conference representative. In the event of co-champions, the highest ranked team in the final CFP Selection Committee rankings that is not selected to a CFP semifinal shall serve as the representative.

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

Competition Area Lighting. Stadium light shows fall into the following two categories: 1) full stadium light coloring in which the game lights are dimmed and/or change colors, or, 2) game lighting remains while lights perform movement, including chase and flickering effects. The following outlines when these two options can be utilized during the game. [Adopted: 6/12/20]

1. **Pregame, Halftime and Media Timeouts**. Full stadium lights may be dimmed, change colors and/or perform lighting movement effects during pregame, halftime, and media timeouts. During a light show, the playing surface must never go dark when student-athletes are on the field during pregame or halftime. When student-athletes are not on the field during pregame or halftime, it is permissible for the playing surface to go dark. Additionally, the playing surface must never go dark during a media timeout because student-athletes remain on the field. When a light show occurs during a media timeout, lights must return to game lighting fifteen seconds (0:15) prior to the end of the timeout.
2. **Point-After-Touchdown, Field Goal and Safety**. Following a point-after-touchdown (PAT), field goal or safety, stadium lights may only perform lighting movement effects. Lights shall not be dimmed or change colors following a PAT, field goal or safety. Additionally, the playing surface must never go dark following a PAT, field goal or safety. If a media timeout follows a PAT, field goal or safety, full stadium lights may be dimmed, change colors and/or perform lighting movement effects during the media timeout, but the playing surface must never go dark. Lights must return to game lighting fifteen seconds (0:15) prior to the end of the timeout.

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

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

1. **110 Minute Meeting Location.**
 - A. An institution shall provide a location, preferably indoors, that is free of noise and distractions for the 110 Minute Meeting.
 - B. An institution shall provide ample security that prevents general public access and ensures appropriate staff member access to the 110 Minute Meeting.
2. **Coaches Locker Room.**
 - A. An institution shall provide operable heating and air conditioning in any coaches locker rooms.
 - B. An institution shall provide separate room/space for coaches inside or connected to the team locker room that accommodates a minimum of eleven (11) coaches.
 - C. An institution shall provide a game clock that is synched with the in-stadium game clock in visiting coaches locker room(s). [Adopted: 5/3/23]
3. **Game Officials Locker Room.**
 - A. An institution shall provide operable heating and air conditioning in the game officials locker room.
 - B. An institution should provide a separate location/area for the chain crew. If the chain crew must occupy the same space, the chain crew must be able to depart the game officials locker room upon request of the referee to allow discussion to occur amongst the game officials.
4. **Medical and X-Ray.**
 - A. An institution shall provide the ability to conduct an x-ray of a student-athlete in a private area at the stadium. A student-athlete and supporting medical staff shall not be required to walk through an opponent's locker room to access the designated x-ray location.
 - B. An institution must ensure that an ambulance and field level EMTs and/or paramedics are on-site on game days.
 - C. An institution shall have a designated hospital for medical treatment/examination that is identified prior to the first game of the season. More than one hospital may be designated if different hospitals are equipped to handle different types of injuries, in which case the institution must clearly designate and include in its emergency plan which hospital shall be used for a specific type of injury.
 - D. A home institution shall secure transportation back to the stadium or airport for a visiting student-athlete(s) following treatment at a local hospital if the visiting team's medical staff grants approval for the student-athlete to re-join the team on game day prior to the team's departure.
5. **Playing Surface.** For stadiums with artificial turf, an institution shall test/examine the turf a minimum of twice annually to ensure it is within the safe range in all aspects. The turf should be tested no later than a month prior to the season and once during the mid-point of the football season.
6. **Press Box Booths.**
 - A. *Replay and Medical Observer Booth* – An institution shall ensure that replay officials and medical observers are able to view the entire field. The Replay and Medical observer Booth must have a sideline view and be located on the same side of the stadium as the network television booth.
 - B. *Coaches Booths* – An institution shall ensure the visiting team's booth is able to accommodate the same number of people and have the same number of headset connections as the home team's booth.
 - C. Institutions shall provide golf cart transportation to the visiting team coaches if necessary to allow for unimpeded access to the coaches booth and/or elevator, stairwell, path, etc. that leads to the booth.
 - D. Institutions shall ensure that elevators are held for coaches to be transported to/from the press box prior to kickoff, halftime and postgame.
7. **Sideline Power.** [Revised: 6/12/20]
 - A. An institution must supply the same amount of power to the visiting team's sideline that exists on the home team's sideline.
 - B. An institution must provide power on both sidelines that allows for cooling or heating benches, as well as ample power on each sideline for other standard equipment utilized by teams. If a generator is required to power the visiting team's cooling or heating benches, the visiting team shall make arrangements to obtain a generator in consultation with the home team's game management staff. The home team is responsible for the cost of the generator and shall designate a location to operate the generator. The following outlines the current power requirements for a standard cooling or heating bench set-up:

