

COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS  
2023-2024



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

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**GOVERNING CONFERENCE COMPETITION,  
CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TOURNAMENTS**

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# INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

**Access to Competition Area.** In all sports, institutions shall limit access to the competition area to participating student-athletes, coaches, officials, support personnel, and properly credentialed or authorized individuals at all times. For the safety of participants and spectators alike, at no time before, during, or after a contest may spectators enter the competition area. Each member institution must provide security and uniformed law enforcement presence around each team and game officials before, during, and after the event to prevent contact with spectators. The area where teams and officials are dropped off and their path to/from team areas must be secure and not accessible to the public. In the event of a field or court rush, the use of uniformed law enforcement personnel and equipment (e.g., - rope, barricade, expandable tunnels) to secure a clear path off the playing surface for the visiting team and all team personnel (e.g. equipment managers), is required. If a field/court rush ensues, the visiting team shall forgo the post-game handshake line and immediately move inside the barricade and get to their locker room as soon as possible. Each institution shall be responsible for implementing procedures to ensure compliance with this policy. Institutional penalties against individuals improperly entering the competition area may include expulsion from the facility, arrest for trespassing, loss of future ticket privileges, or other measures deemed appropriate by institutional law enforcement and administration. Violators who are students must also be subject to institutional student disciplinary measures. [Revised: 6/2/23]

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

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

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

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

1. Regulations that are a part of the SEC Bylaws may only be amended by vote of the Presidents and Chancellors at a regular or called meeting of the Conference.
2. Regulations that are not part of the SEC Bylaws, but may have philosophical, financial, and/or competition format implications may be amended by a majority vote of the Athletics Directors or, for items relating to men's and women's Olympic sports and women's basketball that do not have a significant financial impact, by a majority vote of the Senior Woman Administrators. The Athletics Directors may request review of any formal action taken by the Senior Woman Administrators at any future meeting.
3. Amendments may be proposed by the Commissioner, coaches groups, Senior Woman Administrators, and Athletics Directors. Proposals from coaches of men's and women's Olympic sports and women's basketball will be sent directly to the Senior Woman Administrators, unless the proposal has a significant financial impact in which case it will be sent to the Senior Woman Administrators first, then to the Athletics Directors with a report of action taken by the Senior Woman Administrators. Proposals from coaches of all other sports will be forwarded directly to the Athletics Directors.
4. Regulations that are editorial in nature or do not have ramifications as noted above may be amended by a majority vote of the coaches of that sport.
5. Prior to any revision in Regular Season Competition/Scheduling policies or the adoption of any proposal that may have an academic impact, the Faculty Athletics Representatives group must review the proposal during its next regularly scheduled meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Guidelines** These guidelines are in place to ensure fair treatment of all student-athletes and coaches and are to be followed in all voting processes. All votes are submitted on behalf of the institution and thus, if a coach does not follow procedure, the Athletics Director or his/her designee will replace that coach's vote. Deadlines set by the Conference office must be adhered to in both the nomination process, as well as the final ballot. It is understood that all nominations and ballots are the responsibility of the institution. If the coach misses a specific deadline set by the Conference office, such forms become the responsibility of the athletics director or his/her designee. Institutions that miss nomination and/or voting deadlines set by the Conference office are subject to dismissal of that institution's forms.
  - A. Coaches may not vote for themselves or their student-athletes for awards determined by a vote of the head coaches.
  - B. A ballot must be completely filled out to be counted.
  - C. A coach must vote for post-season awards.
  - D. Only nominated student-athletes may receive votes for post-season awards. In all cases, a coach may only nominate his/her own student-athletes.
  - E. An institution may nominate more than one student-athlete for an individual award, including Scholar-Athlete, Freshman, and Athlete of the Year.
  - F. On a coach's ballot, his/her vote for Player of the Year must be listed among his/her All-SEC votes.
  - G. On a coach's ballot, his/her vote for Freshman of the Year must be listed among his/her All-Freshman

votes.

