2026-27
COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS



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2026-2027
COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS
(Effective: September 1, 2026)

GOVERNING CONFERENCE COMPETITION,
CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TOURNAMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

Access to Competition Area. In all sports, institutions shall limit access to the competition area to participating student-athletes, coaches, officials, support personnel, and properly credentialed or authorized individuals at all times. For the safety of participants and spectators alike, at no time before, during, or after a contest may spectators enter the competition area. Each member institution must provide security and uniformed law enforcement presence around each team and game officials before, during, and after the event to prevent contact with spectators. The area where teams and officials are dropped off and their path to/from team areas must be secure and not accessible to the public. In the event of a field or court rush, the use of uniformed law enforcement personnel and equipment (e.g., - rope, barricade, expandable tunnels) to secure a clear path off the playing surface for the visiting team and all team personnel (e.g. equipment managers), is required. If a field/court rush ensues, the visiting team shall forgo the post-game handshake line and immediately move inside the barricade and get to their locker room as soon as possible. Each institution shall be responsible for implementing procedures to ensure compliance with this policy. Institutional penalties against individuals improperly entering the competition area may include expulsion from the facility, arrest for trespassing, loss of future ticket privileges, or other measures deemed appropriate by institutional law enforcement and administration. Violators who are students must also be subject to institutional student disciplinary measures. The home institution is required to use the public address system during the final 10 minutes of a competition to remind spectators of the policy and the associated penalties. When a field/court rush ensues, the venue lighting levels must remain at full competition lighting until the visiting team has cleared the competition area. [*Revised: 6/2/23, 5/29/25*]

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. The communication plan must include a year-long marketing campaign communicating the policy, expectations, and penalties to students and fans. [*Revised: 5/29/25*]

Penalties for Institutional Violations. For the safety of participants and spectators alike, the Commissioner shall impose the following fines for any field or court rush that occurs when the visiting team and/or game officials are still on the playing surface. Funds generated through such fines shall be distributed to the involved opposing Conference institution or maintained by the Conference when involving nonconference opponents. 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. Any such plan shall be communicated to fans and the Conference office in advance. The Commissioner may (in his or her sole discretion) impose additional penalties as he/she deems appropriate. [*Revised: 5/29/25*]

1. The home institution will be assessed a fine of up to $500,000, paid to the opposing institution.
2. When fans rush the field/court prior to the completion of the competition, an additional financial penalty of $500,000 shall be assessed for the disruption of play.
3. The Commissioner may reduce the fine to $100,000 if the home institution can prove that a full attempt to prevent the field rush/court storm was instituted, few individuals breached the competition area and minimal interaction with the visiting team occurred.

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 for regular season events. Institutions that permit the sale of alcohol in a particular facility during the regular season may also permit the sale during a Conference championship which occurs in the same facility. 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, Revised 8/16/23*]

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);
   E. Volleyball (following a team winning two sets); and
   F. 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) An undergraduate 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. A graduate student-athlete must have a grade point average of 3.0 or above for either the preceding academic year (two semesters or three quarters) of graduate school enrollment or have a cumulative graduate school grade point average of 3.00 or above at the nominating institution. Undergraduate grade point average may not be included in the graduate point average calculation for a graduate student. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

      (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) An undergraduate 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. A graduate student-athlete must have successfully completed 18 semester or 27 quarter hours of academic credit toward a graduate degree at the nominating institution. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

      (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, men's soccer, women's 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, bowling , rifle, men's gymnastics – 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, lacrosse, beach volleyball, rowing, and STUNT – 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. In baseball, a nominee must have competed in 50 percent of the team's games at the time of the nomination deadline if a position player. Pitchers must have made at least 15 appearances OR pitched 35 innings. [*Revised: 12/2/25*]

   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 Regulations for each sport.

10. **All-Freshman Teams.** To be eligible for the All-Freshman Team, the nominee must have the maximum number of years of eligibility. Additional criteria for selection are outlined in the Regulations for each sport.

11. **Athletes of the Year.** Criteria for selection are outlined in the Regulations for each sport.

12. **Freshmen of the Year.** To be eligible for Freshman of the Year, the nominee must have the maximum number of years of eligibility. Additional criteria for selection are outlined in the Regulations for each sport.

13. **Newcomer of the Year.** To be eligible for Newcomer of the Year, the nominee must not be a Freshman and must not have previously competed in SEC competition. Additional criteria for selection are outlined in the Regulations for each sport.

14. **Coaches of the Year.** Criteria for selection are outlined in the Regulations for each sport.

15. **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.

16. **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. To be eligible for Freshman of the Week, the nominee must have the maximum number of years of eligibility.

17. **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.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall be painted in school approved colors on the playing surface as prescribed in the Branding Guide and each sport section below.

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 shall be provided educational material produced by the Conference office regarding Conference rules and regulations. Such material shall be provided prior to the new staff member engaging in any on or off-campus recruiting activity, and may be used to satisfy the Conference rules education requirement outlined in SEC Bylaw 13.1. [*Revised: 1/16/23, 5/30/24*]

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.

Public Comments and Communications Related to Officiating or an Opponent. This policy governs public comments and other communications related to officiating or an opponent in all SEC sports for which the Conference Office assigns game officials. Statements or other information-sharing on social media constitute public comments for purposes of this policy. [*Adopted: 8/16/23*]

1. **Communications with Officials.** No coach, student-athlete, or any other institutional staff member (except for game/event management personnel performing official functions) shall communicate with an official prior to, during, or after a game concerning any matter related to the game, except for discussions related to NCAA rules or as otherwise permitted by this policy. Additional details and requirements are set forth below:
    a. **Officials' Locker Room.** A coach, student-athlete, or other institutional staff member may not enter the officials' locker room. The only exception is for game/event management personnel performing official functions.
    b. **Communication with Officials on a Game Day.** A coach, student-athlete, or other institutional staff member may not communicate with an official while entering or exiting the competition field, court, or playing area, on the day of a game, except for (i) game/event management personnel performing official functions or (ii) brief social courtesies during an inadvertent encounter with an official. If, due to unusual circumstances, communication is necessary during halftime or other stoppage (e.g., a weather, medical, or equipment related stoppage), a head coach and other relevant institutional staff members may communicate with the officials if representatives from both participating teams are present.
    c. **Communication with Officials Outside the Context of a Game.** A coach, student-athlete, or other institutional staff member may not initiate contact or otherwise communicate with an official (either directly or indirectly) through any manner of communication outside the context of a game. Likewise, officials are prohibited from contacting coaches (either directly or indirectly) through any manner of communication outside the context of a game.
    d. **Duty to Submit Officiating-Related Matters to Conference Office.** All officiating related questions or complaints shall be directed only to the Conference coordinator of officials or a member of the Conference office.
    e. **Reporting a Violation.** Any alleged violation of this policy must be reported to the Conference office within 24 hours of the alleged violation.
2. **Verbal or Other Non-Physical Abuse.** A coach, student-athlete, and all other institutional personnel must always maintain proper respect for officials. Verbal or other non-physical abuse of an official is prohibited.

Examples of verbal or other non-physical abuse include, but are not limited to, profane, obscene, derogatory, threatening, or similarly inappropriate language or gestures. This prohibition applies to all game day locations (including on the playing field or court, bench area, tunnels, parking lots, and other venue passageways) before, during, and after a game.

3. **Public Criticism of Officials.** Public criticism of officials or the Conference officiating program is prohibited. This broad prohibition applies to comments or statements made by any coach, student-athlete, or other institutional staff member to the media or on social media. Examples of public criticism of the officiating include but are not limited to:
   a. **Criticism of Officiating-Related Decisions.** Comments regarding the quality of officiating, calls or no-calls, missed calls or no-calls, the Conference's officiating department and assignment process, an officiating crew, or an individual official.
   b. **Public Disclosure of Officiating-Related Communications.** Publicly divulging officiating-related communications, including communications with officials, the Conference office, or the Conference coordinator of officials.
   c. **Accusations of Bias.** Accusing an official of acting with bias or questioning the integrity of an official or the Conference officiating program.
   d. **Social Media.** Posting on social media negative or derogatory statements, or sharing other content on social media (e.g., a graphic or meme), regarding the officiating or an official including, but not limited to, (i) responding to or repurposing prohibited officiating-related content, or (ii) "liking," or expressing support for or otherwise drawing attention to, prohibited officiating-related content.
   e. **Implied or Indirect Criticism.** Implied or indirect criticism of the officials or the Conference officiating program, or similar innuendos, constitute a violation of this regulation.
4. **Confidentiality of Communications with the Conference Office.** As stated above in Section 2(d), comments and questions related to officiating must be directed only to the Conference office. The Conference office will respond to questions about officiating raised by head coaches and other relevant institutional staff members following review of each game. All such communications with the Conference office are confidential and must not be communicated or discussed publicly.
5. **Public Comments Related to an Opponent or Game Administration.** Any report or complaint related to (i) the unsportsmanlike acts or other problematic conduct of a coach, student-athlete, or other institutional staff member of an opposing school, or the allegation thereof, or (ii) the administration of any game involving an SEC school or student-athlete, must be directed only to the Conference office. All such reports or complaints are confidential and must not be communicated or discussed publicly.
6. **Audio/Video Material.** Audio/video material shall not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel to publicly criticize officiating (e.g., the use of game films to produce clips for television or newspapers, websites or social media depicting officiating calls or nocalls). Additionally, no reference to officiating-related matters shall be allowed on coaches' radio and/or television shows or on coaches' or schools' social media platforms.
7. **Publicity of Officials.** Sports information/communications personnel and coaches shall not make any reference to officiating-related matters in institutional press releases. Similarly, the list of assigned officials shall not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of the pre-game informational materials before a game, and any such materials shall not include reference to an official's hometown, contact information, or other personal information. Further, the names of the officials shall not be announced during pregame public address introductions.
8. **Violations of the Conference's Agreed Upon Expectations.**
   a. **Coach or Other Institutional Personnel.** Any coach or other institutional personnel who violates this regulation will be subject to appropriate accountability measures as determined by the Commissioner including, but not limited to, mandatory educational training, reprimand (private or public), financial fine, or suspension in the case of an egregious violation or multiple violations.
   b. **Student-Athlete.** Any student-athlete who violates this regulation will be subject to appropriate accountability measures as determined by the Commissioner including, but not limited to, mandatory

educational training, reprimand (private or public), or suspension in the case of an egregious violation or multiple violations. For clarity, a student-athlete who fails to comply with this policy will not be subject to a financial fine.

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 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.