- A. Not Using a Generator: 200 amps, 3 phase, 208/240 volts at each 35-yard line (A 200 amp disconnect box (w/circuit breaker) located against the field wall at each 35-yard line is ideal.); or
 - B. Using a Generator: A standard 100KW generator; 4/0 AWG 400 amp cables with 5 cables total (3-hot, 1-ground, 1-neutral).
 - C. When a team does not utilize cooling or heating benches, an institution must provide power that allows for equipment to cool or heat the team area on both sidelines.
8. **Visiting Team Equipment Truck Parking.** A visiting team's equipment truck shall be permitted to remain in the same location that it parks for unloading unless this location presents a safety/security concern.
9. **Visiting Team Interview/Press Conference Room.**
- A. An institution shall provide a location, preferably indoors, that is free of noise and distractions for the visiting team to conduct interviews/press conferences.
 - B. An institution shall provide ample security that prevents general public access and ensures appropriate staff member access to the visiting team interviews and press conferences.
 - C. A designated room/space for visiting team interviews/press conferences may be used for other purposes during the game if it does not delay or impede the postgame interview/press conference.
10. **Visiting Team Locker Room.**
- A. An institution shall provide operable heating and air conditioning in the visiting team locker room.
 - B. An institution shall provide ample security that prevents general public access and ensures appropriate staff member access to the visiting team locker room.
 - C. An institution shall provide a minimum of eight (8) showers in the visiting team locker room. A minimum of ten (10) showers in the visiting team locker room should be considered in future stadium construction or renovations.
 - D. An institution shall provide lockers to accommodate a minimum of seventy (70) student-athletes in the visiting team locker room. An acceptable alternative to lockers is seating and shelving for a minimum of seventy student-athletes that allows helmets and shoulder pads to be hung or stored and not placed on the floor.
11. **Visiting Team Security.** An institution shall ensure that once the visiting team arrives to the stadium, a security screening process shall not delay their entry. If security screening is required, the visiting team shall be provided the option for screening to occur at its team hotel prior to departure to the stadium.

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

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

Game Clock and Play Clock. The game clock and play clock shall be controlled by two separate individuals as assigned by the host institution. The host institution shall provide accommodations for both operators in the stadium press box that provides a direct and unobstructed view of the playing field and is shielded from all public interference. In consultation with the originating television network and/or home game management, the game clock operator shall start the scoreboard clock 90 minutes prior to kickoff. The starting of the 20-minute halftime clock shall be the responsibility of the game clock operator. [Revised: 5/27/22]

Game Management.

- 1. The host institution's Athletics Director will serve as the game management director or appoint an individual knowledgeable in game management and crowd control to supervise and plan for all games. It is a Conference requirement that the game management director attend the 110-minute meeting, visit briefly with the game officials and the visiting coach prior to the game (each and every game), and inform them of his/her availability if they need to be contacted during the game. The game management director is responsible for the control of the entire operation of the stadium. This individual should provide supervision prior to and during each contest and continue supervision until at least 30 minutes after the game or until all groups have dispersed. The game management director is responsible for the following:

- A. Determining who is given permission to be on the sideline (unauthorized persons shall be removed);
 - B. Controlling handout literature and eliminating objectionable banners; and
 - C. Instructing local police to divert heavy traffic away from the game site so that spectators are able to leave in a timely manner.
2. The host institution shall hold a game management meeting approximately one hour and 50 minutes prior to kick-off of each contest in a private location determined by the host institution (the "110-minute meeting").
 3. The host institution shall provide a staff person to be assigned to the visiting team and available near the visiting team bench and locker room area for the duration of the visiting team's stay on site.
 4. Additional guidelines related to the game management of regular season football contests are set forth in the SEC Game Management Manual.

