

COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS  
**2023-2024**



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

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**GOVERNING CONFERENCE COMPETITION,  
CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TOURNAMENTS**

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# INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

votes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



between innings, etc.).

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Definitions.**

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

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

3. **Guidelines.**

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

rules and regulations governing that particular sport.

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

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

#### **Lightning Policy.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE AWARDS PROGRAM

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



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

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

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

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

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



## 2023-24 INSTITUTIONALLY SPONSORED VARSITY SPORTS

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

\* Denotes varsity sports not sponsored by the Conference

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP SITES BY SPORT (2023-2035)

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035
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

<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>	

	<p>the participating team's limit.</p> <p><b>Junior Varsity</b> - The squad size for junior varsity teams is 55 eligible student-athletes.</p>	
<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 – Garth Glissman; Communications – Craig Pinkerton; Officiating – Mike Eades

## **REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Bench Area.** Host institutions shall provide at least 22 chairs in the bench area. Host institutions may provide additional chairs as arena configurations permit. An equal number of chairs must be provided for the home and visiting team. The visiting team bench may not be placed in front of or adjacent to the home institution's band or student section. The visiting team bench shall be located either on the opposite side of the court or on the opposite end of the court from the home institution's band and student section. [Revised: 11/2/22]

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

**Coaches Meeting.** Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting held in conjunction with SEC Spring Meetings, and an annual fall meeting held in September at the Conference offices. See also, SEC Bylaw 21.8.

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

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

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

**Crowd Control.** An institution's Athletics Director shall serve as the game management director or appoint an individual knowledgeable in game management and crowd control to supervise and plan for all games. This person shall visit briefly with the game officials and the visiting coach prior to every game to inform the parties of how he or she may be contacted during the game. The game management director is responsible for the control of the entire operation of the arena prior to and during each contest, and for continued supervision of the arena until at least 30 minutes after the game or all groups have dispersed (see Access to Competition Area in General Administration) The game management director is also responsible for the following: [Revised: 10/21/22]

1. Determining who is given permission to be in the courtside areas (unauthorized persons shall be removed);
2. Controlling handout literature and eliminating objectionable banners; and
3. Instructing local police to divert heavy traffic away from the game site so that spectators may exit quickly.
4. Ensuring additional law enforcement and/or event management staff are stationed at visiting team vomitories when teams enter or leave the playing floor during pregame, halftime, and postgame.
5. Limiting fan and event staff foot traffic in the visiting team hallway/locker room area during pregame, halftime, and postgame.

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

**Game Time.** The start times for all nonconference games shall be determined by the home team unless designated as a televised game in which case the televising entity shall set the game time. The start time for all Conference games

shall be set by the televising entity.

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

1. **Definitions.**

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

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

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

A. **Prior to the Contest.**

- 1. If extenuating circumstances occur that necessitate a contest be moved to an earlier start time, an earlier start date, and/or relocated within the same city, the two participating institutions shall determine the date, time, and location of the contest, subject to the approval of the Commissioner. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
- 2. If a contest is postponed prior to its start for any reason, the contest shall be rescheduled for the following day (e.g. a Saturday game shall be rescheduled for Sunday) unless extenuating circumstances prevent the contest from being played, in which case the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
- 3. Prior to the start of a contest, the home institution's Director of Athletics or designated senior level administrator shall have the authority to determine whether a contest should temporarily be delayed until a later time on the same date due to extenuating circumstances. If circumstances which may warrant a delay occur, a participating institution shall immediately notify the opposing institution and the conference office. In the event a contest is temporarily delayed, the home institution shall ensure that both participating institutions are provided a minimum of 45 minutes of warm-up time on the playing floor prior to the start of the contest. [Revised: 12/20/18]

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

- 1. Once a contest has begun, the decision to suspend play shall become the responsibility of the game officials.
- 2. If a contest is suspended after it has begun:

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

**LED Lights.**

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

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

**National Anthem.** The home institution shall notify the visiting team no later than five days prior to the game regarding its National Anthem procedures. [Revised: 10/20/21]

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

**Officials.**

1. The Conference office shall assign officials for all home games and any games specified in contractual agreements with Conference institutions.
2. No coach, trainer, player or member of the team's official party shall talk to game officials prior to, during or after a game concerning any matter related to the game, except for discussions related to NCAA rules. There shall be no communication of any sort between the coaches and officials at halftime. Under no circumstance shall a coach enter the officials' locker room.
3. Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is prohibited. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed to the Conference office only. Public comments by officials, coaches or institutional personnel are prohibited. Audio/video materials may not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating (e.g., the use of game video to produce clips for television or newspapers depicting officiating calls). No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches' radio and/or television shows. Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone, and all matters pertaining to officials or officiating will be directed to the Conference office only. Likewise, this policy precludes officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner. Sports information directors and coaches should make no references to officiating in institutional press releases.
4. The list of officials assigned to a game shall not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the



distribution of pre-game information packets before a game. The names of the officials shall not be announced during pregame public address introductions.