SUPPLEMENT A

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE AWARDS PROGRAM

Sport	Team Awards	Individual Championship Awards	All-Conference Teams	Other Awards & Honors	Academic Honor Roll	Media Honors
Baseball	1 team award for the Conference Champion. 1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.	12 All-Tournament Team (trophy). 1 Tournament MVP (trophy).	18 First Team All-SEC (crystal award) 18 Second Team All-SEC (crystal award) 12 All-Freshman Team (crystal award) 9 All-Defensive Team (crystal award)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Pitcher of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Newcomer 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) Pitcher of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)
Men's Basketball	1 team award for the Conference Champion. 1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.	5 All-Tournament Team (trophy). 1 Tournament MVP (trophy).	5 First Team All-SEC (crystal award)* 5 Second Team All-SEC (crystal award)* 5 Third Team All-SEC (crystal award)* 5 All-Freshman Team (crystal award)* 5 All-Defensive Team (crystal award)* *Ties for the fifth spot must be broken to ensure a total of only five awards per team.	Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) 6th Man/Woman of the Year (trophy) Defensive Player of the year (trophy) Newcomer 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)

Women's Basketball	1 team award for the Conference Champion. 1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.	5 All-Tournament Team (trophy). 1 Tournament MVP (trophy).	10 First Team All-SEC (crystal award) 10 Second Team All-SEC (crystal award) 5 All-Freshman Team (crystal award) 5 All-Defensive Team (crystal award)*	Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) 6th Man/Woman of the Year (trophy) Defensive Player of the year (trophy) Newcomer 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 Cross Country	1 team award for the Conference Champion.	3 top place finishers for each event given medallions.	7 First Team All-SEC given to finishers 1-7 (crystal award) 7 Second Team All-SEC given to finishers 8-14 (crystal award) 7 Third Team All-SEC given to finishers 15-21 (crystal award) 7 All-Freshman Team (crystal award)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Runner of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Newcomer of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	Athlete of the Week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)

Equestrian	1 team award for the Conference Champion.	4 All-Championship Team (one per event) Most Outstanding Performers (16 – one per competition per day)	20 All-SEC (top 5 athletes in each event voted by the coaches) 20 All-Freshman Team (top 5 freshmen in each event voted by the coaches)	Coach of the Year (trophy) 4 Athletes of the Year (trophy) 4 Freshman Athletes of the Year (trophy) Newcomer of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	4 Athletes of the Month given to one athlete from each event (certificate)
Football	1 team award for the Conference Champion.	1 Championship MVP (trophy).	25 (number varies) First Team All-SEC (crystal award) 25 (number varies) Second Team All-SEC (crystal award) 25 (number varies) Third Team All-SEC (crystal award) 24 (number varies)All-Freshman Team (crystal award)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Offensive Player of the Year (trophy) Defensive Player of the Year (trophy) Special Teams Player of the Year (trophy) Newcomer of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	Offensive Player of the Week (certificate) Defensive Player of the week (certificate) Special Teams Player of the week (certificate) Offensive Lineman of the week (certificate) Defensive Lineman of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)

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 Men's Golf First Team All-SEC (crystal award) 10 Women's Golf First Team All-SEC (crystal award) 8 Men's Golf Second Team All-SEC (crystal award) 10 Women's Golf Second Team All-SEC (crystal award) 5 Men's Golf All-Freshman Team 8 Women's Golf All-Freshman Team (crystal award)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Newcomer 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. 1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion	3 top place finishers for each event given medals.	All-SEC Team given to the top four scores (including ties) on each event and in the All-Around competition in the first session and the second session of the SEC Championships (crystal award) All-Freshman Team given to the freshman student-athletes with the top score (including ties) on each event and the top two scores (including ties) in the All-Around competition in the first session and the second session of the SEC Championships.(crystal award)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Gymnast of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Newcomer 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)

Rowing	1 team award for the Conference Champion.		All-SEC Team shall consist of Nine (9) members of the 1st place boat, five (5) members of the 2nd place boat, three (3) members of the 3rd place boat, and one (1) member of the 4th place boat.	Coach of the Year (trophy) Rower 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)	Rowing Athlete of the Week Freshman of the Week
Women's Soccer	1 team award for the Conference Champion. 1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.	11 All-Tournament Team (trophy). 1 Tournament MVP (trophy).	13 First Team All-SEC (crystal award) 13 Second Team All-SEC (crystal award) 13 Third Team All-SEC (crystal award) 13 All-Freshman Team (crystal award)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Forward of the Year (trophy) Defender of the Year (trophy) Midfielder of the Year (trophy) Goalkeeper of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Newcomer of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	Offensive Player of the week (certificate) Defensive Player of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)
Softball	1 team award for the Conference Champion. 1 team award for the Conference Tournament Champion.	11 All-Tournament Team (trophy). 1 Tournament MVP (trophy).	24 First Team All-SEC (crystal award) 24 Second Team All-SEC (crystal award)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Pitcher of the Year (trophy)	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	Player of the week (certificate) Pitcher of the week (certificate)

			9 All Defensive Team (crystal award)	Freshman of the Year (trophy) Newcomer of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)		Freshman of the week (certificate)
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 2nd and place winner in each event (crystal award) Third Team All-SEC given to 3rd 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) Newcomer Swimmer of the Year (trophy) Newcomer 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) Newcomer 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 2nd place finisher in each event (crystal award) Third Team All-SEC given to 3rd place finisher in each event who is not on the First or Second Team (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) Newcomer Runner of the Year (trophy) Newcomer 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 2nd place finisher in each event (crystal award) Third Team All-SEC given to 3rd place finisher in each event who is not on the First or Second Team (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)	Same criteria for all sports (certificate)	Track Athlete of the week (certificate) Field Athlete of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)

				Newcomer Runner of the Year (trophy) Newcomer Field Athlete of the Year (trophy) Scholar-Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)		
Volleyball	1 team award for the Conference Champion.	7 All-Tournament Team (trophy). 1 Tournament MVP (trophy)	16 First Team All-SEC (crystal award) 8 Second Team All-SEC (crystal award) 7 All-Freshman Team (crystal award)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Libero of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Newcomer 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) Offensive Player of the week (certificate) Defensive Player of the week (certificate) Setter of the Week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)

2026-27 INSTITUTIONALLY SPONSORED VARSITY SPORTS

	ALA	ARK	AUB	UF	UGA	UK	LSU	MISS	MSU	MIZ	OU	USC	UTN	UTX	TAM	VU	TOT
Number M/W Sports	9/11	8/11	9/12	9/12	9/12	10/12	9/12	8/10	7/9	9/11	10/11	9/12	9/11	9/12	9/11	6/11	
MEN'S																	
Baseball	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	**16**
Basketball	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	**16**
Football	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	**16**
Golf	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	**16**
Swimming	X	-----	X	X	X	X	X	-----	-----	X	----	X	X	X	X	-----	**11**
Tennis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-----	X	X	X	X	X	X	**15**
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	X	-----	**15**
Track – Outdoor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-----	**15**
WOMEN'S																	
Basketball	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	**16**
Equestrian	-----	-----	X	-----	X	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	X	-----	**4**
Golf	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	**16**
Gymnastics	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-----	-----	X	X	-----	-----	----	-----	-----	**9**
Women's Rowing	X	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	X	----	X	X	----	----	**4**
Soccer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	**16**
Softball	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-----	**15**
Swimming	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-----	-----	X	----	X	X	X	X	X	**13**
Tennis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	**16**
Track -- Cross Country	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	**16**
Track – Indoor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	**16**
Track – Outdoor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	**16**
Volleyball	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	**16**
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		X			**3**
Women's Bowling*																X	**1**
Men's Wrestling*										X	X						**2**
Men's Gymnastics*											X						**1**

* Denotes varsity sports not sponsored by the Conference

SUPPLEMENT C

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP SITES BY SPORT (2026-2035)

	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035
BASEBALL	Hoover, AL	Hoover, AL							
MEN'S BASKETBALL	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN						
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	Greenville, SC	Greenville, SC							
CROSS COUNTRY	Missouri	Vanderbilt	Oklahoma	Florida	Alabama	Georgia	Arkansas		
EQUESTRIAN	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	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA			
MEN'S GOLF	Sea Island Golf Club, St. Simons Island, GA**								
WOMEN'S GOLF	Pelican Golf Club, Bellair, FL**								
GYMNASTICS	Tampa, FL*	Tampa, FL*	New Orleans, LA**						
ROWING	Oak Ridge, TN*								
SOCCER	Pensacola, FL*	Pensacola, FL*							
SOFTBALL	Madison, AL								
SWIMMING/ DIVING	Texas	Georgia	Texas A&M	Tennessee	Texas	Georgia	Texas A&M	Tennessee	Texas
MEN'S TENNIS	Vanderbilt	Texas	Kentucky	Tennessee	Oklahoma	Georgia	MSU	Florida	Ole Miss
WOMEN'S TENNIS	LSU	Missouri	Texas A&M	Vanderbilt	Texas	Tennessee	Oklahoma	South Carolina	MSU
INDOOR T/F	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Arkansas
OUTDOOR T/F	Georgia	Texas A&M	Vanderbilt	MSU	Missouri	Oklahoma	Auburn	Texas	Florida
VOLLEYBALL	Savannah, GA	Savannah, GA							

**Contract Pending* ***Year-to-year agreement*

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 limits below apply to Conference Championship competition only and are not applicable to NCAA Championship competition.
Baseball	Only 34 athletes may travel and participate in a Conference series. The 34 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 dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities.	Only 34 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 17 athletes may travel and only 15 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may 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 14 women's/12 men's athletes may travel and only 12 women's/10 men's may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may 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	***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 or overnight lodging 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.) ***Visiting Team -*** The visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 74 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. ***Neutral Sites*** - The squad size limit for neutral site games (no more than one game annually) is 74 travel-eligible student-athletes for both participating teams. A student-athlete who has suffered a season ending injury and will no longer participate may travel without counting towards the participating team's limit. ***Junior Varsity*** - The squad size for junior varsity teams is 55 eligible student-athletes.	85

Golf	Only 8 athletes may travel and only 6 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may 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 20 athletes may travel and only 18 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may 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.
Rowing	Only 44 athletes may travel and only 42 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities.	Only 42 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in the 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 26 athletes may travel and only 24 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may 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 25 athletes may travel and participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities.	Only 25 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 athletes may travel and only 22 may participate in a Conference contest, except a home team may allow "exhibition" participants. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may 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 12 women's/11 men's athletes may travel and only 10 women's/9 men's athletes may participate and participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities.	Only 10 women's/9 men'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-match activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.
Track – Indoor	Only 29 athletes may travel and only 27 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may 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 32 athletes may travel and only 30 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may 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 20 athletes may travel and 18 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-match 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-match activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference.

Minimum Penalties for Violations of Specified NCAA Bylaws

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

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

Impermissible activity by noncoaching staff member (NCAA Bylaw 11.7.1.1 and 11.7.6)
The involved institutional staff member shall be prohibited from attending all countable and required athletically related activities involving student-athletes (e.g. practice, competition, and team meetings involving student-athletes) for a seven-day period.

Contact with a prospect prior to the first permissible date (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.1, 13.7.1)
- The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any recruiting for 14 calendar days.
- In-person contact (on or off campus) with the involved prospective student-athlete shall be prohibited for 90 days following the first permissible date for in-person contact.
- The institution shall be limited to one off-campus contact per academic year with the involved prospect.

Contact with a prospect during an evaluation or quiet period after the first permissible date. (NCAA Bylaws 13.02.5.2 and 13.02.5.4)
- The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any recruiting activity for 7 calendar days.
- In-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 30 days following the discovery of the violation.
- Telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 14 days.
- The institution shall be limited to one off-campus contact per academic year with the involved prospect.