Injury Review Sideline Video – Institutions may utilize video monitors on the sideline to assist in the medical diagnosis and treatment of student-athletes. Such monitors shall be provided by the Conference and shall only be used by authorized team medical personnel for medical evaluation purposes. The use of such video by coaches or other non-medical personnel for coaching, scouting, or other non-medical purposes is prohibited. The host institution's game management staff shall assist in the administration and operation of the monitors for both participating institutions in all conference and non-conference contests. [Adopted: 6/2/23]

Interrupted Game Procedures. All personnel, including Athletics Directors, game management personnel, game officials, coaches, players, and Conference office staff, shall use their best effort to ensure each Conference contest is played to its conclusion. The Conference recognizes, however, emergencies may arise that make a contest's completion impossible or inadvisable. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, severe inclement weather, natural or man-made disasters, power failures and spectator interference. Contests should be delayed, relocated, suspended, canceled, postponed or terminated (see definitions below) when circumstances exist such that commencement or continuation of play would pose a threat to the safety of game participants. [Revised: 6/3/16]

1. **Definitions**.

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

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

3. **Guidelines**.

A. **Prior to the Contest**.

1. If extenuating circumstances occur that necessitate a contest be moved to an earlier start time, an earlier start date, and/or relocated within the same city, the two participating institutions shall determine the date, time, and location of the contest, subject to the approval of the Commissioner. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit. [Adopted: 12/13/16]
2. If a contest is postponed prior to its start for any reason, the contest shall be rescheduled for the following day (e.g. a Saturday game shall be rescheduled for Sunday) unless circumstances prevent the contest from safely being played, in which case the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the

authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit. *[Adopted: 12/13/16]*

3. Prior to 60 minutes before scheduled kick-off, the home institution's Director of Athletics or designated senior level administrator shall have the authority to determine whether a contest should temporarily be delayed until a later time on the same date. *[Revised: 12/13/16]*
4. At 60 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off, the decision to suspend play shall become the responsibility of the game officials.

B. Once the Contest Has Begun.

If a contest is suspended after play has begun:

1. The referee shall immediately stop the game and inform both coaches that the game is being suspended at the point of interruption.
2. The referee shall inform the home team, and the umpire shall inform the visiting team, that ALL team personnel are required to go immediately to their respective dressing rooms. This includes players, coaches, trainers, managers, cheerleaders, mascots, bands and any other persons who are the responsibility of the participating institutions.
3. Play may only be resumed when conditions are deemed safe by the officials in consultation with the home team game management personnel (e.g. tornado warning has been lifted or lightning has abated in accordance with the Lightning Policy).
4. A suspended game shall not be resumed if it is determined by the head referee in collaboration with the Commissioner or his/her designee that the game would not be able to reasonably be completed by 1:30 a.m. local time. The Commissioner shall have the sole authority to extend the 1:30 a.m. deadline.
5. If a contest is unable to be resumed, the contest shall be resumed the following day (e.g. a Saturday games shall be rescheduled for Sunday) unless circumstances prevent the contest from safely being played, in which case the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to either direct the contest to be played on a particular date and/or relocate the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit. *[Revised: 12/13/16]*

In the event a contest is delayed or suspended and it does not appear play will be resumed on that date, the Athletics Directors (or designated representatives) of both participating institutions, game management personnel and the Conference office representative (if available) shall meet with the game officials in the officials' dressing room, or another suitable location nearby. The Conference office representative shall communicate with the Commissioner, who has the sole authority to declare a game canceled, postponed or terminated. If the Conference office representative is not on site, the home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator shall contact the appropriate Conference staff 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 shall be responsible for having 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 should notify the head referee.
3. When lightning is detected within a minimum of 10 miles of the competition site, home team management shall utilize the public address system to inform those in attendance that inclement weather including lightning is within 10 (or more) miles and that patrons should 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, the competition shall be suspended. Competition may be resumed after 30 minutes of no detected lightning strikes within an eight mile radius. A 10 minute warm-up period may be granted following this 30-minute suspension.

