

COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS
2023-2024



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(Updated: August 1, 2023)

**GOVERNING CONFERENCE COMPETITION,
CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TOURNAMENTS**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

votes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

between innings, etc.).

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Definitions.**

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

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

3. **Guidelines.**

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

rules and regulations governing that particular sport.

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

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

Lightning Policy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE AWARDS PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

2023-24 INSTITUTIONALLY SPONSORED VARSITY SPORTS

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

* Denotes varsity sports not sponsored by the Conference

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP SITES BY SPORT (2023-2035)

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

SEC Squad Size Policies

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

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

Minimum Penalties for Violations of Specified NCAA Bylaws

Application of a Minimum Penalty

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

Relief from a Minimum Penalty

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – David Batson; Communications – Ben Beaty.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Administration. The administration of Conference regular-season and championship contests are governed by NCAA rules, except where these Commissioner's Regulations expressly supersede or conflict with NCAA rules.

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

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

1. **All-SEC Teams.** The First Team consists of the top finisher in each event. The Second Team consists of the second and third place finishers in each event. And for award purposes, ties are not broken.
2. **Runners of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. A Conference staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the Conference office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. Coaches may nominate their own athletes but may not vote for them on the final ballot.
3. **Field Event Athletes of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. A Conference staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the Conference office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. Coaches may nominate their own athletes but may not vote for them on the final ballot.
4. **Freshman Runners of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. A Conference staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the Conference office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. Coaches may nominate their own athletes but may not vote for them on the final ballot.
5. **Freshman Field Event Athletes of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. A Conference staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the Conference office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. Coaches may nominate their own athletes but may not vote for them on the final ballot.
6. **Coaches of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by a vote of the head coaches.
7. **Scholar-Athletes of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. One men's award and one women's award is presented annually for the sport of outdoor track and field.
8. **Community Service Teams.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. One men's team and one women's team is named annually for track and field, which includes the sports of cross country and indoor track and field, at the end of the outdoor track and field season.
9. **Track/Field Athletes of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Freshmen of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Coaches Committee. The coaches committee will be made up of the head coach from the championship host institution along with head coaches from two other institutions based off an alphabetical rotation. For 2024, the coaches committee will include Texas A&M, Vanderbilt, and Florida. A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

Coaches Meeting. Each head track and field coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting held in September at the Conference office. See also, SEC Bylaw 21.8.

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

Conference Championship. The Conference Champions (men and women) will be determined by a meet of all Conference institutions sponsoring a team. The championship will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling. Each institution sponsoring an indoor track and field team shall schedule teams from other Conference institutions at its own discretion during the regular season. [Revised: 8/10/22]

Reporting Meet Results. Results of field events shall be reported in both meters/centimeters and feet/inches. Public address announcements must be made in feet/inches and metrically. Any event performance indicator displays must be made in feet/inches and may include metric.

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

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Administrative Teleconference and Meeting. Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the championships to review policies and procedures. In addition, coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall attend a mandatory meeting the afternoon prior to the start of the championships to review additional information and procedures.

Championships Committee. The Committee shall be composed of the Meet Coordinator, the head referee, and the Conference sport administrator. In consultation with the Coaches Committee, its duties shall include:

1. Supervising the declaration of entries;
2. Heating and lighting the meet (the mechanics will be delegated to meet management after the start of competition); and
3. Serving as the final authority on all matters concerning the conduct of the championships, other than those handled by the referees and/or jury of appeals.

Clerking Schedule. The clerking schedule for each specific event shall be established by the field and event referees daily throughout the championship. *[Adopted: 10/4/18]*

Credentials. All credentials shall be issued according to a numbering system (or other comparable method) to ensure only appropriate individuals have access to specified areas.

Dates and Sites. The SEC Championships shall be held Thursday through Sunday two weeks prior to the NCAA Championships and as determined by the host institution. If an institution is unable to host during its scheduled year, notification must be given at least one year in advance at the annual coaches meeting. In this circumstance, the championships shall rotate to the next institution in sequence. The championships will be a three-day meet. See [Supplement C](#) in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites. *[Revised: 12/13/16]*

Electronic Devices. The host institution shall determine if electronic devices may be used in the warm-up area by student-athletes and coaches. The use of such devices in the competition area by coaches for communication regarding inclement weather or other event management matters shall be permitted.