2. **Roy F. Kramer Athlete of the Year Awards.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.4a]
3. **H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of the Year Awards.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.4b]
4. **Brad Davis Community Service Leader of the Year Awards.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.4c]
5. **Michael L Slive Distinguished Service Award.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.4d]
6. **SEC Sportsmanship Awards.** Each institution may nominate one male and one female student-athlete for consideration based on criteria provided by the Conference office. The Athletics Directors will select one male and one female recipient from those nominated at the SEC Spring Meeting.
7. **SEC Academic Honor Roll.** The following criteria will be used to determine recipients of the SEC Academic Honor Roll award:
  - A. Any student-athlete who participates in a Southeastern Conference championship sport or a student-athlete who participates in a sport listed on his/her institution's NCAA Sports Sponsorship Form is eligible for nomination to the Academic Honor Roll.
  - B. The following criteria will be followed:
    - (1) A student-athlete must have a grade point average of 3.00 or above for either the preceding academic year (two semesters or three quarters) or have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or above at the nominating institution.
    - (2) If a student-athlete attends summer school, his/her grade point average during the summer academic term must be included in the calculation used to determine eligibility for the Academic Honor Roll.
    - (3) Student-athletes eligible for the Honor Roll include those receiving an athletics scholarship, recipients of an athletics award (i.e., letter winner), and non-scholarship student-athletes who have been on a varsity team for two seasons.
    - (4) Prior to being nominated, a student-athlete must have successfully completed 24 semester or 36 quarter hours of non-remedial academic credit toward a baccalaureate degree at the nominating institution.
    - (5) The student-athlete must have been a member of a varsity team for the sport's entire NCAA Championship segment.
    - (6) The SEC Academic Honor Roll shall be compiled and released following each sport's championship event, as follows:
      - a. Cross Country, football, volleyball, soccer – Honor Roll recipients shall be announced by the Conference office during the first week of February, based on the student-athletes' preceding fall, summer, and spring terms. [Revised: 11/18/15]
      - b. Basketball, equestrian, gymnastics, swimming and diving – Honor Roll recipients shall be announced by the Conference office during the third week of April, based on the student-athletes' preceding fall, summer, and spring terms.
      - c. Track and field, golf, tennis, softball, baseball – Honor Roll recipients shall be announced by the Conference office during the third week of June, based on the student-athletes' preceding spring, fall, and summer terms.
      - d. First year student-athletes – First year student-athletes in all sports may be named to the Honor Roll at the conclusion of their first full academic year in residence (spring, fall and summer terms) through an announcement issued by the Conference office during the second week of July.
8. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** The recipient in each sport will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote during the All-SEC process for their sport. Each vote is worth one point. The criteria for nominating a student-athlete for the Scholar-Athlete of the Year are as follows:
  - A. Nominee must be a starter or important reserve with legitimate athletic credentials.
  - B. Nominee must have participated in at least 50 percent of team's games for the nominating year.
  - C. Nominee must have at least a 3.2 cumulative grade point average for his or her collegiate career. A nominee in graduate school must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.2 both as an undergraduate and as a graduate student.

- D. Nominee must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at the participating institution (True freshmen, redshirt freshmen and ineligible athletic transfers are not eligible.).
- E. Nominee must have completed one full academic year at the participating institution.
9. **All-SEC Teams.** Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
10. **All-Freshman Teams.** Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
11. **Athletes of the Year.** Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
12. **Freshmen of the Year.** Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
13. **Coaches of the Year.** Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
14. **Athletes of the Week.** The Conference will select an "Athlete of the Week" from nominations submitted to the Conference office by the sports information office from each member institution.
15. **Freshmen of the Week.** The Conference will select a "Freshman of the Week" from nominations submitted to the Conference office by the sports information office from each member institution.
16. **Community Service Teams.** Each institution selects one student-athlete per sport sponsored by the Conference. Selection is based on community service performed by the student-athlete. The cross country, indoor track and outdoor track "Community Service Team" will be selected during the outdoor track season.