Contact with a prospect during a dead period after the first permissible date. (NCAA Bylaw 13.02.5.5)
- The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any recruiting activity for 14 calendar days.
- In-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 90 days.
- Telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for 60 days.
- The institution shall be limited to one off-campus contact per academic year with the involved prospect.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – Matt Boyer; Communications – Ben Beaty; Officiating – Paul Guillie

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Action Clocks. The following procedures shall be utilized during Conference competition to improve the pace of play by using at least one visible on-field timer. These procedures shall also be utilized for all non-conference contests, unless the opposing non-conference opponent objects before the start of the contest, in which case the game shall be played consistent with NCAA playing rules. [*Adopted: 11/2/22, Revised: 1/9/23, Revised 1/20/25*]

1. **Between Batters Clock.** A 30-second timer shall start at the conclusion of the prior play as indicated by the ball being in the possession of the pitcher in the proximity of the mound. In the event the batter/runner ends an at bat on second base and needs to hand protective equipment to a coach, the timer should start when the batter-runner hands his equipment to the coach. NCAA rules regarding the stop and enforcement of the pitch clock shall apply (e.g. pitcher must begin motion to pitch prior to expiration of the clock and hitter must be alert to the pitcher with 8 or more seconds remaining).
2. **Mound Visit Clock.** A 30-second timer shall begin when a coach exits the dugout or when a defensive player leaves their position to visit the pitcher's mound. The home plate umpire shall proceed to the mound when the timer reaches nine (9) seconds. Unless the coach signals for a pitching change, the coach must leave the mound when (or before) the timer expires. If the coach has not left the mound or signaled for a pitching change by the time the clock expires, the umpire shall break up the visit and direct the coach back to the dugout or to signal for a pitching change. If a coach does not immediately leave the mound or signal for a pitching change upon being directed by the home plate umpire, a warning shall be issued for a first offense with a ball automatically awarded to the batter for any subsequent offense. The mound visit clock shall not operate when a doctor or trainer accompanies a coach to evaluate a bona fide medical issue. Upon expiration of the clock, the 20-second NCAA pitch clock shall commence.
3. **Pitching Change Clock.** A 2:30 (2 minutes and 30 seconds) timer shall begin when a new pitcher who is entering the game, either at the start of an inning or as part of a mid-inning pitching change, crosses the warning track (or otherwise leaves the bullpen area if the bullpen is on the playing field). A pitcher warming in the bullpen must immediately leave the bullpen when signaled by the umpire. If the pitcher does not immediately leave the bullpen when signaled, the umpire shall signal for the timer to start. An entering pitcher may use the full 2:30 to throw warm-up pitches, but play must be ready to resume upon the expiration of the clock, at which point the 20-second NCAA pitch clock shall commence. [*Revised: 10/5/23*]
4. **Warm-Up Pitches**. The number of warm-up pitches a pitcher may throw between innings and during a pitching change shall be limited only by the prescribed time limits Between Innings (120 seconds) and Pitching Changes (150 seconds). [*Adopted: 1/31/24*]
5. **Offensive Timeout Clock.** A 30-second timer shall begin when an offensive timeout is granted by an umpire to a player or coach. The home plate umpire shall proceed to conclude the timeout when the timer reaches nine (9) seconds. Upon expiration of the clock, unless a substitution has been signaled, any visit must conclude and/or the batter must enter the batter's box. If the visit does not immediately conclude or the batter immediately enter the box upon being directed by the home plate umpire, a warning shall be issued for a first offense, with a strike automatically awarded to the batter for any subsequent offense. The offensive timeout clock shall not operate when a doctor or trainer accompanies a coach to evaluate a bona fide medical issue. [*Adopted: 10/5/23*]
6. **Umpire Authority.** The home plate umpire may direct the clock operator to start, stop, or reset the clock or otherwise overrule or correct the decisions or errors of the clock operator at any time is his/her sole discretion. The umpire may also determine whether or not to apply the penalties associated with expiration of the clock if the umpire determines in his/her sole discretion that the clock operator did not properly operate the timer under the circumstances. Such decisions by an umpire may not be appealed or reviewed by video review.
7. **Clock Operator.** A host institution shall assign an independent (e.g. non-institution affiliated) clock operator to operate the visible pitch clock and timers. The operator shall be provided with accommodations in the press box that provides a direct and unobstructed view of the playing field which shall be shielded from all public interference. The host institution shall also ensure that the operator is properly trained and educated on clock operations and shall ensure that the operator communicates with the umpiring crew no later than 30

minutes prior to the start of each contest during which emphasis should be placed on in-game communication (signals, etc.) from the field to the individual operating the clock.

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

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

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

1. **All-SEC Team**. The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The coaches shall select 18 players for the first team and 18 for second team (plus any ties). Each squad must consist of the following - a first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, shortstop, catcher, three outfielders, designated hitter/utility, four starting pitchers, three relief pitchers and the other top-two vote getters at any position. Each player receives two points for a first-team vote and one point for a second-team vote. The student-athlete with the most votes at each position will be named first-team All-SEC; while the next highest at each position will be named second-team All-SEC. The student-athletes selected for the designated hitter/utility positions must meet at least one of the following criteria; 1) play at least a total of 50 percent of the team's conference games at two or more positions, 2) play at least 50 percent of the team's conference games as the designated hitter, or 3) play at least 50 percent of the team's conference games at DH and a position. [*Revised: 9/27/18, 9/20/24, 12/2/25*]
2. **All-Freshman Team**. The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The coaches select 12 players for the team. The 12 student-athletes receiving the highest number of votes, regardless of position, will be named to the All-Freshman Team. [*Revised: 9/27/18*]
3. **All-Defensive Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
4. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Player of the Year during All-SEC process. The player they vote for must be listed on their first-team All-SEC team ballot. Each vote is worth one point.
5. **Pitcher of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Pitcher of the Year during All-SEC process. The player they vote for must be listed on their first-team All-SEC team ballot. Each vote is worth one point.
6. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Freshman of the Year during All-SEC process. The player voted for must be listed on the coach's All-SEC ballot. Each vote is worth one point.
7. **Newcomer of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by a vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Newcomer of the Year during the All-SEC process. The player voted for must be listed on the coach's All-SEC ballot. Each vote is worth one point. *[Adopted: 8/21/24*]
8. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote for Coach of the Year during All-SEC process. Each vote is worth one point.
9. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Community Service Team**. See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Player of the Week**. See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **Pitcher of the Week**. See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.
13. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.

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

Bat Testing. The regular season and the Conference tournament will be governed by a Barrel Compression Testing Protocol as regulated by the NCAA. For all Conference games, and all non-conference contests hosted or controlled by a member institution, testing shall occur at least one hour but not more than two hours prior to the scheduled start of each game (or first game of a double-header), and the crew chief shall be responsible for testing both team's bats (e.g., physically operating the barrel compression and ring testing devices and reviewing the bat for other defects). An administrator from the home team shall serve to observe the process, and only the crew chief, the administrator, and team personnel involved in administering the process may be present. Time and specific location within the playing facility for testing will be determined by the home team and must communicated by email to the crew chief and the visiting team no later than 48 hours prior to the first game of the series. Each institution shall be responsible for possessing and maintaining a ring testing device and barrel compression testing device, and the home team's devices will be used for testing during the regular season. A bat that fails testing shall be confiscated and removed from that day's contest(s) but may be re-tested the following day. [*Revised: 11/2/22, Revised: 10/5/23*]

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

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

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Ole Miss serving as the chair for 2026. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Commercial Advertisements on Playing Fields. Commercial marks or logos may not be displayed on the playing surface, including the grass, turf, and dirt in fair and foul territory or on the bases, except: [*Adopted: 11/6/24*]

1. **Foul Territory.** An institution may display up to three commercial advertisements in the dirt or grass area of foul territory: 1) between home plate and first base, 2) between home plate and third base, or 3) behind home plate. Such advertising marks and logos may be of any size and any color(s) but may not be placed above or beyond lines for the coaches' boxes. All advertisements must be sold and established on a season-long basis and may not be rotated during the season.
2. **Pitcher's Mound.** An institution may display one commercial advertisement in the dirt area on the back of the pitcher's mound. Such advertising marks and logos may be of any size and color but must be sold and established on a season-long basis and may not be rotated during the season.

Competition Area Lighting. Stadium light shows fall into the following categories: 1) full venue light coloring in which the game lights are dimmed and/or change colors, 2) game lighting remains while lights perform movement, including chase and flickering effects, or 3) lights out. The following outlines when these options can be utilized during a contest. Dugouts and bullpens must remain lit at all times, otherwise such lighting effects may not occur. [*Adopted: 1/31/24*]

1. **Pregame**. Lighting effects or lights out may occur during introductions and during periods in which no student-athletes are warming up on the field. Lights must return to competition level lighting prior to teams taking the field for first pitch.
2. **Following Home Runs**. Lighting effects may occur once the ball has landed and the umpire makes the call that it is a home run. Lights must be concluded before the batter touches home plate.
3. **Pitching Changes**. Lighting effects may occur when a new pitcher takes the field. Lights must return to competition level lighting once the pitcher takes the mound/circle.
4. **Postgame**. Lighting effects or lights out may occur once all student-athletes and officials have cleared the field.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and

apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.

2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall be painted in school approved colors either on the field, on the backstop, or on interior outfield walls.

Conference Championship/Tournament. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

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

2. There will be a Conference tournament at the conclusion of the Conference regular season to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. The Conference tournament will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

Double Base. Institutions shall utilize a green double base at first base for all home and neutral site games controlled by the institution. [*Adopted: 11/6/24*]

Dugouts. During a game, no one except players in uniform, coaches, managers, trainers, physicians, scorekeepers and bat persons shall occupy a team's dugout. The visiting team shall have the right to utilize its choice of isotonic beverage (product and equipment) in the dugout area during Conference regular season competition. If the visiting team does not arrange to have its own product and equipment at a contest, the home team shall supply the isotonic beverage (product and equipment) of its choice in the visiting team dugout area. Equipment utilized in the visiting team dugout area must be standard size.

Electronic Signaling Devices. Institutions may use a Conference approved electronic signaling device for defensive purposes only. The use of such signaling devices on offense shall be strictly prohibited. A participant found to be using such a device on offense shall be ejected immediately. [*Adopted: 11/6/24*]

Foul Poles. Foul poles shall be painted fluorescent yellow and should be at least 45-48 feet in height. Commercial advertising may be displayed on the poles, but any graphics shall not be white or any other color or design that may complicate an umpire's evaluation of a fair/foul call. [*Adopted: 11/6/24*]

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

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

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

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

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

to the NCAA Championship.

Officials. The Conference office will assign umpires for all home Conference and non-conference contests, and any contest specified by contractual agreement with a Conference institution. [*Revised: 8/18/15*]

1. Each institution shall provide a dressing room for umpires closely located to the baseball facility. Admittance to this room shall be limited to game officials and conference office representatives. No guests, visitors or institutional personnel (other than a trainer or manager upon request) shall be admitted. The officials' dressing room shall be set up with towels and soap, soft drinks and water and cups.
2. Once the line-up cards are exchanged at home plate, the umpires will then have all authority for cancellation or postponement due to weather. The crew chief will make the decision with input from the other umpires, coaches and game management director.
3. *Compensation* – Payment of the game officials will be handled by a conference-developed pay system. Each institution will be invoiced for their share of the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials. The Conference office and Athletics Directors shall set the fees and travel/expense policies. *[Revised: 6/3/16]*
4. *Tickets* – Each official assigned to a game is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to that game. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the game.
5. Four umpires shall be assigned to each Conference and non-Conference regular season contest. *[Revised: 6/3/16]*

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

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

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

1. Once the pitcher takes his place on the rubber, there shall be no P.A. announcements, music or other amplified sounds.
2. Once the hitter takes his place in the batters' box, there shall be no P.A. announcements, music or other amplified sounds.
3. The P.A. system is allowed to utilize encouraging music, supportive sounds and other positive P.A. responses between pitchers and hitters assuming their ready positions. Also, these actions are allowable after a play in the field, a hit ball or other plays that occur in a game.
4. At no time shall music, sounds or announcements on the P.A. be made that will incite or reflect negative actions towards players, coaches or umpires.

5. It is recommended that the host team's game management director, prior to the first game of a series (or game), meet with the umpire crew chief in the umpires dressing room. At this time, the game management director has an opportunity to preview the program, to be utilized during the game. If the material is deemed inappropriate at this time, it can be altered prior to the beginning of the game.