Electronic Timing Procedures. Fully electronic time and photos will be official. Time will be recorded officially to the 1,000th of a second when needed. The finish evaluators will determine the results of each race from the photos. Two fully automatic, electronic timing devices should be used at the finish line and be independent of each other. In the event of a protest (pertaining to the reading of the picture), the meet referee and the two official evaluators will make the final decision. Total timing failure requires re-running the heat as decided by the running referee. In the combined events, when there is a discrepancy, the electronic photo and time may be used by the referee and head timer as a guideline in determining proper time for the competitor. Wind readings must be taken and recorded in all appropriate events.

Entry Information. Information regarding the online entry for rosters and declarations will be provided by the host institution at least a month before the event, and the declaration of entries must be made online. The declaration deadline will be at least two days prior to the start of the championships. A team may declare no more than 30 student-athletes per gender. Once declarations are made final, no student-athletes may be added to the competition or entered into any additional events. Performances used on the entry forms must have been achieved during the current outdoor season. No indoor or relay performances will be accepted. If an athlete has a performance standard for the event, it must be used. If there is no time standard available for seeding, the participant will be placed at the bottom of the list. Times used to declare athletes into the championships may only have wind readings of 4.0 and below. All competitors, including those in field events, must have a competition number. Every competitor must also have his/her year of eligibility listed on the entry forms. *[Revised: 11/18/15, 8/10/22]*

Events. The following events will be contested:

1. **Men's Events.**

100-Meter Dash	110-Meter Hurdles	Shot Put
200-Meter Dash	400-Meter Hurdles	Discus
400-Meter Dash	3000-Meter Steeplechase	Javelin
800-Meter Run	High Jump	Hammer Throw
1500-Meter Run	Long Jump	Decathlon

5000-Meter Run	Triple Jump	400-Meter Relay
10000-Meter Run	Pole Vault	1600-Meter Relay
2. <u>Women's Events.</u>		
100-Meter Dash	100-Meter Hurdles	Shot Put
200-Meter Dash	400-Meter Hurdles	Discus
400-Meter Dash	3000-Meter Steeplechase	Javelin
800-Meter Run	High Jump	Hammer Throw
1500-Meter Run	Long Jump	Heptathlon
5000-Meter Run	Triple Jump	400-Meter Relay
10000-Meter Run	Pole Vault	1600-Meter Relay

Format. Institutions may enter up to 30 individuals. Each institution may enter one relay team per relay event. The men's and women's championships will be scored separately, although they are conducted together at a common site.

Foul Camera Minimum Standards. To be eligible to host the Conference Championships, the host institution must meet the foul camera protocols set out in Supplement A.

Heating. Setting heats and flights will be done by the timing company and meet coordinator in accordance with the guidelines listed for each event. An initial draft of the heating and flighting will be reviewed by the coaches committee and championships committee prior to finalizing for distribution to head coaches. In any event that requires more than one heat; the fastest heat will be run last. A computer-generated rank order list should be provided and all Conference parameters for heating should be programmed into the computer. Heat sheets will be provided the evening on the day prior to the scheduled on-site coaches meeting and will include declared and seeded times. [Revised: 9/28/22]

Host Institution Responsibilities. In addition to the responsibilities set forth in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference office, the Championships Director and Championships Sports Information Director shall:

Championships Director Responsibilities:

- Obtain the following officials: two referees for track events; two referees for field and/or combined events; head umpire; three starters; head clerk, head marshal, implement inspector, and field judges for each field event. In addition, the director will obtain the remaining officials needed to conduct the meet. [Revised: 10/4/18, 12/20/18, 9/28/22]
- Serve as the administrator and supervisor of the Championships; and
- Oversee the support staff in the conduct of the Championships.