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

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

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

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

**Crowd Control and Game Management.** The Presidents and Chancellors of the Conference are committed to excellent crowd control at all athletic events. They have passed several resolutions stating their aims and objectives for promoting mutual trust and friendly relations between Conference members and other institutions by emphasizing the need for spectator and student-athlete sportsmanship at athletic contests. The Athletics Director of the host institution shall assure that crowd control and game management are exercised in the best interests of safety and fair play for the participants, as well as for spectators. The Athletics Director shall designate a full-time staff person (or persons) to serve as game management director; however, ultimate responsibility remains with the Athletics Director. The home institution shall supply the visiting coach and game officials with the name and location of the individual responsible for game management and crowd control. The Athletics Directors of each institution are expected to communicate with their student-athletes, coaches, and fans to encourage enthusiastic support within the confines of good sportsmanship. Host institutions must provide adequate security and ushers, preferably in uniform, for effective crowd management. Attention should be given to seating arrangements that will alleviate crowd-control problems. In addition, evacuation and emergency plans should be in place and reviewed on a regular basis.

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

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

between innings, etc.).

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Definitions.**

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

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

3. **Guidelines.**

- A. The home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator shall have the authority to determine whether a contest should, prior to its start, be temporarily delayed until a later time on the same date. Once a contest has started, the decision to suspend play is the responsibility of the game officials.
- B. If extenuating circumstances occur that necessitate the relocation of the contest site within the same city, the home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator shall have the authority to determine whether and where the contest should be relocated. The decision should be made in consultation with the visiting team. The alternate site must be in full compliance with all NCAA playing

- rules and regulations governing that particular sport.
- C. If a contest is postponed prior to its start for any reason, the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall attempt to reschedule the game at a later time or date. If the contest cannot be rescheduled, the Commissioner shall cancel the contest.
  - D. If a contest is suspended for any reason after play has begun, the contest must be resumed as soon as conditions are deemed safe by the officials in consultation with the home team game management personnel.
  - E. A suspended contest may not be resumed after midnight local time, or two hours following the point of suspension, whichever is later.
  - F. If a contest is suspended after play has begun and cannot resume before midnight local time, the two institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall attempt to declare the game postponed, and resume it at a later date.
  - G. In the event a contest cannot be resumed at a later date, the following will apply:
    - (1) If the contest is suspended prior to the completion of one half of play (halftime), the Commissioner shall declare the contest *canceled*.
    - (2) If the contest is suspended after the completion of one half of play (halftime), the Commissioner shall declare the contest *terminated*.

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

#### **Lightning Policy.**

1. Each member institution must have the capability of determining when lightning strikes are within specified distances of the competition site for all outdoor events.
2. When lightning is detected within 15 miles of the competition site, the home institution shall notify the head referee-umpire.
3. When lightning is detected within a minimum of 10 miles from the competition site, home team management shall utilize the public address system to inform those in attendance that inclement weather including lightning is within 10 (or more) miles and that should patrons vacate the facility for safe shelter, they will be allowed to re-enter with a ticket stub.
4. When lightning is detected within eight (8) miles of the competition site, competition shall be suspended. Competition may be resumed after 30 minutes of no detected lightning strikes within an eight-mile radius. A 10-minute warm-up period may be granted following this 30-minute suspension.
5. In cases of severe weather being detected prior to the start of competition: A maximum of 10 minutes may be used, at the discretion of the home institution, for the marching band, national anthem and introductions, immediately following the 30-minute time period of no detected lightning strikes.

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

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

**Medical Policies.** Adequate medical personnel must be present or on call at all sessions of the event (practice and

competition). The host is responsible for obtaining the necessary medical staff and supplies. Additional policies may be specified in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sportsmanship.** Consistent with SEC Bylaw 10.5, all individuals employed by or associated with a member institution, including institutional staff members, student-athletes, boosters, and fans, are expected to conduct themselves with honesty, integrity, and good sportsmanship, and shall therefore exhibit respect and courtesy towards opposing student-athletes, coaches, and game officials. It is the responsibility of each member institution to establish policies for sportsmanship and ethical conduct in intercollegiate athletics consistent with the educational mission and goals of the institution. Furthermore, member institutions are responsible for educating all constituencies about these policies on a continuing basis. In addition, all individuals shall also adhere to the following principles of good sportsmanship: [Revised: 8/7/18]

1. **Public Comments.** All individuals shall make every attempt to promote the Conference and its members in a positive manner.
2. **Media Access.** All individuals shall make every effort to promote a cooperative environment with the media by providing reasonable access to interview student-athletes and staff.
3. **Student Conduct.** Each institution shall ensure that all students involved in athletics activities, including student-athletes, band members, cheerleaders, mascots, and general students attending as fans, are informed of the appropriate standards of behavior and good sportsmanship.
4. **Promoting Sportsmanship.** Each institution shall aggressively address the issue of sportsmanship through various forms (e.g., video spots, public address announcements, radio spots, television spots and print ads in game day programs).