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

Regular Season Competition/Inclement Weather. [*Revised: 10/5/23*]

A. Friday through Sunday Series

1. Game Times
   A. The home team shall establish the starting time for all games, unless dictated by television. Friday games shall start no earlier than 6 p.m. local time, unless approved by the Conference office. Sunday games shall start no later than 2 p.m. local time unless dictated by television.
   B. If the visiting team is utilizing air travel and has a set departure time, a Sunday game shall start no later than 1 p.m. local time unless dictated by television.
2. General Guidelines.
   A. Each game shall be scheduled for nine innings and shall be played to at least nine innings unless dictated by inclement weather, visiting team departure constraints, or the ten-run rule.
   B. If a game is postponed on Friday or Saturday due to inclement weather, the game shall be completed from the point of interruption on the following day prior to the regularly scheduled game.
   C. A team may not stay over to Monday to start or complete a Conference game or series, except on the final weekend of the regular season, if necessary.
   D. Institutions shall utilize best efforts to ensure every scheduled contest is played to its conclusion.
   E. The home institution's Athletics Director (or his/her designee) 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 or another time on another date within the scheduled series. Once a contest has started, the decision to suspend play is the responsibility of the umpires.
   F. The authority to cancel a contest is vested only with the Commissioner (or his/her designee).
3. Televised Games Affected by Weather
   A. If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised on a linear network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
   B. If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised on a linear network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
   C. A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on the SEC Network Alternate Channel or on SEC Network+.
4. Length of Games [*Revised: 12/2/25*]
   A. All games shall be scheduled and played to at least nine innings unless dictated by inclement weather, visiting team departure constraints, or the ten-run rule.
   B. If a postponed game is unable to be completed because of inclement weather and has reached official game status (five innings or more per NCAA Rule 5.8), it shall be declared a game.
5. Restart Times

A. In the event of rain on Friday or Saturday, no game may start after 10:00 p.m. local time or resume after midnight local time.

B. In the event of a rain-delay prior to the beginning of play on Sunday, the game must begin at least two hours and thirty minutes prior to the visiting team's scheduled departure time from the field (if necessary), otherwise, no game may start after 10:00 p.m. local time or resume after midnight local time. No games will be continued to Monday. [*Revised: 10/10/19, Revised: 11/2/22, Revised: 10/5/23*]

6. Travel Considerations/Departure Times

A. A visiting team traveling via commercial flight shall make arrangements to travel on the last scheduled flight on the last day of a series. Prior to the start of each series, the visiting team shall notify the home team of any anticipated departure time issues.

B. In all instances, departure time takes priority. A team may not stay over until Monday to begin or complete a game or series.

C. If a contest is called due to travel arrangements, the following procedures shall apply

a. No inning shall start with less than 60-minutes remaining until the designated departure time. [*Revised: 4/18/23*]

b. If the contest is called and is a regulation game according to NCAA Rules, including if the game is a regulation tie, the contest and all statistics shall count in the final record.

c. If the contest is called prior to reaching regulation status under NCAA Rules, the game shall be considered "No Game".

7. Authority to Play Doubleheaders

A. Approval of a prospective Saturday doubleheader shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on Sunday. [*Revised: 10/10/19*]

B. Approval of a prospective Friday doubleheader will be granted by the Conference Office only if there is a chance of rain of 80 percent or higher according to weather.gov for both Saturday and Sunday as of no earlier than 5 p.m. local time on Thursday and it is agreed upon by both head coaches. [*Adopted: 10/10/19*]

C. Doubleheaders shall be scheduled as two, nine inning games.

B. Thursday through Saturday Series

1. Game Times

A. The home team shall establish the starting time for all games, unless dictated by television.

2. General Guidelines.

A. Each game shall be scheduled for nine innings and shall be played to at least nine innings unless dictated by inclement weather, visiting team departure constraints, or the ten-run rule.

B. If a game is postponed on Thursday or Friday due to inclement weather, the game shall be completed from the point of interruption on the following day prior to the regularly scheduled game.

C. On Saturday, all curfew times shall be waived in order to complete the game on Saturday. No game or portion of a game may be moved to Sunday.

D. Institutions shall utilize best efforts to ensure each scheduled contest is played to its conclusion.

E. The home institution's Athletics Director (or his/her designee) 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 or another time on another date within the scheduled series. Once a contest has started, the decision to suspend play is the responsibility of the umpires.

F. The authority to cancel a contest is vested only with the Commissioner (or his/her designee).

3. Televised Games Affected by Weather

A. If a game is postponed on Thursday, and the regularly scheduled Friday game is televised on a linear network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Friday game at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is

resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.

B. If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by on a linear network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.

C. A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on the SEC Network Alternate Channel or on SEC Network+.

4. Length of Games [*Revised: 12/2/25*]

A. All games shall be scheduled for nine innings and shall be played to at least nine innings unless dictated by inclement weather, visiting team departure constraints, or the ten-run rule.

B. If a postponed game is unable to be completed because of inclement weather and has reached official game status (five innings or more per NCAA Rule 5.8), it shall be declared a game.

5. Restart Times

A. In the event of rain on Thursday or Friday, no game may start after 10:00 p.m. local time or resume after midnight local time.

B. On Saturday, all curfew times will be waived in order to play the game on Saturday. No games will be continued to Sunday for the first nine weeks of the conference season, however, teams can stay over until Sunday to get the game completed on Saturday. On the final weekend of the conference season, if a game is postponed or interrupted on Saturday and weather does not allow its completion, the participating teams shall stay over until Sunday to play or complete the postponed or interrupted game if its outcome may affect the seeding of the SEC Tournament and/or the regular season Conference Champion. [*Revised: 2/5/18*]

C. In the event of a rain-delay prior to the beginning of play on the final Sunday of the season (if necessary), the game must begin no later than 4:00 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game. If the game begins and is delayed (Sunday game), it must resume by 6:00 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game.

6. Travel Considerations/Departure Times

A. A visiting team traveling via commercial flight shall make arrangements to travel on the last scheduled flight on the last day of a series. Prior to the start of each series, the visiting team shall notify the home team of any anticipated departure time issues.

B. In all instances, departure time takes priority. A team may not stay over until Sunday to begin or complete a game or series.

C. If a contest is called due to travel arrangements, the following procedures shall apply

i. No inning shall start with less than 60-minutes remaining until the designated departure time. [*Revised: 4/18/23*]

ii. If the contest is called and is a regulation game according to NCAA Rules, including if the game is a regulation tie, the contest and all statistics shall count in the final record.

iii. If the contest is called prior to reaching regulation status under NCAA Rules, the game shall be considered "No Game".

7. Authority to Play Doubleheaders [*Revised: 10/5/23*]

A. Approval of a prospective Friday doubleheader shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on Saturday, and may be granted by the Conference office no earlier than Thursday afternoon.

B. Doubleheaders shall be scheduled as two nine inning games.

C. Other

1. Authority to Rule on Game Stoppage. The umpire-in-chief has sole authority to suspend, postpone, or cancel

the game if conditions become unfit for play.

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

Regular-Season Schedule. Regular-season competition and scheduling are subject to the following: [Revised: 10/5/23]

1. Each institution will play a 30-game Conference schedule. This schedule will include ten three-game series between two established permanent opponents and a rotation amongst the remaining teams. The dates and sites for the 30-game Conference schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference.
2. Conference series will be played with single games on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, unless the stadium does not have lights, and in which case there will be two games on Saturday and a single game on Sunday. The final Conference series of the season shall be played with single games on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, unless the stadium does not have lights, and in which case there will be two games on Friday and a single game on Saturday. Up to two series per weekend may be selected by television to be a Thursday-Saturday series.
3. For regular season contests scheduled by the Conference, when the visiting team will be on spring break during the weekdays immediately prior to a series, the participating teams may mutually request the series begin on Thursday and conclude on Saturday. Revisions to a Conference schedule that are associated with spring break require the approval of the Commissioner.

Rosin Bags. For all Conference contests, institutions shall utilize a Conference approved rosin product, which shall be the only rosin that may be used by pitchers during a game. To ensure that rosin bags have not been tampered with, the host institution shall submit the rosin bags to the umpires before the start of each Conference game for inspection. The umpires shall then be responsible for placing the bags behind the pitcher's plate prior to the start of each game. A new set of rosin bags shall be used for each Conference series. [*Adopted: 11/6/24*]

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

Squad Size. Only 34 athletes shall be allowed to travel and participate in a Conference series. The 34 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 dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities. [*Revised: 10/4/18, 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 11/20/24, 5/29/25, 12/2/25*]

Student-Athlete Availability Reporting. Institutions shall disclose student-athletes' availability to participate in all Conference contests via standardized Availability Reports as set forth below. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]

1. **Initial Reporting.** An institution shall issue an initial Availability Report report by no later than 7:00 pm CT/8:00 pm ET on the night prior to a contest, unless the institution participated in a contest on the day prior, in which case reporting on the day of the contest shall occur by 11:00 am local time or two hours prior to the scheduled start time, whichever is earlier. An institution is not required to issue an Availability Report prior to the second game of a doubleheader.
2. **Designated Statuses Prior to Game Day.** If an institution has knowledge that a student-athlete may not participate in a contest for any reason (e.g. injury, illness, suspension, ineligibility, personal matter, etc.), the institution shall designate the student-athlete's participation status on any Availability Report issues prior to game day as follows:
   a. Out (i.e., will not play/0% chance to play);

b. Doubtful (i.e., unlikely to play/25% chance to play);

c. Questionable (i.e., uncertain to play/50% chance to play); or

d. Probable (i.e., probable to play/75% chance to play).

e. An institution must also affirmatively designate a student-athlete as Available (i.e., will play/100% chance to play) in instances in which a student-athlete previously appeared on an Availability Report for a contest but is subsequently expected to participate. Any student-athlete who does not appear on an institution's Availability Report shall be regarded as Available, unless the student-athlete is designated as exempt.

3. **Exemptions.** An institution is not required to include a student-athlete in an Availability Report if the student-athlete is not expected to participate in games (e.g., a redshirt student-athlete who does not dress) or if the student-athlete infrequently participates in minimal competition (e.g., the final minutes of a game no longer in contest). When an institution is in doubt about whether a student-athlete may be exempt per this policy, the institution should err on the side of transparency and include a student-athlete in its Availability Report.

4. **Game Day Reporting.** On game day, an institution must issue an updated Availability Report no later than two hours prior to the scheduled start time, unless the institution participated in a contest on the day prior, in which case standard reporting shall occur by 11:00 am local time or two hours prior to the scheduled start time, whichever is earlier. The only designated statuses on the game day report shall be:

   a. Available (i.e., will dress for the game and be available to play);

   b. Game Time Decision (i.e., coaches and/or medical personnel need to evaluate the student-athlete in pre-game warmups before deciding whether he can participate in the game). [Note: Instances of a student-athlete being designated as a Game Time Decision must be kept to a reasonable minimum, and any excessive use of this designated may trigger a review and additional penalties by the Commissioner.]; or

   c. Out (i.e., not dressing or available for the game).

5. **Duty to Act in Good Faith.** Institutional personnel shall act in good faith to comply with this policy. Acts of gamesmanship intended to hide a student-athlete's participation status for competitive or strategic reasons are prohibited. Any other conduct that be construed as misleading or creating confusion as to a student-athlete's participation status is also prohibited. An institution must take extra precautions to act in good faith to accurately disclose the status of a high-profile student-athlete.