Championships Sports Information Director Responsibilities:

- Produce a championships program insert that includes the event schedule, championships personnel, and facts about the Championships;
- Coordinate credentialing for all media, which includes assigning and distributing credentials after ensuring all credentialed media have signed off on the SEC Media Policy;
- Prepare and distribute advance publicity for the Conference championship event;
- Provide information to local, regional and national media during the Championships;
- Supervise and coordinate media interviews and the media work area;
- Send each day's results to all other Conference schools and the Conference office/website;
- Write a general, unbiased summary following each day of competition and send to the Conference website;
- At the end of the championships, provide copies of the final results to the Conference office;
- Provide a photographer for the championships and awards ceremonies;
- Perform any other duties pertaining to the media aspect of conducting the event; and
- Work with the championship director as needed.

Official Party. Each participating team will be issued credentials for its official traveling party (e.g., athletes, coaches, managers, trainers, etc.). Each institution must notify the host of its traveling party size.

Officials. The Conference office shall identify, based upon an annual vote of the participating head coaches, a meet coordinator who will be responsible for executing meet operations for the Championship. Compensation for the

coordinator shall consist of \$1,000 per day, plus transportation, and lodging, all of which will be provided by the host institution. The host institution shall also be responsible for ensuring all officials are trained in accordance with Conference and NCAA rules. Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition. [Revised: 12/20/18, 9/28/22]

Order of Events. The order of events shall be approved at the annual head coaches meeting. The order shall not change, except in field events where the host institution may make modifications in the time schedule to accommodate a facility conflict. However, the host may not change the day of an event without prior approval of the head coaches. The direction of running and field events will be determined by the referees. The combined events schedule on Thursday and Friday may be modified by the championships committee if the number of entries warrants such action. When comparable men's and women's events are contested back-to-back, the women will compete first in even-numbered years, and the men will compete first in odd-numbered years, except in combined events, which shall be scheduled for men's combined events first on both days of the combined event competition, regardless of year. In the 10,000 meters and 3,000-meter steeplechase, the championships committee may adjust the start time, no less than four hours before the event is scheduled to begin, if there are student-athlete safety concerns related to the heat and humidity.

Practice. The facility must be available for practice the entire day before the championship event begins and each day of the championship until two hours prior to the start of the first event of the day. The host institution shall determine the practice schedule.

Preferred Lanes. Preferred lanes shall be sequenced as follows: [Adopted: 9/28/22]

1. **9-lane oval track:** 6-7-5-8-4-9-3-2-1
2. **8-lane oval track:** 5-6-4-7-8-3-2-1
3. **9-lane sprint straightaway:** 5-6-4-7-3-8-2-9-1
4. **8-lane sprint straightaway:** 4-5-3-6-2-7-8-1

Protests. If an athlete is disqualified, the head coach, or his/her representative, must be notified immediately by the meet referee of the disqualification. All protests must be filled (at the protest table) at once and no later than 15 minutes after notification or after the event results are posted, whichever is earlier. Inquiries may be made by a competitor to the head official for the event, but competitor's coach must file the official protest at the protest table within 15 minutes. All protests will be submitted to the referee, who will render a decision. If there is a tie to the 1,000th of a second, the Lynx system's camera angles from both sides of the finish line will be evaluated. [Revised: 10/4/18]

Video Evidence in Protests. The only official video permissible for use as evidence in protests shall be television footage and/or video supplied by the host institution, as determined by the host institution. Coaches must inform the head referee of their desire to access available video footage within the permissible 15 minutes. Official video available at field event site used for recording foot fouls may be viewed by the participating student-athlete immediately following the student-athlete's attempt in which a foot foul is called. [Revised: 9/28/22]

Results. All results of preliminaries, semifinals and finals must be posted in locations to which coaches and athletes have access. Results and pertinent information will be posted after each event. The official timing system will break ties for the last qualifying position to the 1,000th of a second. A run-off shall be conducted to break a tie to the 1,000th of a second in qualifying rounds for advancement in running events, and the head referee shall determine when the run-off is conducted.

Scoring. The scoring system shall be: 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1.