5. In cases of severe weather being detected prior to the start of competition:
 - A. When lightning is detected within a minimum of 10 miles from the competition site after gates have opened to the public, 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. [Revised: 6/5/20]
 - B. When lightning is detected within eight (8) miles of the competition site, all on-field activities (e.g., warm-ups, marching band, national anthem, introductions) shall be suspended. On-field activities may resume after 30 minutes of no detected lightning strikes within an eight (8) mile radius. 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.

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

Medical Observer.

1. The Conference shall provide a qualified medical professional to serve as an independent medical observer for all Conference contests and all non-conference contests conducted at a home site (including neutral site facilities where the institution plays an annual contest). Non-conference institutions competing at a Conference home site (including neutral site facilities where the Conference institution plays an annual contest) may agree to utilize the Conference medical observer by executing a medical observer “opt-in” agreement prior to the game.
2. Host institutions shall provide a secure and controlled location for the medical observer within the replay booth to perform his or her duties. In addition, host institutions shall provide a high-definition television with access to the game broadcast, headphones with access to game broadcast audio, a DVR, and a telephone with the ability to communicate with the medical staff of both teams. Institutional medical observers for non-conference institutions may not utilize the replay booth to perform his or her duties. However, an host institution may, at its discretion, provide another location for the non-conference institutional observer to perform his or her duties.
3. In the event the medical observer has clear visual evidence (1) that a player displays obvious signs of disorientation or is clearly unstable due to head or neck injury, and (2) it becomes apparent that the player will remain in the game and not be attended to by the team’s medical or athletic training staff, then the medical observer shall take the following steps:
 - A. If the player does not receive medical attention, alert the replay officials immediately and identify the player by his team and jersey number.
 - B. Contact the medical staff of the player involved and advise that the player appears to be in need of medical attention and the basis for the stoppage.
4. Upon being notified by the medical observer, the replay official shall immediately contact the Referee over the wireless crew communication system and identify the player by his team and jersey number. The Referee or any other official shall immediately stop the game while the ball is dead, go to the player in question, and follow all procedures as outlined in Rule 3 of the NCAA playing rules concerning players and Injury Timeouts, including clock management. However, if play is stopped due to the medical observer process with less than one minute in the half, then Article 5.f of NCAA Rule 3-3 (10 second runoff provision) will not apply. The wing official will notify the Head Coach of the reason for the Injury Timeout, and the Referee will make the following announcement: “Time Out ... Medical Stop.” The Referee shall not announce or identify the player who is being removed from the game.
5. Once removed from the field, the team medical staff shall conduct an evaluation of the player. The return to play decision will be made by the institution’s medical staff consistent with the institution’s protocols and Rule 3-3-5 of the NCAA playing rules concerning injury timeouts.
6. A team may not deliberately initiate these procedures (1) to stop play unnecessarily, (2) to prolong or delay the medical stoppage, (3) to improperly take advantage of a stoppage in play, or (4) to influence the actions of the medical observer.
7. An additional pager system which connects the medical observer in the replay booth to team medical personnel on the sideline shall be used for communication that does not require a stoppage in play. [Adopted: 5/31/19]

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

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

Officials. [SEC Bylaws 10.5 and 30.20.1]