6. **Duty to Avoid Surprise.** An institution must avoid a surprise (i.e., a sudden and drastic change in a student-athlete's participation status) absent extenuating circumstances (e.g., an unexpected illness or injury), and must take extra precautions to avoid a surprise in regard to a high-profile student-athlete's status. An institution must make a reasonable effort to progress a student-athlete through the designated statuses in a gradual manner leading up to a contest (e.g. a student-athlete is not updated from Out directly to Available). If a student-athlete has any chance to play in a scheduled contest, he/she shall not be listed as Out and, at a minimum, must be listed as Doubtful on an initial report.

7. **Duty to Avoid Inconsistent Comments.** Institutional personnel shall not make public comments (including on social media) regarding a student-athlete's availability that are inconsistent with the student-athlete's status on an Availability Report.

8. **Submission.** An institution's Availability Report must be uploaded to an online hub on the conference's website. The Availability Report for both participating teams shall be made publicly available at the same time. Each institution shall designate one primary and one secondary inputter who shall be responsible for inputting information into the hub. A Head Coach, Sports Information Director, and Head Athletic Trainer, shall be jointly involved in satisfying these requirements, with the Head Coach maintaining ultimate responsibility for compliance with the policy.

9. **Enforcement.** The conference office shall possess the authority to investigate potential violations of this policy which shall include (but is not limited to) the ability to interview relevant student-athletes and personnel and review relevant materials (e.g., practice plans, practice film, etc.). Institutional personnel shall fully cooperate with this process. An institution who believes it was placed at a competitive disadvantage as a result of an opponent's alleged violation of this policy shall have until 1:00 p.m. CT / 2:00 p.m. ET on the

day after a contest to provide relevant information supporting such contention to the conference office.

10. **Penalties.** Failure to provide accurate and timely information on an Availability Report will subject the offending institution, and, if appropriate, the offending head coach, to accountability measures which shall be applied at the Commissioner's discretion and may include private or public reprimands, fines, or other action. Measures other than financial penalties (e.g., a warning and/or continuing education for relevant institutional personnel) may be imposed in instances in which a violation did not materially impact competition or the violation resulted from an inadvertent mistake, and such incidents shall not count towards the progressive system for financial penalties.

11. **Prescribed Financial Penalties.** In instances in which a financial penalty is deemed appropriate, the following penalty schedule, which shall reset on an annual basis, shall apply to the offending institution, subject to adjustment based upon circumstances such as competitive impact, repeat violator status, etc.):
    a. First Offense: Up to a $15,000 penalty
    b. Second Offense: Up to a $20,000 penalty
    c. Third Offense and Any Successive Offense: Up to a $25,000 penalty

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

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

Uniforms. All student-athletes must wear numbers on batting practice tops. [*Adopted: 12/13/16*]

Video Boards/Replays. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

1. **Replays.**-Video replays may be shown on an in-stadium video board from the end of a play until the beginning of the next play, except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. Video from the official video review system may not be shown during a replay, except during an official video review. Under no circumstance may the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-stadium video board.
2. **Official Video Review.** When a stoppage occurs for an official video review, the in-stadium video board operator must use either the unaltered television network program feed or the unaltered video feed from the officiating video review system as the exclusive video source for plays under review. Replays are permitted only between Referee announcements to stop play and to communicate the outcome of the review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-stadium video board during stoppage for an official review. Video from the official video review system may only be shown during an official video review. Under no circumstances may the video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, or incite the crowd during or following a review.

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

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

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

Format. The Conference tournament shall be a 16-team single elimination tournament with seeds determined based upon winning percentage in Conference play. The top four seeds shall have a double-bye into the quarterfinals and seeds 5-8 shall receive a single bye into the second round. The tournament shall begin on Tuesday and conclude with a single championship game on Sunday.

Home Team Designation. The higher seeded team shall be designated as the home team in all games. [*Adopted: 11/6/24*]

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

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

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

Seeding. Teams shall be seeded based on winning percentage in regular season conference competition. Ties will be broken in the following manner: [*Revised: 11/6/24*]

1. **Two-Team Tie.** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
   A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the two tied teams.
   B. Won-lost percentage of the two teams against all common opponents
   C. Won-lost percentage of the two teams versus the highest seed using common opponents only (and proceeding through the last seed, if necessary)
   D. Best cumulative winning percentage of all Conference opponents
   E. Coin flip by the Commissioner.
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken: (Note: If the three tied teams have three different records against each other, they shall be seeded in best-percentage order.) Otherwise, once the tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tiebreaker procedure will be used.
   A. If all tied teams are common opponents: Total won-lost percentage of games played among the tied teams.
   B. Won-lost percentage of the tied teams against all common opponents
   C. Won-lost percentage of the tied teams versus the highest seed using common opponents only, and proceeding through the lowest seed, if necessary. In the event of multiple ties, they shall be broken from first to last (e.g. a tie for first place will be broken before a tie for fourth place).
   D. Best cumulative winning percentage of all Conference opponents.
   E. If three or more teams still are tied, the Commissioner will conduct a draw.

Squad Size. Only 34 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities, but will not be

eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference. [*Revised: 12/12/17, 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 12/2/25*]

Team Expenses and Allowances. Each participating institution will be provided a per diem of $75 per day for 34 individuals for each day the institution plays a game plus two per diems. (Note: Institutions in the winner's bracket that have an "off" day will receive a per diem for that day.) A travel allowance of $30 per mile (one-way) or $5,000, whichever is greater, will be paid to each participating institution. [*Revised: 12/12/17, 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 12/2/25*]

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

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – Garth Glissman; Communications – Craig Pinkerton; Officiating – Mike Eades

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

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

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

Exception - Institutionally Controlled Noisemakers. The use of institutionally controlled computerized sound systems, institutionally controlled artificial noisemakers and the play of bands shall be limited to pregame, halftime, post-game, timeouts, and instant replay reviews. Such devices/instruments shall not be used during a free-throw, a throw-in or a live ball situation. The use of physical distractions (e.g., artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or public address systems by the cheerleaders), except as noted above, is prohibited in Conference basketball arenas.

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

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

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
2. **All-Freshman Team**. The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
3. **All-Defensive Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
4. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
5. **Freshman of the Year**. The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
6. **Newcomer of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by a vote of the head coaches. Coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office. *[Adopted: 8/21/24*]
7. **Defensive Player of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
8. **Sixth Man of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office. Players must have started 1/3 or less of team's Conference games to be eligible.
9. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
10. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Community Service Team**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **Player of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
13. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

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

Bands. Bands may not be located behind or adjacent to the visitor's bench. Instruments may not be used under any circumstances during play. Bands may perform only during pre-game, half-time, timeouts, and at the end of the game. The band directors shall prohibit the band or any component thereof (including drums) from playing while the game is in progress, including during dead ball situations. Bands may not be amplified during the game, except that the home team band may be amplified during times the band is allowed to play.

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

Bench Area. Host institutions shall provide at least 22 chairs in the bench area. Of these, 12 seats must be located on the front row of the team bench and not extend beyond the baseline. Host institutions may provide additional chairs as arena configurations permit. An equal number of chairs must be provided for the home and visiting team. The visiting team bench may not be placed in front of or adjacent to the home institution's band or student section. The visiting team bench shall be located either on the opposite side of the court or on the opposite end of the court from the home institution's band and student section. [*Revised: 11/2/22, 5/29/25*]

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

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

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Auburn serving in 2026-27. An individual must have attended two annual coaches' meetings and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Competition Area Lighting. Arena light shows fall into the following categories: 1) full venue light coloring in which the game lights are dimmed and/or change colors, 2) game lighting remains while lights perform movement, including chase and flickering effects, or 3) lights out. The following outlines when these options can be utilized during a contest. [*Adopted: 11/1/2023*]

1. **Pregame.** Lighting effects or lights out may occur during introductions and during periods in which no student-athletes are warming up on the court. Competition level lighting must resume once players begin to enter the court and at one minute (1:00) prior to tipoff.
2. **Media Timeouts.** Lighting effects may occur as long as the team benches/huddle remain lit. If the team bench/huddle cannot be lit, lighting effects may not occur. Lights must return to competition-level lighting when the first horn sounds.
3. **Video Reviews.** Lighting effects may not occur during any official video review.
4. **Halftime.** Lighting effects or lights out may occur once all student-athletes have cleared the court. Competition level lighting must resume when any student-athlete returns to the court for warm-up or with at least five minutes (5:00) remaining on the clock.
5. **Postgame.** Lighting effects or lights out may occur once all student-athletes and officials have cleared the court.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within

the SEC Branding Guide.

2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall be painted in school colors or applicable floor matching color inside both free throw lanes facing the shooter.

Conference Championship/Tournament. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

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

Courtside Seating. Institutions with spectator seating immediately adjacent to the playing court must develop policies to ensure such courtside seating does not improperly interfere with competition. Institutions shall also distribute messaging from the Commissioner prior to each season reminding seat-holders of their heightened responsibility for actions and conduct before, during, and after games, and must also place a handout summarizing expectations for fans seated courtside on each courtside seat prior to every home game. Game officials and the Conference shall have a "zero tolerance" policy toward any improper conduct by an individual seated courtside, and game officials and event management shall have the authority to remove any individual deemed in violation. Game officials may also assess a technical foul to the home team based upon such conduct, consistent with NCAA playing rules. [*Adopted: 10/5/23*]

1. **Minimum Standards for Implementation.** Institutions that elect to employ courtside seating shall adhere to the minimum standards established in the Courtside Seating Policy for SEC Basketball Venues document which establishes expectations for scorer's table and bench configurations and relocating displaced working personnel. [*Adopted: 5/30/25*]
2. **Zero-Tolerance Policy for Improper Conduct and Penalties for Noncompliance.** An institution that voluntarily opts to utilize courtside seating must implement enhanced security measures as established in the Courtside Seating Policy for SEC Basketball Venues document. If an institution or its fans fail to adhere to such policies, accountability measures as outlined in the document shall be imposed by the Commissioner. [*Adopted: 5/30/25*]

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Definitions**.
   A. **Delay** - To delay a contest is to delay the start of a contest until a later time on the same date.
   B. **Relocate** - To relocate a contest is to change the location of the competition.
   C. **Suspend** - To suspend a contest is to temporarily halt play for a short duration after the contest begins.
   D. **Cancel** - To cancel a contest is to nullify it either before or after it begins and to make no provision for rescheduling it or for including its score or other performance statistics in Conference records.
   E. **Postpone** - To postpone a contest is to (a) defer its starting time to a later date, or to (b) suspend it after play has begun and make provision to resume it at a later date with all scores and other performance statistics up to the point of postponement added to those achieved in the resumed portion of the contest.
   F. **Terminate** - To terminate a contest is to end it short of a full-designated duration of play, officially record it as a completed contest, and make no provision to resume it at a later date.
2. **Authority**. Authority to delay or relocate a contest is vested with the home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator. Authority to suspend a contest is vested with the officials. Authority to cancel, postpone, or terminate a contest is vested *only* with the Commissioner or his/her designee.
3. **Guidelines**. [*Revised: 12/13/16*]
   A. **Prior to the Contest**.
      1. If extenuating circumstances occur that necessitate a contest be moved to an earlier start time, an earlier start date, and/or relocated within the same city, the two participating institutions shall determine the date, time, and location of the contest, subject to the approval of the Commissioner. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
      2. If a contest is postponed prior to its start for any reason, the contest shall be rescheduled for the following day (e.g. a Saturday game shall be rescheduled for Sunday) unless extenuating circumstances prevent the contest from being played, in which case the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
      3. Prior to the start of a contest, the home institution's Director of Athletics or designated senior level administrator shall have the authority to determine whether a contest should temporarily be delayed until a later time on the same date due to extenuating circumstances. If circumstances which may warrant a delay occur, a participating institution shall immediately notify the opposing institution and the conference office. In the event a contest is temporarily delayed, the home institution shall ensure that both participating institutions are provided a minimum of 45 minutes of warm-up time on the playing floor prior to the start of the contest. [*Revised: 12/20/18*]
   B. Once the Contest Has Begun.
      1. Once a contest has begun, the decision to suspend play shall become the responsibility of the game officials.