5. **Throwing Items onto the Playing Surface.** Each institution shall adopt a policy prohibiting fans from throwing items onto the playing surface. Such policy must specify (without limitation) that violators who are clearly identified will be ejected from the playing facility.

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

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

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

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

**SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE AWARDS PROGRAM**

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

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

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

<p><b>Women's Soccer</b></p>	<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>	<p>Same criteria for all sports (certificate)</p>	<p>Offensive Player of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Defensive Player of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>
<p><b>Softball</b></p>	<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>	<p>Same criteria for all sports (certificate)</p>	<p>Player of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Pitcher of the week (certificate)</p> <p>Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>

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

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

## 2023-24 INSTITUTIONALLY SPONSORED VARSITY SPORTS

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

\* Denotes varsity sports not sponsored by the Conference

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP SITES BY SPORT (2023-2035)

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

**SEC Squad Size Policies**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Regular Season:</b> The below squad size limits apply only to Conference-sponsored regular season competition, rather than applying to any competition in which two or more Conference programs participate.	<b>SEC Championships:</b> The below limits apply to Conference Championship competition only and are not applicable to NCAA Championship competition.
<b>Baseball</b>	Only 27 student-athletes shall be allowed to participate in a Conference series. The 27 participating student-athletes for both the home and visiting team must be declared prior to the first game of a Conference series and may not be changed during the course of the series. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities.	Only 30 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Basketball</b>	Only 15 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities.	Only 15 student-athletes may participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Cross Country</b>	Only 12 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities.	Only 10 men's and 12 women's student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Equestrian</b>	All eligible student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. There is no travel squad size limit.	Only 28 student-athletes (20 competitors and eight non-competing alternates) will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
<b>Football</b>	<p><b>Home Team</b> - The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 80 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. (The non-participating student-athletes shall dress out at no additional cost to the institution. Non-participating student-athletes shall not receive pre-game meals, overnight lodging or additional game tickets, but may receive a post-game meal provided the post-game meal is served at the stadium. No cash stipend may be provided to non-participating student-athletes for post-game meals away from the stadium.)</p> <p><b>Visiting Team</b> - The visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 70 travel-eligible student-athletes. A student-athlete who has suffered a season ending injury and will no longer participate may travel without counting towards the visiting team's limit.</p> <p><b>Neutral Sites</b> - The squad size limit for neutral site games (no more than one game annually) is 70 travel-eligible student-athletes for both participating teams. A student-athlete who has suffered a season ending injury and will no longer participate may travel without counting towards</p>	

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

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

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

Upon discovery of a violation for which a minimum penalty is prescribed below, the institution shall immediately apply the prescribed penalty and shall report the associated violation(s) to the Conference in a timely manner. A minimum penalty may be increased at the Commissioner's discretion. If a minimum penalty cannot be fully applied prior to the involved prospective student-athlete's written commitment to the institution, the Commissioner shall impose such other penalties to address the competitive or recruiting advantage gained by the institution (e.g., prohibiting the issuance of a financial aid agreement, restrictions on recruiting activities, etc.).

### **Relief from a Minimum Penalty**

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

### **Impermissible activity by noncoaching staff member (NCAA Bylaw 11.7.1.1 and 11.7.6)**

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

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

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

### **Contact with a prospect during an evaluation or quiet period after the first permissible date. (NCAA Bylaws 13.02.5.2 and 13.02.5.4)**

- The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any recruiting activity for 7 calendar days.
- In-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 30 days following the discovery of the violation.
- Telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 14 days.
- The institution shall be limited to one off-campus contact per academic year with the involved prospect.

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

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

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

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

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

- The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any recruiting activity for 14 calendar days.
- In-person contact (on or off campus) with the involved prospective student-athlete shall be prohibited for 90 days following discovery of the violation or 90 days following the first permissible date for in-person *off-campus* contact with the prospect.
- Telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 30 days.
- The institution shall be limited to one off-campus contact per academic year with the involved prospect.