1. The Conference office shall assign officials. No coach, trainer, player or member of the team's official party shall talk to game officials prior to, during or after a game concerning any matter related to the game, except for discussions related to NCAA rules. There shall be no communication of any sort between the coaches and officials at halftime. Under no circumstances shall a coach enter the officials' locker room. If a prolonged conversation is required, both coaches should be present. All violations of this policy are to be reported by the coaches or game officials to the Conference office the day following the incident.
2. Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is absolutely prohibited. Comments on officiating are to be directed only to the Conference office. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning student-athletes, coaches or officials, shall be directed only to the Conference office. Public comments related to officiating by officials, coaches or institutional personnel are prohibited.
3. Films or videotapes shall not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating (e.g., the use of game films to produce clips for television or newspapers depicting officiating calls). No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches' radio and/or television shows.
4. Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone, and all matters pertaining to officials or officiating will be directed to the Conference office only. Likewise, this policy will preclude officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.
5. Sports information directors and coaches will make no reference to officiating in institutional press releases. The list of officials assigned to a game should not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of the pre-game information packets before a game. Additionally, no hometowns, phone numbers, etc. should be listed in these packets. The names of the officials shall not be announced during pre-game public address introductions.
6. It is the responsibility of home team game management to confirm game times and other information on the Conference officiating website.
7. Game officials are responsible for officiating the contest and enforcing the game rules. They are not charged with crowd control or game management responsibility; however, they do have the authority to halt a game if crowd control problems arise.
8. The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at Conference games:
 - A. Security escorts for officials should be provided as follows:
 - i. A person at each institution should be in contact with the umpire the week of the game to finalize game day travel. A van with police escorts should pick up the officials at the hotel no later than 2 hours prior to kickoff. Only approved personnel are permitted to accompany the officials to and from the stadium. Officers should escort officials to the dressing room, to and from the field, and back to the van after the game. Police escorts will escort the officials' van back to the hotel immediately following the game.
 - ii. A dressing room key should be either given to one of the officials, or a person designated by the game management director. The designated person must lock the dressing room while the officials are officiating and must be waiting at the dressing room door when the officials return at halftime and at the end of the game. The officials must have immediate access to their dressing room at halftime and at the conclusion of the game.
 - iii. If the officials must walk through public concourses or areas to reach the team locker rooms before the game and/or at the halftime, they must be escorted by security personnel.
 - B. The officials' dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as described in the SEC Game Management Manual:
 - C. If an official requests the service of a trainer or needs any medical supplies, the trainer should come to

- the officials' dressing room to provide the service or deliver the supplies. The official should not go to the training room.
- D. Absolutely no one shall be allowed access to the officials' dressing room without the permission of the Southeastern Conference except (1) the officials assigned to the game, (2) the event manager and (3) Southeastern Conference staff and observers.
 - E. The home institution is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and delivery to the referee of the wireless microphone unit as set forth in the SEC Game Management Manual.
- 9. Payment of the game officials will be handled by the conference office. Each institution will be invoiced for its share of the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials. The Conference office and Athletics Directors shall set the fees and travel/expense policies.
 - 10. The crew of officials assigned to each game shall receive a total of 20 complimentary tickets (two for each official including the instant replay official and communicator). Seat assignments shall be located on the sideline between the goal lines. The tickets are to be shipped to a designated staff member in the Conference office no later than the first week in August. The Conference office will be responsible for distributing the tickets to the appropriate individuals. Officials will not be permitted to request the purchase of any additional tickets from any institution.

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

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

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

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

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

Pre-Game/Halftime. [Revised: 7/25/17, 7/25/19]

- 1. The playing field must be available for pre-game warm-up no later than 120 minutes before kickoff. Kickers shall be allowed to kick at both ends of the field until 65 minutes prior to scheduled kick-off. Additionally, each team shall be permitted to walk through the playing field on game day prior to 120 minutes before kickoff if the playing field is the most direct route to its locker room from the designated team bus drop-off location.
- 2. Beginning 120 minutes prior to kickoff, all warmup activities (pregame or during suspensions of game play) shall occur only in the locker room or on the field. Teams shall not be permitted to warmup in a different location. [Adopted: 11/4/20]
- 3. The game clock shall begin the pre-game countdown at 90 minutes prior to kickoff. In the event of a television "slide", the game clock shall be reset and restarted at the 60-minute mark. Pre-game warm-up areas shall adhere to the diagram on Supplement A-1 of this section until 40 minutes prior to kickoff, at

which time warm-up areas shall adhere to the diagram on Supplement A-2. The home team shall provide the visiting team with completed diagrams no later than practice the day before the game. In stadiums where the team entrances are on opposite ends of the field, each team shall conduct pre-game warm-ups on the end of the field closest to its entrance. When entering or leaving the field during warm-ups, a team may not enter the designated warm-up area of the opposing team if it is still on the field.