Seeding. NCAA Championship policies related to seeding and advancement shall be followed in all events. [Revised: 9/28/22]

Squad Size. Only 30 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference. [Revised: 7/10/20, 6/3/22]

Tickets. The host institution may decide whether to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, the ticket prices shall be set by the host institution but must be approved by the Conference office. In addition, if admission is charged, the host institution should make prior contact with each participating school to determine the form of payment and staffing for the player/guest gate. Institutions are not required to purchase a set

number of tickets.

Uniforms. All team members must wear the proper uniform of the institution they represent.

Vertical Jumps. In the men's and women's high jump, the opening height will be 10 centimeters lower than the championship participants' 8th best declared mark. In the men's and women's pole vault, the opening height will be 30 centimeters lower than the championship field participants' 8th best declared mark. *[Adopted: 10/10/19]*

Weighing Implements. A "Trackmaster" or comparable unit should be used. The time and site for weigh-in will be determined by the host institution. If an implement is on the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) list, it may be used in the Championships. This list will be provided by the host with the final meet information packet. A descending order list per event will be provided to coaches prior to the championships, and no later than the pre-event coaches meeting.

FOUL CAMERA PROTOCOLS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION**Cameras**

- **Camera Requirements.** If cameras will be used, they must be operational for all throw and horizontal jump competitions, including Combined Event competition. Meet management may not use cameras unless they will be used in all events.
- **Technical Requirements.** Enough cameras must be available to monitor all throw and horizontal jump competitions, including Combined Event competition. There must be two (2) memory cards available for each competition camera. Cameras must be high speed cameras and must be capable of shooting at 120 fps. Cameras with the capability of starting/stopping via remote control are greatly preferred. If cameras do not have this capability, then a minimum of three (3) memory cards must be available for each competition camera. The number of cameras to be used and camera positioning for each event are as follows.
 - **Javelin.** Two (2) cameras are suggested and must be positioned at opposite ends of the foul arc. A minimum of one (1) camera is required.
 - **Shot Put.** Two (2) cameras are required, and must be positioned at opposite ends of and just behind the stopboard.
 - **Discus.** Two (2) cameras are suggested and must be positioned at the 60- and 300-degree marks with respect to the throwing direction. Cameras must be distant enough so that they do not create a hazard to a thrower. A minimum of one (1) camera is required.
 - **Hammer.** Two (2) cameras are suggested and must be positioned at the 60- and 300-degree marks with respect to the throwing direction. Cameras must be distant enough so that they do not create a hazard to a thrower. A minimum of one (1) camera is required.
 - **Long Jump.** One (1) camera is required and must be positioned in line with the foul line on the side opposite the official's position.
 - **Triple Jump.** One (1) camera is required and must be positioned in line with the foul line on the side opposite the official's position. The operator must be prepared to move the camera if multiple takeoff boards are being used.

Camera Operators

- **Operator Assignments and Numbers.** A camera operator must be assigned to every event in which a camera will be used. This person must be trained in setup and operation of the cameras, including starting, stopping, and changing the memory card. This person must be present at the event for the entire duration of the event. Sufficient operators must be available so that if an event lasts longer than expected, camera usage protocols will not be affected.
- **Operator Instructions – Remote Control Cameras**
 - **Starting/Stopping and Recording.** The camera operator must start and stop each camera to capture each trial in a separate video file. In addition, the operator must, on meet issued scoresheets, write the identification number of the video file associated with each trial in the appropriate place on the sheet.
 - **Handling Protests.** In the event of a protest, the operator must perform the duties listed below.
 - **Fouls and Protests That Occur in a Flight that is Not the Final Flight or the Finals**
 - The operator shall indicate the protest, measurement, and competitors shoe color in the appropriate place on the scoresheet, in addition to the video file identification number.
 - The operator shall continue after the protest as before, but extract and replace the memory card at the end of this flight so that the referee can review the video during the time between flights.
 - **Fouls and Protests That Occur in the Final Flight or the Finals**
 - The operator shall indicate the protest, measurement, and competitors shoe color in the

appropriate place on the scoresheet, in addition to the video file identification number.