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

- The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any recruiting activity for 7 calendar days.
- In-person contact with the involved prospective student-athlete shall be prohibited until 45 days following discovery of the violation, or 45 days following the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact with the prospect.
- Telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 14 days.
- The institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

**Conference Office Liaisons.** Sport Administrator – Misty Brown; Communications – Jill Skotarczak.

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

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

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

1. **All-SEC Team.** The All-SEC Team will be comprised of the student-athletes with the top two scores (including ties) on each event and in the All-Around competition in the first session and second sessions of the SEC Championship.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The All-Freshman Team will be comprised of the freshmen student-athlete with the top score (including ties) on each event in the first session of the SEC Championship and the freshman student-athlete with the top score (including ties) on each event in the second session of the Championship. The All-Freshman Team will also include the freshmen student-athletes with the top two all-around scores (including ties) in each session of the Championship.
3. **Gymnast of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. The following procedures will be used: *[Revised: 5/23/19]*
  - A. The Conference office will compile and distribute a ballot of nominees that includes the three gymnasts who compete in the All-Around competition with the highest regular-season NQS prior to the Championship as well as the top three finishers in the All-Around competition at the SEC Championship.
  - B. The coaches will vote for one student-athlete;
  - C. In the event of a tie, Co-Gymnasts of the Year will be recognized.
4. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. To be nominated, a student-athlete must compete in at least three (3) Conference competitions.
5. **Specialist of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. To be nominated, a student-athlete must compete in at least three (3) Conference competitions.
6. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. In the event of a three-way tie, the tied coach with the highest finishing team shall be named Coach of the Year.
7. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Athlete of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Specialist of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

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

**Coaches Committee.** The coaches committee will be made up of three head coaches from different institutions and will follow an alphabetical rotation with one coach rotating off the committee each year. For 2023-24, the coaches committee will include Arkansas, Auburn, and Florida.

**Coaches Meeting** Each head coach shall be required to attend the annual coaches meeting held in May 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. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

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

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

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

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

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

**Event Day Walkthrough.** A visiting team should have the opportunity to conduct a walkthrough at the competition site on the day of the meet. The following procedures shall be followed unless extreme circumstances prevent the use of the home institution's competition facility: [Adopted: 6/10/20]

1. Request for walkthrough by the visiting team must be submitted to the home institution's meet director, or facilities personnel, at least five days prior to the meet date.
2. The home institution shall make its facility available for a minimum of 60 minutes on the day of the meet (the home meet director, or facilities personnel, will extend himself/herself to accommodate the visiting team in case of emergency); the home institution has no obligation to make its facility available the day prior to the meet.
3. The home institution shall dictate the walkthrough slot/time for the visiting team based on arena availability, i.e., arena changeover from other events.
4. The home institution shall make available all areas of the competition floor. All matting and landing surfaces are open to the visiting team, but only the floor exercise should be mounted, and no gymnastics skills should be performed on any apparatus, including floor. Choreography on floor exercise is permissible. There should not be chalk used on any apparatus or matting surfaces. [Examples: No swinging on the bars – a brief hang for height measurement is permissible. The coaches, managers, etc. can set the bars and mark mats with tape; No mounting, handstands or flipping off the vault table. The coaches, managers, etc. can set boards and mark mats with tape; No mounting, walking or choreography on the beam. The coaches, managers, etc. can set boards and mark mats with tape.]
5. It is not required that the home institution provide sound staff, or access to the sound system during the walkthrough.

**Event Transition.** Each team shall take their belongings from corral to corral when transitioning from event to event during regular season and championship competition. [Adopted: 5/23/19]

**Introductions.** During the opening ceremony, student-athletes from the visiting teams shall be introduced individually by name, hometown, and year by the public address announcer. The host institution shall include a form in the visiting team's information packet for the visiting team to provide this information prior to the meet. The home team shall also notify the visiting team in advance of the meet how the visiting team's introductions will be lighted. Student-athletes from the home team shall be introduced individually, by name, hometown, and year, and may include any superlatives (e.g. All-American, Reigning NCAA or SEC Champion). The home team's use of "lights out," pyrotechnics, special lighting, etc. during its opening ceremony shall comply with NCAA rules. Upon completion of both team introductions, the announcer will state that the gymnasts will proceed to their first event. Once competition begins, gymnasts will be introduced by name only. At the end of each regular season conference competition, each team should proceed immediately to the floor for the announcement of the team results, including the individual winners on each event and the individual winner in the all-around. [Revised: 1/29/20]