4. Teams may be requested to leave the field for pre-game activities (e.g., bands, ceremonies, etc.) not to exceed 17 minutes (i.e., at the 20-minute mark on the pre-game clock), except for Senior Day. For Senior Day ceremonies before a team's last regular-season home game, the teams may be requested to leave the field for 22 minutes (25-minute mark on the pre-game clock). All Senior Day activities must take place during this 22-minute period. The field must once again be available for at least three minutes before kickoff of the second half. If both teams are on the field at the time scheduled for the start of the second half and the field is not cleared for play, the home team will be penalized 10 yards on the subsequent free kick. Bands, speeches, presentations, homecoming and similar activities are under the jurisdiction of home game management and a prompt start of each half is mandatory.
5. Under no circumstances shall a participating player or coach from either team enter the playing field while a band is performing at halftime. A player violating this provision is subject to an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty or subsequent action by the Conference office. *[Revised: 7/25/17, 7/25/19]*

Pre-Game Sideline Passes. A host institution shall provide a minimum of 10 pre-game sideline passes to the visiting institution. These passes shall be administered consistent with the policies of other pre-game sideline passes utilized by the host, including in determining the point in which the pass holder must vacate the sideline. Such pre-game passes may not be used to provide game admission (i.e. pass holder must have a valid game ticket). *[Adopted: 8/7/19]*

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

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.

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

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

2. **Relocating a Conference Contest.** There must be mutual agreement between the athletics directors of the two-participating institutions and approval from the Commissioner prior to the relocation of a regularly scheduled Conference football contest from an institution's regular home campus playing facility to a playing facility outside of the home state of the host institution. It shall be the sole decision of the home institution to relocate a regularly scheduled Conference football contest from an institution's regular home campus playing facility to another playing facility within the state of the home institution. The home team shall notify the visiting team of the change in location no later than December 31 of the prior year, or if after such date, mutual agreement must occur. This regulation does not apply to games relocated under the Commissioner's authority under the interrupted game procedures. *[Adopted: 5/1/18]*
3. **Non-Conference Scheduling.** Each institution shall play at least one additional game each year against an

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

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

Sportsmanship. At no time may either team engage in any type of “animated huddle,” “dance,” or other similar activity on the playing field. Such activities are limited to the team bench area. Each institution shall aggressively address the issue of sportsmanship through video spots, PA announcements, radio spots, TV spots and print ads (e.g., in game day programs).

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

Squad Size.

1. **Home Team.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 80 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. The non-participating student-athletes shall dress out at no additional cost to the institution. Non-participating student-athletes shall not receive pre-game meals, overnight lodging, or additional game tickets, but may receive a post-game meal provided the post-game meal is served at the stadium. No cash stipend may be provided to non-participating student-athletes for post-game meals away from the stadium.
2. **Visiting Team.** 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. [Revised: 7/10/20]
3. **Neutral Site Games.** 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 the participating team's limit. [Revised: 7/10/20]
4. **Junior Varsity Teams.** The squad size for junior varsity teams is 55 eligible student-athletes.

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

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

Tickets. There shall be a Letter of Agreement between participating institutions on the number of tickets to be exchanged. The host institution must provide the visiting institution a minimum of 2,000 tickets located in the lower level of the stadium, of which at least 1000 tickets must be within one single block. After August 1, a visiting institution may return no more than 1,000 tickets for credit. Within 30 days of the game, no more than 500 tickets may be returned for credit. Within 14 days after the game, a maximum of 300 tickets may be returned for credit. [Revised: 5/31/19]

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

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

Video Boards/Replays.