- The operator shall immediately extract and replace the memory card so that the referee can review the video immediately and any adjustments to the results can be made as early as possible.
- **Operator Instructions – Non-Remote Control Cameras**
 - **Starting/Stopping and Recording.** The camera operator must have available a set of competition scoresheets. The camera operator must start the camera at the beginning of the competition. The camera must be stopped at the end of each flight or final and started again at the beginning of the next flight or final so that only official attempts are recorded (i.e. no warmup trials are recorded).
 - **Handling Protests.** In the event of a foul and protest at any time, the operator shall indicate the protest, measurement, and competitor's shoe color in the appropriate place on the scoresheet. Also, at this time the memory card(s) must be extracted and replaced, so that the final trial on the video record is the trial in question.

Official Instructions

- **Marking All Trials.** Officials must mark (but not necessarily measure) each trial, legal or not.
- **Protest Opportunity.** Officials must hold the position of the mark on a fouled attempt for a reasonable time, during which a coach or competitor has the opportunity to express a verbal protest of the foul ruling.
- **Time Available for Protests.** A reasonable amount of time and opportunity to express a protest must be offered the athlete or coach. Generally speaking, when a long or triple jumper has proceeded back beyond the takeoff board after a trial, this protest opportunity may be considered complete. In a throwing event, when the thrower has left the ring or runway and proceeds beyond the immediate position of the officials towards the competitor's area, this protest opportunity may be considered complete.
- **Handling Protests.** In the event of a verbal protest by a competitor or coach, the fouled mark must be measured. The protest, the trial on which the protest takes place, and the measurement of the foul must be recorded apart from the official scoresheets. The referee must be notified immediately, and time allowances must be made for camera operators to perform their duties.
- **Official Protests.** The verbal protest alone does not constitute an official protest. Coaches must file formal written protests subsequent to the verbal protests. Referees should, whenever possible, view video evidence in advance of the receipt of the official written protest to facilitate smooth, uninterrupted competition. Officials must continue to operate as though no protest has occurred until the referee notifies them otherwise, with the exception of the situation noted below.
- **Handling Ensuing Competition.** In the event of such a protest in the trials, and while awaiting the referee's decision, officials must determine whether an upheld protest would alter the composition of the finals. If this is the case, the affected competitor will be allowed to compete in the finals until the protest has been ruled upon and the referee's action is taken. This competitor's seeding in the finals will be determined by the competitor's best legal mark, the protested trials measurement may not be used for seeding purposes.

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – Misty Brown; Communications – Jill Skotarczak; Officiating – Carlos Rodriguez

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

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

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

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Two weeks before the end of regular season, the Conference office will send out nomination forms for All-SEC voting, which are due back on Monday of Thanksgiving week. Ballots will be available online on the Friday following Thanksgiving and must be completed by 10 p.m. CT the next day (Saturday). All-SEC teams will be announced on the Sunday afternoon prior to the NCAA Selection Show. Institutions with first team All-SEC players are responsible for submitting nominations for AVCA All-Region selections.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined in the same manner as the All-SEC Team. This team will be voted on at the same time as the All-SEC Team. There will only be one team of seven for the All-Freshman Team. Student-athletes must be in their first year of collegiate eligibility to be eligible for the team.
3. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The recipient will be selected in a manner similar to that of the Coach of the Year. The institution with the Player of the Year is responsible for submitting a nomination for AVCA All-Region selections.
4. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The recipient will be selected in a manner similar to that of the Coach of the Year.
5. **Libero Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The recipient will be selected in a manner similar to that of Coach of the Year. The Libero Player of the Year must be a member of the All-SEC First Team. [Revised: 4/26/23]
6. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. The following criteria will be considered: success of the team; improvement of the team from the previous season; ability to use the talents of the team to the fullest, and professional manner and attitude. The institution with the Coach of the Year is responsible for submitting a nomination for AVCA All-Region selections.
7. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Players of the Week (Offensive, Setter, and Player).** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Bands and Cheerleaders. The band is allowed to play only during the pre-match, timeouts, and between games and matches. If the band is seated on the same side as the team benches, there should be at least 15 feet between the bench area and the first row of band seating. Cheerleaders must not be directly behind the opponent's team bench or on the end line of the opponent's side. Megaphones must never be turned toward the playing court. Cheerleaders also must not use amplified microphones and should remain silent between the whistle that initiates the serve and service.