5. The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at Conference games:
  - A. Security escorts for officials should be provided as follows:
    1. A person should meet officials at the entrance gate one hour and thirty minutes prior to tip-off and escort them to the officials' dressing room;
    2. A person designated by the event management director should knock on the officials' door when the teams begin their pre-game warm-ups and when it is time to return courtside for the second half. The officials will tell this person before the game specifically what time they wish to be notified; and
    3. A dressing room key should be either given to one of the officials, or a person designated by the game management director. The designated person must lock the dressing room while the officials are officiating and must be waiting at the dressing room door when officials return at halftime and at the end of the game. The officials must have immediate access to their dressing room at halftime and at the conclusion of the game.
  - B. The officials dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as suggested:
    1. When male and female officials are assigned, two dressing rooms should be provided if possible;
    2. When a doubleheader is scheduled, the officials for the men's game must be assigned to a different dressing room from the officials for the women's game; and
    3. The officials' dressing room should be set up with the following items; towels and soap, chairs and a table, dry erase board and markers, a television, soft drinks, isotonic beverages and water (in a cooler of ice) and cups, and sandwiches, fruit, or light snack after the game.
  - 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.
  - E. 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.
  - F. Each official assigned to a game is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to that game. Officials shall submit their requests via the SpotFoul system. The deadline for ticket requests is five days prior to the game. *[Revised: 10/4/18]*

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

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

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

**Pre-Game Introductions.** Home team pre-game introductions (including all video, music, special effects and the

actual introductions of players and coaches) may not exceed two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30). This time period begins immediately upon the conclusion of the visiting team introductions.

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

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

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

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

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

**Regular Season Competition/Non-Conference Schedule.** Each institution shall utilize predictive data in developing its non-conference schedule via a collaborative process administered by the Conference office. Institutions shall not schedule regular season contests against non-NCAA Division I opponents. *[Adopted: 5/4/16, Revised: 4/27/17, 3/13/19, 6/3/22]*

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

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

1. The Conference operates with an open exchange policy in regards to the exchange of game video. All schools must provide video of all games to the other Conference programs.
2. All programs must purchase Synergy software and utilize it as the primary means for transferring basketball video within the conference. Unique accounts (folders) will be developed for each school. These folders will serve as the access point to each school's video throughout the season and all games must remain in their school's Synergy folders until the season is complete.

3. Video from each game must be uploaded to Synergy by noon the following day;
  - A. The video of each game must be uploaded to that institution's individual folder.
  - B. Institutions will have access to each other's folders within Synergy which will enable them to select and download any game they choose.
  - C. Due to these posting requirements, there will be no need for formal tape requests; video of all games involving Conference institutions must be available to other conference teams through Synergy.
4. No member institution shall exchange video or provide a scouting report to any non-conference institution regarding SEC teams;
  - A. Through Synergy, schools have the ability to monitor who downloads their games and when the transfers occur;
  - B. If any issues arise regarding specific transfers, schools should contact the Conference administrator for Men's Basketball.
5. The video being exchanged must be of high quality. The following order of preference should be followed in completing a tape exchange:
  - A. Broadcast Copy
  - B. High Quality Coaches' copy
6. Minimum requirements for exchange are HD-MPEG4 file (ending in .mp4 extension) 3 megabits per second up to a maximum of 8 mbps.

**Shot Clocks.** Institutions shall install and utilize shot clocks which display tenths of a second. [Adopted: 5/3/23]

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

**Squad Size.** 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. [Revised: 6/1/18, 7/10/20, 6/3/22]

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

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

**Tickets.** The visiting team will be allotted 100 complimentary tickets for each Conference game. Each home institution shall provide at least 12 seats to the visiting team directly behind the visiting team's bench. These must be ticketed seats and will be part of the visiting team's allotment of 100 complimentary tickets. The location of the "next" 38 complimentary tickets must be within the first 25 rows of the playing floor and as near the visiting team bench as possible. The home team will determine the location of the remaining 50 complimentary tickets. Unless specifically requested by the visiting team, tickets will not be mailed, but will be picked up at the game site by the coach or his representative.

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

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

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

be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-arena video board.

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

## **CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP**

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

**Bench Area.** Each team will be provided at least 22 chairs in the bench area .Bench assignments will be based on seeding. [Revised: 10/21/22]

**Dates and Sites.** The Conference tournament will be conducted the week prior to the first round of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship and after the conclusion of the Conference regular-season schedule. The SEC Athletics Directors and Executive Committee must approve the sites and dates of the tournament. See [Supplement C](#) in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites.

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

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

**Seeding.** Teams will be seeded No. 1 through No. 14 in the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament bracket based upon the final regular season Conference standings. Teams that finished No. 1 through No. 4 in the final regular season standings shall receive first and second-round byes and teams that finish No. 5 through No. 10 will receive first-round byes in the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament. For seeding purposes, if an institution is precluded from participating in the tournament, such institution will automatically be seeded last. The No. 11 seed will then receive a bye. However, for the purpose of breaking ties, that team will remain where it finished in the regular-season standings before being seeded last.

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

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

**Team Expenses and Allowances.** Each participating institution will be provided a per diem of \$75 per day for 24 individuals. Each team will receive a two-day per diem, plus one per diem for each game played. In addition, a travel allowance of \$30 per mile (one-way) will be paid to each institution.

**Tickets.** The Tournament Ticket Committee (see Tournament Committees) shall develop tournament ticket policies and procedures for review and approval by the Athletics Directors each year. Tickets will be sold in book form for the entire tournament. During the week of the tournament, any remaining seats may be sold on a single session basis. No complimentary tickets will be provided for the tournament. Each institution shall notify the Conference office of its institutional ticket allotment, for which it is financially responsible, by mid-October of each year. The location of each institution's allotment will rotate on an annual basis (two sections clockwise each year). Each institution shall also purchase 140 additional lower level, side-court tickets for each session in which its team participates. Each institution participating in the tournament championship game shall purchase 150 additional tickets for such game.

[Revised: 6/3/16, 5/31/19]

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