1. Institutions are not limited in the use of replays (including number of replays shown), except when a stoppage

occurs for an official review. The time during which replays may be shown is from the end of a play until the beginning of the next play, except when a stoppage occurs for an official review.

2. Replays of touchdowns (not stopped for official review) may be shown following the point after attempt up until the ensuing kickoff. Replays may also be shown at a later time during the game as part of a package of highlights during a quarter or halftime break.
3. In no circumstance will the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-stadium video board.
4. *Procedure for stoppage for an official review:* When a stoppage occurs for an official review, the in-stadium video board operator must use the unaltered television network program feed or the unaltered video feed from the replay booth as the exclusive video source for replays of the play under review. No live coverage of any coach, student-athlete, or fan reaction may be shown from the program feed during the review. Replays from the program feed are permitted only between Referee announcements to stop play and to communicate the outcome of the review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-stadium video board during stoppage for an official review. [Revised: 6/3/16]

Video Exchange. All Conference institutions shall participate in the National Open Video Exchange program and shall comply with all exchange policies established by the National Open Exchange Co-op. [Revised: 2/27/20]

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Dates and Sites. The championship game will be played on the first Saturday in December in Atlanta, Georgia. See [Supplement C](#) in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites.

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

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

Example: Tied Teams Non-Divisional Opponents Cumulative Record

Western 1	Eastern Opponents: 14-2
Western 2	Eastern Opponents: 12-4

(Western 1 would be the representative)

2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** If three teams (or more) are tied for a division title, the following procedure will be used in the following order: (Note: If one of the procedures results in one team being eliminated and two remaining, the two-team tiebreaker procedure as stated in No. 1 above will be used):
- Combined head-to-head record among the tied teams;
 - Record of the tied teams within the division;
 - Head-to-head competition against the team within the division with the best overall Conference record (divisional and non-divisional) and proceeding through the division (multiple ties within the division will be broken from first to last and a tie for first place will be broken before a tie for fourth place);
 - Overall Conference record against non-divisional teams;
 - Combined record against all common non-divisional teams;
 - Record against the common non-divisional team with the best overall Conference record (divisional and non-divisional) and proceeding through other common non-divisional teams based on their order of finish within their division; and
 - Best cumulative Conference winning percentage of non-divisional opponents (Note: If two teams' non-divisional opponents have the same cumulative record, then the two-team tiebreaker procedures apply. If four teams are tied, and three teams' non-divisional opponents have the same cumulative record, the three-team tiebreaker procedures will be used beginning with 2.A.);
- | Example: <u>Tied Teams</u> | <u>Non-Divisional Opponents Cumulative Record</u> |
|----------------------------|---|
| Western 1 | Eastern Opponents: 14-2 |
| Western 2 | Eastern Opponents: 12-4 |
| Western 3 | Eastern Opponents: 8-8 |
- (Western 1 would be the representative)
- Coin flip of the tied teams with the team with the odd result being the representative (Example: If there are two teams with tails and one team with heads, the team with heads is the representative).