Broadcast Personnel. When possible, institutional broadcast personnel should not be seated at the scorer's table, with the understanding that some facilities do not provide an option.

Camps/Clinics. An institution shall not conduct an institutional camp or clinic that involves prospective student-athletes from August 1 through December 31. [Adopted: 7/25/19]

Coaches Meeting. Each head coach shall attend the annual coaches meeting held in January at the Conference office. See also, SEC Bylaw 21.8.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with

Tennessee serving as the chair for 2024. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Conference Champion. The team with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared the Conference champion. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins, they will be declared Conference co-champions.

1. **Two-Team Tie.** In the event of a percentage tie between two teams for the Conference championship, the following criteria will be used in the following order to determine which team shall represent the Conference as its automatic qualifier in the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship:
 - A. Head-to-Head competition in Conference matches;
 - B. Number of sets won between the two teams;
 - C. Highest number of points scored between the two teams;
 - D. Number of Conference sets won;
 - E. Number of points scored in Conference matches; and
 - F. Coin toss conducted by Conference administrator.
2. **Three or More Team Tie.** In the event of a percentage tie between three or more teams for the Conference championship, the following criteria will be used in the following order to determine which team shall represent the Conference as its automatic qualifier in the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship (once the tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tie breaker procedure will be used):
 - A. Number of sets won between all the tied teams;
 - B. Number of points scored between all the tied teams;
 - C. Number of sets won in all Conference matches;
 - D. Number of points scored in all Conference matches; and
 - E. Coin toss conducted by the Conference administrator.

Equipment. Equipment that shall be provided in the visiting team locker room includes a dry-erase or chalkboard, towels and water. Prior to the start of the season, coaches will designate the brand of game ball that will be used for home matches. A minimum of 50 volleyballs, which must be of the same brand, quality, and PSI of the match ball, shall be made available to the visiting team for the pre-match practice. [Revised: 3/9/16]

Game Management. Fans should not be allowed to be seated close enough to the playing court that they can touch an athlete during play. Additionally, doors shall remain closed to the public until 60 minutes prior to the beginning of the match. The scorekeeper and libero tracker must be certified.

Line Judges. Line judges are part of the officiating crew and will be assigned by the Conference office. Coaches should evaluate the line judges, along with match officials, following each match on the officiating website.

Match Protocol. The following protocol will be used at all Conference matches during the regular season: [Revised: 3/9/16]

1. Only the starting players will be introduced. Player introductions may be no more than 5 minutes, except for Senior Day presentations;
2. The game clock shall start 99 minutes prior to first serve;
3. For conference matches only, there will be a 3-minute break at the end of each set. During the breaks the host may conduct an entertainment/promotional activity, if desired, subject to the following: [Revised: 6/8/17]
 - A. The court must be cleared with :30 remaining on the countdown clock,
 - B. The full court may be used for promotional activities only – not spirit squads,
 - C. If using the visiting team's side of the court, the home team side of the court must also be used, and;
 - D. Team huddles must be protected from errant ball/objects.
4. Unless otherwise noted in this section, NCAA championship pre-match protocol will be used. If there is a deviation from this protocol, the visiting team must be notified in writing at least one week prior to the match; and

5. Coaches will discuss on an individual match basis the protocol for the National Anthem and the introduction of the teams.

NCAA Automatic Qualification. The Conference champion will be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event of a tie for the Conference championship, the criteria set forth in the Conference Champion subsection above will be used to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship.

Officials.