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

LED Lights.

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

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

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

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

Officials. The Conference office shall assign officials for all home games and any games specified in contractual agreements with Conference institutions.

1. The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at Conference games:
    A. Security escorts for officials should be provided as follows:
        1. A person should meet officials at the entrance gate one hour and thirty minutes prior to tip-off and escort them to the officials' dressing room;
        2. A person designated by the event management director should knock on the officials' door when the teams begin their pre-game warm-ups and when it is time to return courtside for the second half. The officials will tell this person before the game specifically what time they wish to be notified; and
        3. A dressing room key should be either given to one of the officials, or a person designated by the game management director. The designated person must lock the dressing room while the officials are officiating and must be waiting at the dressing room door when officials return at halftime and at the end of the game. The officials must have immediate access to their dressing room at halftime

and at the conclusion of the game.

B. The officials dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as suggested:
   1. When male and female officials are assigned, two dressing rooms should be provided if possible;
   2. When a doubleheader is scheduled, the officials for the men's game must be assigned to a different dressing room from the officials for the women's game; and
   3. The officials' dressing room should be set up with the following items; towels and soap, chairs and a table, dry erase board and markers, a television, soft drinks, isotonic beverages and water (in a cooler of ice) and cups, and sandwiches, fruit, or light snack after the game.

C. If an official requests the service of a trainer or needs any medical supplies, the trainer should come to the officials' dressing room to provide the service or deliver the supplies. The official should not go to the training room.

D. No one shall be allowed access to the officials' dressing room without the permission of the Southeastern Conference except (1) the officials assigned to the game, (2) the event manager and (3) Southeastern Conference staff.

E. Payment of the game officials will be handled by the Conference office. Each institution will be invoiced for its share of the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials. The Conference office and Athletics Directors shall set the fees and travel/expense policies.

F. Each official assigned to a game is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to that game. Officials shall submit their requests via the SpotFoul system. The deadline for ticket requests is five days prior to the game. [*Revised: 10/4/18*]

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

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

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

Pre-Game Introductions. Home team pre-game introductions (including all video, music, special effects and the actual introductions of players and coaches) may not exceed two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30). This time period begins immediately upon the conclusion of the visiting team introductions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. The Conference operates with an open exchange policy in regards to the exchange of game video. All schools must provide video of all games to the other Conference programs.
2. All programs must purchase Synergy software and utilize it as the primary means for transferring basketball video within the conference. Unique accounts (folders) will be developed for each school. These folders will serve as the access point to each school's video throughout the season and all games must remain in their school's Synergy folders until the season is complete.
3. Video from each game must be uploaded to Synergy by noon the following day;
   A. The video of each game must be uploaded to that institution's individual folder.
   B. Institutions will have access to each other's folders within Synergy which will enable them to select and download any game they choose.
   C. Due to these posting requirements, there will be no need for formal tape requests; video of all games involving Conference institutions must be available to other conference teams through Synergy.
4. No member institution shall exchange video or provide a scouting report to any non-conference institution regarding SEC teams;

A. Through Synergy, schools have the ability to monitor who downloads their games and when the transfers occur;

B. If any issues arise regarding specific transfers, schools should contact the Conference administrator for Men's Basketball.

5. The video being exchanged must be of high quality. The following order of preference should be followed in completing a tape exchange:

A. Broadcast Copy

B. High Quality Coaches' copy

6. Minimum requirements for exchange are HD-MPEG4 file (ending in .mp4 extension) 3 megabits per second up to a maximum of 8 mbps.

Shot Clocks and Timeout Clocks. Institutions shall install and utilize shot clocks which display tenths of a second and a separate timeout clock. [*Adopted: 5/3/23, Revised: 5/29/25*]

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

Squad Size. Only 17 athletes shall be allowed to travel and only 15 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities. [*Revised: 6/1/18, 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 5/29/25*]

Student-Athlete Availability Reporting. Institutions shall disclose student-athletes' availability to participate in all Conference contests via standardized Availability Reports as set forth below. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]

1. **Initial Reporting.** An institution shall issue an initial Availability Report by no later than 7:00 pm CT/8:00 pm ET on the night prior to a contest, unless the institution participated in a contest on the day prior, in which case reporting on the day of the contest shall occur by 11:00 am local time or two hours prior to the scheduled start time, whichever is earlier.

2. **Designated Statuses Prior to Game Day.** If an institution has knowledge that a student-athlete may not participate in a contest for any reason (e.g. injury, illness, suspension, ineligibility, personal matter, etc.), the institution shall designate the student-athlete's participation status on any Availability Report issues prior to game day as follows:

a. Out (i.e., will not play/0% chance to play);

b. Doubtful (i.e., unlikely to play/25% chance to play);

c. Questionable (i.e., uncertain to play/50% chance to play); or

d. Probable (i.e., probable to play/75% chance to play).

e. An institution must also affirmatively designate a student-athlete as Available (i.e., will play/100% chance to play) in instances in which a student-athlete previously appeared on an Availability Report for a contest but is subsequently expected to participate. Any student-athlete who does not appear on an institution's Availability Report shall be regarded as Available, unless the student-athlete is designated as exempt.

3. **Exemptions.** An institution is not required to include a student-athlete in an Availability Report if the student-athlete is not expected to participate in games (e.g., a redshirt student-athlete who does not dress) or if the student-athlete infrequently participates in minimal competition (e.g., the final minutes of a game no longer in contest). When an institution is in doubt about whether a student-athlete may be exempt per this policy, the institution should err on the side of transparency and include a student-athlete in its Availability Report.

4. **Game Day Reporting.** On game day, an institution must issue an updated Availability Report no later than two hours prior to the scheduled start time, unless the institution participated in a contest on the day prior, in which case standard reporting shall occur by 11:00 am local time or two hours prior to the scheduled start time, whichever is earlier. The only designated statuses on the game day report shall be:

a. Available (i.e., will dress for the game and be available to play);

b. Game Time Decision (i.e., coaches and/or medical personnel need to evaluate the student-athlete in pre-game warmups before deciding whether he can participate in the game). [Note: Instances of a student-athlete being designated as a Game Time Decision must be kept to a reasonable minimum, and any excessive use of this designated may trigger a review and additional penalties by the Commissioner.]; or

c. Out (i.e., not dressing or available for the game).

5. **Duty to Act in Good Faith.** Institutional personnel shall act in good faith to comply with this policy. Acts of gamesmanship intended to hide a student-athlete's participation status for competitive or strategic reasons are prohibited. Any other conduct that be construed as misleading or creating confusion as to a student-athlete's participation status is also prohibited. An institution must take extra precautions to act in good faith to accurately disclose the status of a high-profile student-athlete.

6. **Duty to Avoid Surprise.** An institution must avoid a surprise (i.e., a sudden and drastic change in a student-athlete's participation status) absent extenuating circumstances (e.g., an unexpected illness or injury), and must take extra precautions to avoid a surprise in regard to a high-profile student-athlete's status. An institution must make a reasonable effort to progress a student-athlete through the designated statuses in a gradual manner leading up to a contest (e.g. a student-athlete is not updated from Out directly to Available). If a student-athlete has any chance to play in a scheduled contest, he/she shall not be listed as Out and, at a minimum, must be listed as Doubtful on an initial report.

7. **Duty to Avoid Inconsistent Comments.** Institutional personnel shall not make public comments (including on social media) regarding a student-athlete's availability that are inconsistent with the student-athlete's status on an Availability Report.

8. **Submission.** An institution's Availability Report must be uploaded to an online hub on the conference's website. The Availability Report for both participating teams shall be made publicly available at the same time. Each institution shall designate one primary and one secondary inputter who shall be responsible for inputting information into the hub. A Head Coach, Sports Information Director, and Head Athletic Trainer, shall be jointly involved in satisfying these requirements, with the Head Coach maintaining ultimate responsibility for compliance with the policy.

9. **Enforcement.** The conference office shall possess the authority to investigate potential violations of this policy which shall include (but is not limited to) the ability to interview relevant student-athletes and personnel and review relevant materials (e.g., practice plans, practice film, etc.). Institutional personnel shall fully cooperate with this process. An institution who believes it was placed at a competitive disadvantage as a result of an opponent's alleged violation of this policy shall have until 1:00 p.m. CT / 2:00 p.m. ET on the day after a contest to provide relevant information supporting such contention to the conference office.

10. **Penalties.** Failure to provide accurate and timely information on an Availability Report will subject the offending institution, and, if appropriate, the offending head coach, to accountability measures which shall be applied at the Commissioner's discretion and may include private or public reprimands, fines, or other action. Measures other than financial penalties (e.g., a warning and/or continuing education for relevant institutional personnel) may be imposed in instances in which a violation did not materially impact competition or the violation resulted from an inadvertent mistake, and such incidents shall not count towards the progressive system for financial penalties.

11. **Prescribed Financial Penalties.** In instances in which a financial penalty is deemed appropriate, the following penalty schedule, which shall reset on an annual basis, shall apply to the offending institution, subject to adjustment based upon circumstances such as competitive impact, repeat violator status, etc.):

    a. First Offense: Up to a $15,000 penalty

    b. Second Offense: Up to a $20,000 penalty

    c. Third Offense and Any Successive Offense: Up to a $25,000 penalty

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

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

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

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

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

Video Boards/Replays. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

1. **Replays.**-Video replays may be shown on an in-stadium video board from the end of a play until the beginning of the next play, except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. Video from the official video review system may not be shown during a replay, except during an official video review. Under no circumstance may the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-stadium video board.
2. **Official Video Review.** When a stoppage occurs for an official video review, the in-stadium video board operator must use either the unaltered television network program feed or the unaltered video feed from the officiating video review system as the exclusive video source for plays under review. Replays are permitted only between Referee announcements to stop play and to communicate the outcome of the review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-stadium video board during stoppage for an official review. Video from the official video review system may only be shown during an official video review. Under no circumstances may the video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, or incite the crowd during or following a review.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

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

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

Format. The Conference tournament will be a 16-team, single-elimination tournament.

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

Seeding. Teams will be seeded No. 1 through No. 16 in the bracket based upon the final regular season Conference standings. Teams that finished No. 1 through No. 4 in the final regular season standings shall receive first and second-round byes and teams that finish No. 5 through No. 8 will receive first-round byes. For seeding purposes, if an institution is precluded from participating in the tournament, such institution will automatically be seeded last. The No. 9 seed will then receive a bye. However, for the purpose of breaking ties, that team will remain where it finished in the regular-season standings before being seeded last. [*Revised: 5/29/25*]

1. **Two-Team Tie**. The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
   A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the two teams.
   B. Won-lost percentage of the two teams versus the highest seed (and proceeding through the lowest seed, if necessary).
   C. Head-to-head point differential (points scored minus points allowed) between the two tied teams.
   D. NCAA NET ranking (most recent available NET ranking before the Conference Tournament).
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** When three or more teams are tied, the following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken. If two teams remain tied after a tiebreaker provision, the two-team tiebreaker formula will be used.
   A. Best winning percentage of games played among the tied teams (Example: Team A is 3-1, Team B is 2-2 and Team C is 1-3 – Team A would be seeded highest, Team B second-highest and Team C lowest of the three).
   B. Best winning percentage of the tied teams versus the highest seed (and proceeding through the lowest seed, if necessary).
   C. Head-to-head point differential (points scored minus points allowed) between the two tied teams.
   D. NCAA NET ranking (most recent available NET ranking before the Conference Tournament).