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

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

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

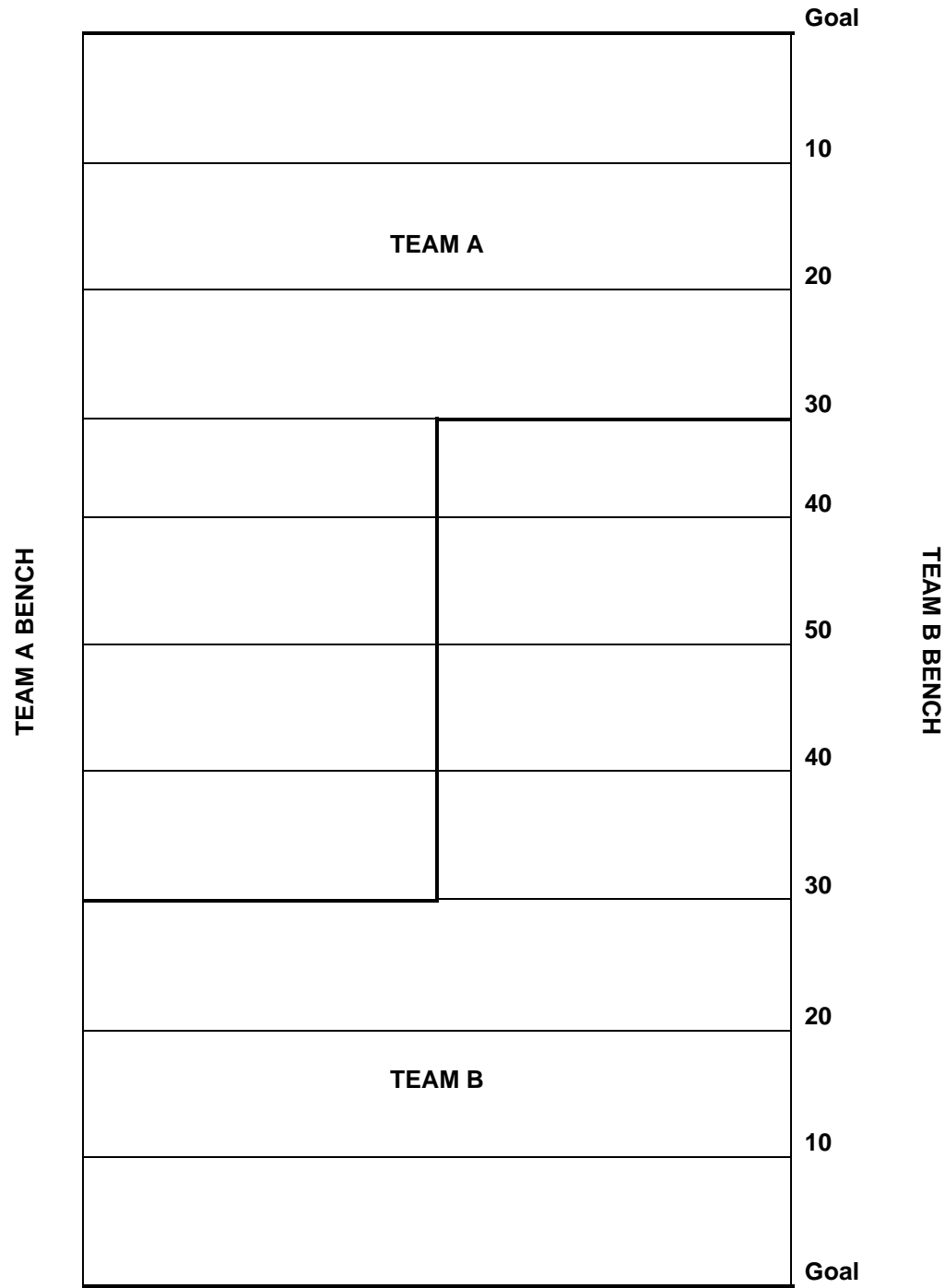
Tickets. The Conference office is responsible for the ticket plan, the design and printing of the tickets as well as the marketing of the tickets. Each participating institution will be allocated 16,300 tickets.

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

1. Each participating institution shall be reimbursed for the actual cost of transporting an official party of 150 (including student-athletes, coaches, administrators, cheerleaders, etc.) to the site (air or bus travel from campus to the site; local transportation is not included). This amount shall be approved in advance by the Conference office and must be supported by actual invoices. In addition, each participating institution shall receive \$275,000 to cover all costs associated with institutional lodging, meals and local transportation. Each participating institution will be financially responsible for payment of rooms for two nights (as specified in the agreement with the respective host hotel) at the designated team headquarters hotel;
2. Each participating institution shall receive a band travel allowance of \$50 per mile, one-way from its campus to the site (according to Rand-McNally Mileage Chart). Each institution shall be financially responsible for 120 rooms for two nights at its designated band hotel;
3. All remaining revenue shall be divided into 15 equal shares, with one share distributed to each member institution and one share to the Conference office; and
4. Institutions may petition to the Executive Committee prior to the game for an increase in the travel allowance only in the event actual expenses exceed the designated amount.

SUPPLEMENT A-1

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



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