1. The Conference office shall make the assignment of officials for all matches. Notification of game officials and all information pertaining to officiating can be found on www.spotfoul.com. Access to the website can be obtained by contacting Sylvia Hagan. The first referee must have a national rating (USVBA or NAGWS). Officials' uniforms for Conference matches shall be a collared white shirt, navy slacks and white shoes.
2. Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is absolutely prohibited. Comments on officiating are to be directed only to the Conference office. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed only to the Conference staff. Public airing of such matters by officials, coaches or institutional personnel serves no worthwhile purpose and is prohibited.
3. Films or videotapes shall not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating (e.g., the use of game films to produce clips for television or newspapers depicting officiating calls). No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches' radio and/or television shows.
4. Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone, and all matters pertaining to officials or officiating will be directed to the Conference staff only. Likewise, this policy will preclude officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.
5. The officials' dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up to include; 1) towels and soap, 2) chairs and a table, 3) soft drinks and water (in a cooler of ice), 4) sandwiches, fruit, or light snack following the match.
6. Absolutely no one shall be allowed access to the officials' dressing room without the permission of the Conference except; 1) officials assigned to the game, 2) the event manager, and 3) Conference staff.
7. 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.
8. Each official assigned to a competition is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to that competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition.

Postponed Matches. If a match is postponed for any reason, there will be a conference call with the two participating team coaches, the original officiating crew, and the Conference administrator to determine the protocol for re-scheduling the match.

Practice. [Revised: 3/9/16, 3/13/19]

1. A Conference visiting team shall have priority over a non-conference visiting team regarding practice times.
2. A Conference visiting coach must make arrangements with the host well in advance of the event.
3. The host institution shall confirm practice times for the visiting team at least five (5) days prior to the match.
4. The host institution shall accommodate a one-hour match day practice on the competition court with lighting at competition level prior to the start of the 99-minute pre-match protocol. If the host institution is unable to schedule match day practice on the competition court, the institution must provide written notice of the inability to utilize the competition court to the Conference office at least ten (10) days prior to the match.
5. Players, coaches, or non-essential match personnel from the host institution shall not be allowed on the court or in the seating bowl area of the arena during the visiting team's practice. [Adopted: 3/23/20]
6. An athletic training room should be available for the visiting team one hour prior to their practice time.
7. On football weekends, the host must provide specific instructions for parking and other pertinent matters to the visiting team.

Pre-Match Practice. *[Revised: 3/23/20]*

1. The competition area must be ready at least two hours prior to the beginning of the match to allow each institution a 30-minute warm-up segment. The home team shall be allowed the first 30-minute segment with the visiting team following thereafter.
2. The visiting team has the right to request that there be no music played during their 30-minute segment.
3. In the event of an uncontrollable circumstance that prevents the court from being available for the requisite two-hour time, the two teams must split the available time equally.
4. Teams are limited to one hitting line while the court is being shared.
5. The match will begin at the contractual time.
6. The home team shall supply at least 12 balls for warm-up. Ball-shaggers during the warm-up period should be reminded to extend the same courtesies to the visiting team as they do to the home team.

Public Address Announcer. Only the PA announcer may use the microphone. The announcer is responsible for whatever is said over the PA system. The primary function of the announcer is to give specific information to the fans, not to incite them by unnecessary inflection of voice. The public address announcer may display uniform commentary for both teams. Officials should be introduced by stating their name function (e.g., linespersons, first referee, second referee, etc.). Announce the location of all emergency exits prior to the start of the match.

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

1. The regular season Conference schedule shall consist of 18 matches in which each member institution sponsoring the sport shall play each other member institution sponsoring the sport at least once. The dates and sites of the Conference schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference. *[Revised: 6/23/21]*
2. Competition shall be conducted under NCAA and Conference volleyball rules and regulations.
3. Conference play shall begin on a Wednesday nine weeks prior to the NCAA First and Second Round matches and end the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Single matches on Sunday shall begin no later than 1p.m. (local time) if the team is traveling by commercial air, unless a later time is dictated by television. *[Revised: 6/23/21]*
4. Saturday matches played during the last week of the Conference season shall begin no later than 1:00 pm (local time).
5. Matches played in two back-to-back series shall begin no less than 20 hours between matches, unless both institutions agree. *[Adopted: 6/23/21]*

Squad Size. 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. *[Revised: 8/8/15, 7/10/20, 6/3/22]*

Statistics. The home team is responsible for recording AVCA recommended statistical information for both teams. The visiting team may provide one spotter for the purpose of improving the accuracy of data collection during the match. After each Conference match, the visiting coach should receive a copy of the official score sheet. The home stats crew must send a completed NCAA statistics form to each Conference institution and the Conference office on the first working day following the match. Score sheets and libero tracking sheets in triplicate will be provided by the Conference office. If possible, stat monitors will be provided near both team benches.