Squad Size. Only 15 student-athletes may participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 6/3/22*]

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

Tickets. The Tournament Ticket Committee (see Tournament Committees) shall develop tournament ticket policies and procedures for review and approval by the Athletics Directors each year. Tickets will be sold in book form for the entire tournament. During the week of the tournament, any remaining seats may be sold on a single session basis. No complimentary tickets will be provided for the tournament. Each institution shall notify the Conference office of its institutional ticket allotment, for which it is financially responsible, by mid-January of each year. The location of each

institution's allotment will rotate on an annual basis (two sections clockwise each year). Each institution shall also purchase 140 additional lower level, side-court tickets for each session in which its team participates. An institution may purchase up to 36 courtside seats for each contest in which its team participates. Each institution participating in the tournament championship game shall purchase 150 additional tickets for such game. [*Revised: 6/3/16, 5/31/19, 8/7/24, 12/2/24*]

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

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – Tiffany Daniels; Communications – Tammy Wilson; Officiating – Lisa Mattingly

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

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

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

Exception - Institutionally Controlled Noisemakers. The use of institutionally controlled computerized sound systems, institutionally controlled artificial noisemakers or the play of bands may occur during pregame, halftime, post-game, dead ball situations, and timeouts, only. Such devices/instruments shall not be used during a free-throw, a throw-in or a live ball situation. The use of physical distractions (e.g., artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or public address systems by the cheerleaders), except as noted above, is shall be prohibited. [*Revised: 8/18/15*]

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

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

1. **All-SEC Team**. The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Following a nomination process, the coaches shall vote for ten players for first team and ten for the second team. Each player receives two points for a first-team vote and one point for a second-team vote. The top ten will be named first-team All-SEC; while the next ten will be named second-team All-SEC. Voting shall take place the Monday following the end of the regular season.
2. **All-Freshman Team**. The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The same nomination and balloting procedure shall be followed as for the All-SEC team, except that each vote counts as one point. The top five will be named SEC All-Freshman.
3. **All-Defensive Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The same nomination and balloting procedure shall be followed as for the All-SEC team, except that each vote counts as one point. The top five will be named to the SEC All-Defensive Team.
4. **Player of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Coaches may only vote for players who are listed on their first team All-SEC ballot. Each vote is worth one point.
5. **Freshman of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Each vote is worth one point. Coaches may only vote for players listed on their All-Freshman ballot.
6. **Newcomer of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by a vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Each vote is worth one point. *[Adopted: 8/21/24*]
7. **Defensive Player of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Each vote is worth one point.
8. **6th Woman of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Players must have started 1/3 or less of their teams' games to be eligible. Each vote is worth one point.
9. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the

All-SEC process. Each vote is worth one point.

10. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Community Service Team**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **Player of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
13. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

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

Bands. Bands may not be located behind or adjacent to the visitor's bench. Bands may perform only during pre-game, half-time, timeouts, and at the end of the game. The band directors shall prohibit the band or any component thereof (including drums) from playing while the game is in progress. Bands may not be amplified during the game, except that the home team band may be amplified during times the band is allowed to play.

Basketballs. Basketballs must meet specifications contained in the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules. The game ball must be acceptable (in regard to condition) to both the visiting team and the game officials. The home team must provide the visiting team with warm-up balls of the same type as the game ball.

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

Cheerleaders. Visiting cheerleaders and/or mascots are not allowed on the arena floor for conference games. If an institution desires to have the cheerleaders and/or mascots travel to away games, they must have tickets and sit in the visiting team section.

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

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Texas serving as the chair for 2026-27. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Competition Area Lighting. Arena light shows fall into the following categories: 1) full venue light coloring in which the game lights are dimmed and/or change colors, 2) game lighting remains while lights perform movement, including chase and flickering effects, or 3) lights out. The following outlines when these options can be utilized during a contest. [*Adopted: 11/1/2023*]

1. **Pregame.** Lighting effects or lights out may occur during introductions and during periods in which no student-athletes are warming up on the court. Competition level lighting must resume once players begin to enter the court and at one minute (1:00) prior to tipoff.
2. **Media Timeouts.** Lighting effects may occur as long as the team benches/huddle remain lit. If the team bench/huddle cannot be lit, lighting effects may not occur. Lights must return to competition-level lighting when the first horn sounds.
3. **Video Reviews.** Lighting effects may not occur during any official video review.
4. **Halftime.** Lighting effects or lights out may occur once all student-athletes have cleared the court. Competition level lighting must resume when any student-athlete returns to the court for warm-up or with at least five minutes (5:00) remaining on the clock.
5. **Postgame.** Lighting effects or lights out may occur once all student-athletes and officials have cleared the court.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.

2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall be painted in school colors or applicable floor matching color inside both free throw lanes facing the shooter.

Conference Championship/Tournament [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

1. The team with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared the Conference champion. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins during regular season Conference competition, they shall be declared Conference co-champions.
2. There will be a Conference tournament at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular season in order to determine the automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. The site shall be determined at an appropriate time by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Athletics Directors and Senior Woman Administrators. The Conference tournament will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

Courtside Seating. Institutions with spectator seating immediately adjacent to the playing court must develop policies to ensure such courtside seating does not improperly interfere with competition. Institutions shall also distribute messaging from the Commissioner prior to each season reminding seat-holders of their heightened responsibility for actions and conduct before, during, and after games, and must also place a handout summarizing expectations for fans seated courtside on each courtside seat prior to every home game. Game officials and the Conference shall have a "zero tolerance" policy toward any improper conduct by an individual seated courtside, and game officials and event management shall have the authority to remove any individual deemed in violation. Game officials may also assess a technical foul to the home team based upon such conduct, consistent with NCAA playing rules. [*Adopted: 10/5/23*]

1. **Minimum Standards for Implementation.** Institutions that elect to employ courtside seating shall adhere to the minimum standards established in the Courtside Seating Policy for SEC Basketball Venues document which establishes expectations for scorer's table and bench configurations and relocating displaced working personnel. [*Adopted: 5/30/25*]
2. **Zero-Tolerance Policy for Improper Conduct and Penalties for Noncompliance.** An institution that voluntarily opts to utilize courtside seating must implement enhanced security measures as established in the Courtside Seating Policy for SEC Basketball Venues document. If an institution or its fans fail to adhere to such policies, accountability measures as outlined in the document shall be imposed by the Commissioner. [*Adopted: 5/30/25*]

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

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

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

Game Times. The start times for all games will be determined by the home team and may start no later than 8:05 p.m. local time, unless the game is a designated televised game. Each institution must submit game times to the Conference office prior to September 1 each year.

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

1. **Definitions**.
   A. **Delay** - To delay a contest is to delay the start of a contest until a later time on the same date.
   B. **Relocate** - To relocate a contest is to change the location of the competition.
   C. **Suspend** - To suspend a contest is to temporarily halt play for a short duration after the contest begins.
   D. **Cancel** - To cancel a contest is to nullify it either before or after it begins and to make no provision for rescheduling it or for including its score or other performance statistics in Conference records.
   E. **Postpone** - To postpone a contest is to (a) defer its starting time to a later date, or to (b) suspend it after play has begun and make provision to resume it at a later date with all scores and other performance statistics up to the point of postponement added to those achieved in the resumed portion of the contest.
   F. **Terminate** - To terminate a contest is to end it short of a full-designated duration of play, officially record it as a completed contest, and make no provision to resume it at a later date.
2. **Authority**. Authority to delay or relocate a contest is vested with the home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator. Authority to suspend a contest is vested with the officials. Authority to cancel, postpone, or terminate a contest is vested *only* with the Commissioner or his/her designee.
3. **Guidelines**. [*Revised: 12/13/16*]
   A. **Prior to the Contest**.
      1. If extenuating circumstances occur that necessitate a contest be moved to an earlier start time, an earlier start date, and/or relocated within the same city, the two participating institutions shall determine the date, time, and location of the contest, subject to the approval of the Commissioner. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
      2. If a contest is postponed prior to its start for any reason, the contest shall be rescheduled for the following day (e.g. a Saturday game shall be rescheduled for Sunday) unless extenuating circumstances prevent the contest from being played, in which case the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit.
      3. Prior to the start of a contest, the home institution's Director of Athletics or designated senior level administrator shall have the authority to determine whether a contest should temporarily be delayed until a later time on the same date due to extenuating circumstances. If circumstances which may warrant a delay occur, a participating institution shall immediately notify the opposing institution and the conference office. In the event a contest is temporarily delayed, the home institution shall ensure that both participating institutions are provided a minimum of 45 minutes of warm-up time on the playing floor prior to the start of the contest. [*Revised: 12/20/18*]
   B. Once the Contest Has Begun.
      1. Once a contest has begun, the decision to suspend play shall become the responsibility of the game officials.

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

LED Lights.

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

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

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

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

Officials. The Conference office shall assign officials for all home games and any games specified in contractual agreements with Conference institutions.

1. The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at all home games:
    A. Security escorts for officials should be provided as follows:
        1. A person should meet officials at the entrance gate 90 minutes prior to tip-off and escort them to the officials' dressing room.
        2. A person designated by the event management director should communicate with the officials when the teams arrive on the floor for pre-game warm-ups and when it is time to return courtside for the second half. The officials will communicate with the designated event management person if changes to this process are necessary.
        3. A dressing room key should be either given to one of the officials, or a person designated by the game management director. The designated person must lock the dressing room while the officials are on the floor and must be waiting at the dressing room door when the officials return at halftime and the end of the game. The officials must have immediate access to their dressing room at halftime

and at the conclusion of the game.

B. The officials dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as suggested below:
   1. When male and female officials are assigned, two separate dressing rooms must be provided;
   2. When a doubleheader is scheduled, the officials for the men's game must be assigned to a different dressing room than the officials for the women's game; and
   3. The officials' dressing room should be set up with the following items; towels and soap, chairs and a table, soft drinks and water (in a cooler of ice) and cups; and sandwiches, fruit, or light snack after the game.

C. If an official requests the service of a trainer or needs any medical supplies, the trainer should meet the officials in their dressing room to provide the service or deliver the supplies. The official should avoid going to the training room.

D. No one shall be allowed access to the officials' dressing room without the permission of the Conference except (1) the officials assigned to the game, (2) the event manager and (3) Southeastern Conference staff and observers.

E. Payment of game officials will be handled by the conference office. Each institution will be invoiced for its share of compensation for the game officials. The Conference office and Athletics Directors shall set the fees and travel/expense policies.

F. Each official assigned to a game is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to that game. Officials shall submit their requests via SpotFoul. The deadline for ticket requests is five days prior to the game. [*Revised: 10/4/18*]

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

Practice. The visiting team shall have an opportunity to practice on the competition floor, unless prevented by extreme circumstances. Requests by the visiting team for practice time, other than the pre-game warm-up period, should be made as soon as possible, and must be made by at least five days prior to the date of the game. The home team must make the playing facility available for at least 90 minutes on the day prior to the game, and for 60 minutes on the day of the game. The visiting team's practice time will be scheduled at a time other than during the home team's regular practice time. For Sunday games, the facility will be available for the visiting team's shoot-around six hours prior to game time. The home team will be allowed to shoot-around five hours prior to game time. The only exception to this provision is when the facility is being used the day before the game for Conference competition in another sport or for an official campus-wide event, such as registration. The host institution must provide an alternate practice facility if the actual competition site is unavailable and if requested by the visiting team. Home teams are required to communicate with visiting teams by December 1st if there is a potential arena conflict with a visiting team's practice time(s).