**Inquiries.** Inquiries must be made in writing before the beginning of the next event and must pertain strictly to (1)

Start Value (difficulty, special requirements, and bonus values), (2) Compositional requirements, and (3) Clarification of neutral deductions or unusual performance occurrences / falls. When all Start Values are 10.0, only inquiries about items two and three are permissible.

**Officials.** Judges will be assigned by regional JAS assigners. Coaches may not converse with any person who judges beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing until the Monday immediately following the SEC Championship, except when requested following a meet and in the presence of the meet director. If any coach requests a meeting with the judges following a meet, all head coaches involved in the meet will be notified. Judges may enter the competitive area as outlined in the handbook. A judge's fee of \$275 with a \$60 overnight driver's allowance and a \$150 overnight flyer's travel allowance has been established. Mileage (at the institution's mandated rate or the present IRS rate), air travel (including airport shuttle) and hotel accommodations will be paid by the host institution. Except for Southwest Airlines, judges must have a seat when the flight is purchased. If an airline charges for carry-on baggage, the host institution will reimburse the judge for the fee. Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition. *[Revised: 12/13/16, 8/23/18]*

**PER DIEM REIMBURSEMENT** (meals, mileage to airport, airport parking)

\$ 25.00 = 4 to 7 hours (away from home)

\$ 40.00 = more than 7 hours (away from home)

\$ 60.00 = Overnight Stay (away from home)

\$ 85.00 = No Overnight Stay (air-flight to competition)

\$ 150.00 = Per Overnight Stay (air-flight to competition)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Uniforms.** Teams shall follow NCAA policies on competition and warm-up uniforms.

**Warm-up and Open Stretch.** During regular season dual meet competitions, teams shall be provided with a 20-minute open stretch period at which time both teams may warm up at all apparatus. At the 5-minute mark of the open

stretch period countdown, the home team and visiting team shall have access to each team's respective starting event exclusively (e.g., home team on the vault apparatus and the away team on the bar apparatus). Teams are permitted to access the starting apparatus during the 2-minute transition period of the first event rotation only. [*Adopted: 5/18/21*]

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

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

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

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

**Dates and Sites.** The championship shall be conducted two weeks before the NCAA regional qualifying meet. See [Supplement C](#) in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites. If the championship returns to campus sites, the order of rotation for hosting will be: Arkansas, Auburn, Kentucky, Georgia, LSU, Alabama, Florida, and Missouri.

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

**Event Transition.** Each team shall take their belongings from corral to corral when transitioning from event to event during regular season and championship competition. [Adopted: 5/23/19]

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

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

### **Officials.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Public Address Announcements.** Running team scores will be announced after each rotation, including going into the final rotation. No personal accolades will be announced before any gymnast begins her performance. During the

opening ceremony, only the teams will be introduced, not by individual athletes' names. If there is a pre-meet show, it must be conducted prior to team introductions. Judges will not be introduced.

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

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

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

**Tickets.**

1. Eight passes will be placed in each coach's packet for coaches, managers, and medical personnel. The Conference office will provide administrators from each institution with two additional passes. All other individuals must have a ticket. Administrators may have access to the floor but are encouraged to sit in a seat.
2. Each institution will receive an initial allotment of approximately 100 tickets for which it is financially responsible. An allocation policy of rotating institutional seating assignments two locations clockwise each year has been established. The "pool system" regarding these tickets will be utilized if necessary. There are no complimentary tickets for this championship.

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

**Uniforms.** All uniforms and equipment must conform to Conference and NCAA policies.

**Warm-Up and Open Stretch.** During the open stretch period, only background music provided by the host may be played. During the team's floor exercise warm-up, teams may play their own music. Each team whose first event is scheduled on bars, beam and floor will be required to stretch on at its first event. The team scheduled on vault as its first event has the option to stretch at vault or to share the mats on the floor podium. [Revised: 6/10/20]