Strobe Lights. NCAA parameters for strobe lights will be used. The host institution sports information contact must inform the visiting team if strobe lights will be used during the match. The visiting team coach has the right to refuse the strobe lights being used.

Uniforms. For all Conference matches, the home team must wear the light uniforms and the visiting team must wear contrasting dark uniforms. Coaches will confer before arrival to confirm that light/dark is contrasting.

Video Exchange. The Conference operates with an open exchange policy. All schools must provide video of all matches to the other Conference programs. All teams shall use VolleyMetrics video sharing software as the primary means for transferring video of matches with the following guidelines: *[Revised: 3/9/16, 7/24/17]*

1. All Volleyball programs shall purchase a VolleyMetrics video sharing subscription, which will guarantee access to the open video exchange throughout the season;

2. VolleyMetrics will guarantee that each institution will have the possibility to install a camera in their facility. VolleyMetrics cameras will upload video for any home match automatically to the VolleyMetrics portal. Institutions that have a VolleyMetrics camera are still required to record a backup video on their own camera;
3. The video of each match is required to be uploaded to the corresponding match slot on the VolleyMetrics portal. The away team has no responsibility for uploading matches when playing at a participating team's facility, but when a neutral match is played, both teams share responsibility for uploading the video. *[Revised: 7/24/17]*
 - A. The video of each match must be uploaded to the corresponding match slot by two hours following completion of the match. Failure to adhere to the upload timeline will result in an institution being locked out of accessing any other matches (except the institution's own matches) until the match is uploaded. *[Revised: 6/23/21]*
 - B. Copies of each match scoresheet and final box score shall be uploaded to the corresponding match slot with the same deadline as video uploads. Failure to adhere to the upload timeline will result in an institution being locked out of accessing any other matches (except the institution's own matches) until the match is uploaded. Scoresheets and box score should be uploaded in picture or PDF format and as a single file. If the institution is using the VolleyMetrics computerized scoresheet system, the upload will happen automatically and the host school should simply verify the upload happened properly.
 - C. Programs will have access to each other's folders and participating non-conference programs within the VolleyMetrics Video Sharing program which will enable them to select and download any match they choose for the purpose of match preparation.
 - D. Due to these posting requirements, there will be no need for formal tape requests; video of all matches played by a school in a participating conference must be available to other teams in participating conferences through VolleyMetrics. Schools that are part of a participating conference will have access to each other's matches on the VolleyMetrics Portal, which will enable them to select and download any match they choose for the purpose of match preparation. Each week's matches will become available to other inter-conference exchange teams at 2 p.m. Pacific Time on Sunday.
4. All matches shall be filmed from a central position behind the end line. It is preferred that only the competition court and the head referee be in the frame. *[Revised: 7/24/17]*
 - A. Cameras shall be elevated so that the far end line is visible through the net.
 - B. All four corners of the court, the top of the antennae, and a few feet behind the near end line must be visible.
 - C. The camera should be positioned so that jersey numbers are legible; jerseys shall be a contrasting color.
 - D. The video should be High Definition quality (at least 720p at 1280 x 720).
 - E. The video should include sound.
 - F. The home team must be on the near side in the 1st set. The camera must remain in the same position and not switch sides as the teams change sides.
 - G. The camera should not be turned off at any time during the match, so that no video is omitted (i.e. video between rallies or sets).
 - H. If a facility does not provide a location to produce the required angle for video, the home team must provide the visiting team a feed in the home team's permanent camera.
5. It is permissible to exchange non-VolleyMetrics scout files (.dvw) between conference teams if it is agreed upon by both institutions.

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.