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

Pre-Game/Halftime Warm-Up. The game floor must be cleared of all activity at least 65 minutes prior to the competition start time in order to allow the visiting team 60-minutes of uninterrupted warm-up. The program of player introductions, national anthem or any other similar ceremony will not be included in the 60-minute warm-up, except for Senior Day. A senior recognition ceremony may be conducted prior to a team's final regular-season home game. With 15 minutes on the clock prior to the game, the visiting team shall leave the floor while the Senior Day ceremony is conducted. These activities may not last longer than 10 minutes and the visiting team must have five minutes of practice time upon returning to the floor. At half-time, the host institution shall make the floor available for an uninterrupted warm-up period of at least five minutes prior to the start of the second half. Exceptions to these policies must be approved by the Commissioner (or designated representative). If an unusual situation arises, the game management director may make adjustments to the pre-game practice time in order to accommodate the situation.

Regular-Season Competition/Schedule Each institution will play 16 regular-season Conference games. The schedule shall consist of a single round robin (14 games) and home and away with one annually rotating opponent (2 games). Each team will play eight home games and eight away games. The dates and sites for the Conference schedule will be set by administrative action of the Conference office. Each institution shall submit its non-conference schedule to the Conference office for review and feedback.

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

Scouting and Videotape/Film Exchange. Institutions are required to provide video of every regular season contest to all other Conference institutions according to the following guidelines: [*Revised: 11/8/15, 10/4/18*]

1. All programs shall use Synergy as the primary means for transferring video within the Conference.
2. The coaches' game film from each contest must be uploaded to Synergy with the following standards:
   A. The game video should be recorded at a resolution of 1920 x 1080 or 1280 x 720.
   B. Every effort should be made to record the game from an elevated and center perspective.
   C. The video recording should only be paused for timeouts, halftime and injuries.
   D. All game action must be recorded including all in-bounds action after the referee hands the ball to the thrower-in.
   E. All ten players must be included in each frame when filming a settled, half-court offense.
   F. The scoreboard must be shown for reference at every called timeout, every media timeout, halftime and the end of the game.
   G. It is recommended to overlay a time and score graphic to the coaches' video using additional hardware and/or software.
3. Programs shall not be required to upload a TV copy of each contest.
4. The coaches' game film from each contest must be uploaded within the following timeline:
   A. For all non-conference regular season away game, each program must post their video by 9 a.m. the following day.
   B. For all non-conference and Conference regular season home games, each team must post their video within two hours following the conclusion of the game.
5. If an extenuating circumstance prevents an institution from uploading game film by the specified deadline, the institution shall immediately notify each institution and the Conference office of the expected time that the upload will be available. If the issue cannot be resolved then the institution shall provide a digital downloadable link of the game to each Conference institution within 24 hours following the game.
6. The Commissioner, at his discretion, may assess penalties to institutions who do not adhere to the film exchange policy.

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

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

Squad Size. Only 17 athletes shall be allowed to travel and only 15 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities. [*Revised: 6/1/18, 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 5/29/25*]

Student-Athlete Availability Reporting. Institutions shall disclose student-athletes' availability to participate in all Conference contests via standardized Availability Reports as set forth below. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]

1. **Initial Reporting.** An institution shall issue an initial Availability Report by no later than 7:00 pm CT/8:00 pm ET on the night prior to a contest, unless the institution participated in a contest on the day prior, in which case reporting on the day of the contest shall occur by 11:00 am local time or two hours prior to the scheduled

start time, whichever is earlier.

2. **Designated Statuses Prior to Game Day.** If an institution has knowledge that a student-athlete may not participate in a contest for any reason (e.g. injury, illness, suspension, ineligibility, personal matter, etc.), the institution shall designate the student-athlete's participation status on any Availability Report issues prior to game day as follows:
   a. Out (i.e., will not play/0% chance to play);
   b. Doubtful (i.e., unlikely to play/25% chance to play);
   c. Questionable (i.e., uncertain to play/50% chance to play); or
   d. Probable (i.e., probable to play/75% chance to play).
   e. An institution must also affirmatively designate a student-athlete as Available (i.e., will play/100% chance to play) in instances in which a student-athlete previously appeared on an Availability Report for a contest but is subsequently expected to participate. Any student-athlete who does not appear on an institution's Availability Report shall be regarded as Available, unless the student-athlete is designated as exempt.
3. **Exemptions.** An institution is not required to include a student-athlete in an Availability Report if the student-athlete is not expected to participate in games (e.g., a redshirt student-athlete who does not dress) or if the student-athlete infrequently participates in minimal competition (e.g., the final minutes of a game no longer in contest). When an institution is in doubt about whether a student-athlete may be exempt per this policy, the institution should err on the side of transparency and include a student-athlete in its Availability Report.
4. **Game Day Reporting.** On game day, an institution must issue an updated Availability Report no later than two hours prior to the scheduled start time, unless the institution participated in a contest on the day prior, in which case standard reporting shall occur by 11:00 am local time or two hours prior to the scheduled start time, whichever is earlier. The only designated statuses on the game day report shall be:
   a. Available (i.e., will dress for the game and be available to play);
   b. Game Time Decision (i.e., coaches and/or medical personnel need to evaluate the student-athlete in pre-game warmups before deciding whether he can participate in the game). [Note: Instances of a student-athlete being designated as a Game Time Decision must be kept to a reasonable minimum, and any excessive use of this designated may trigger a review and additional penalties by the Commissioner.]; or
   c. Out (i.e., not dressing or available for the game).
5. **Duty to Act in Good Faith.** Institutional personnel shall act in good faith to comply with this policy. Acts of gamesmanship intended to hide a student-athlete's participation status for competitive or strategic reasons are prohibited. Any other conduct that be construed as misleading or creating confusion as to a student-athlete's participation status is also prohibited. An institution must take extra precautions to act in good faith to accurately disclose the status of a high-profile student-athlete.
6. **Duty to Avoid Surprise.** An institution must avoid a surprise (i.e., a sudden and drastic change in a student-athlete's participation status) absent extenuating circumstances (e.g., an unexpected illness or injury), and must take extra precautions to avoid a surprise in regard to a high-profile student-athlete's status. An institution must make a reasonable effort to progress a student-athlete through the designated statuses in a gradual manner leading up to a contest (e.g. a student-athlete is not updated from Out directly to Available). If a student-athlete has any chance to play in a scheduled contest, he/she shall not be listed as Out and, at a minimum, must be listed as Doubtful on an initial report.
7. **Duty to Avoid Inconsistent Comments.** Institutional personnel shall not make public comments (including on social media) regarding a student-athlete's availability that are inconsistent with the student-athlete's status on an Availability Report.
8. **Submission.** An institution's Availability Report must be uploaded to an online hub on the conference's website. The Availability Report for both participating teams shall be made publicly available at the same time. Each institution shall designate one primary and one secondary inputter who shall be responsible for inputting information into the hub. A Head Coach, Sports Information Director, and Head Athletic Trainer,

shall be jointly involved in satisfying these requirements, with the Head Coach maintaining ultimate responsibility for compliance with the policy.

9. **Enforcement.** The conference office shall possess the authority to investigate potential violations of this policy which shall include (but is not limited to) the ability to interview relevant student-athletes and personnel and review relevant materials (e.g., practice plans, practice film, etc.). Institutional personnel shall fully cooperate with this process. An institution who believes it was placed at a competitive disadvantage as a result of an opponent's alleged violation of this policy shall have until 1:00 p.m. CT / 2:00 p.m. ET on the day after a contest to provide relevant information supporting such contention to the conference office.

10. **Penalties.** Failure to provide accurate and timely information on an Availability Report will subject the offending institution, and, if appropriate, the offending head coach, to accountability measures which shall be applied at the Commissioner's discretion and may include private or public reprimands, fines, or other action. Measures other than financial penalties (e.g., a warning and/or continuing education for relevant institutional personnel) may be imposed in instances in which a violation did not materially impact competition or the violation resulted from an inadvertent mistake, and such incidents shall not count towards the progressive system for financial penalties.

11. **Prescribed Financial Penalties.** In instances in which a financial penalty is deemed appropriate, the following penalty schedule, which shall reset on an annual basis, shall apply to the offending institution, subject to adjustment based upon circumstances such as competitive impact, repeat violator status, etc.):
    a. First Offense: Up to a $15,000 penalty
    b. Second Offense: Up to a $20,000 penalty
    c. Third Offense and Any Successive Offense: Up to a $25,000 penalty

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

Tickets. The visiting team will be allotted 100 complimentary tickets for each SEC game. Each home institution shall provide at least 12 seats to the visiting team directly behind the visiting team's bench. These must be ticketed seats and shall be part of the visiting team's allotment of 100 complimentary tickets. The location of the next 38 complimentary tickets must be within the first 25 rows of the playing floor and as near the visiting team bench as possible. The home team will determine the location of the remaining 50 complimentary tickets. Each institution must notify the host well in advance of the day of the game to indicate the number of complimentary admissions it will need (up to 100).

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

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

Video Boards/Replays. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

1. **Replays.**-Video replays may be shown on an in-stadium video board from the end of a play until the beginning of the next play, except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. Video from the official video review system may not be shown during a replay, except during an official video review. Under no circumstance may the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-stadium video board.
2. **Official Video Review.** When a stoppage occurs for an official video review, the in-stadium video board operator must use either the unaltered television network program feed or the unaltered video feed from the officiating video review system as the exclusive video source for plays under review. Replays are permitted

only between Referee announcements to stop play and to communicate the outcome of the review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-stadium video board during stoppage for an official review. Video from the official video review system may only be shown during an official video review. Under no circumstances may the video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, or incite the crowd during or following a review.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

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

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

Format. The Conference tournament shall be a 16-team single-elimination tournament.

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

Seeding. Teams will be seeded No. 1 through No. 16 in the bracket based upon the final regular season Conference standings. Teams that finished No. 1 through No. 4 in the final regular season standings shall receive first and second-round byes and teams that finish No. 5 through No. 8 will receive first-round byes. For seeding purposes, if an institution is precluded from participating in the tournament, such institution will automatically be seeded last. The No. 9 seed will then receive a bye. However, for the purpose of breaking ties, that team will remain where it finished in the regular-season standings before being seeded last. [*Revised: 5/29/25*]

1. **Two-Team Tie**. The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
   A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the two teams.
   B. Won-lost percentage of the two teams versus the highest seed (and proceeding through the lowest seed, if necessary).
   C. Head-to-head point differential (points scored minus points allowed) between the two tied teams.
   D. NCAA NET ranking (most recent available NET ranking before the Conference Tournament).
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** When three or more teams are tied, the following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken. If two teams remain tied after a tiebreaker provision, the two-team tiebreaker formula will be used.
   A. Best winning percentage of games played among the tied teams (Example: Team A is 3-1, Team B is 2-2 and Team C is 1-3 – Team A would be seeded highest, Team B second-highest and Team C lowest of the three).
   B. Best winning percentage of the tied teams versus the highest seed (and proceeding through the lowest seed, if necessary).
   C. Head-to-head point differential (points scored minus points allowed) between the two tied teams.
   D. NCAA NET ranking (most recent available NET ranking before the Conference Tournament).

Squad Size. Only 15 student-athletes may participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 6/3/22*]

Team Expenses and Allowances. As revenue allows, each participating institution will be provided a per diem of $75 per day for 22 individuals. Each team will receive a one-day per diem, plus one per diem for each game played. In addition, a travel allowance of $30 per mile (one-way) will be paid to each institution. If funds are not available for a full reimbursement, travel and expenses will be paid on a percentage basis.

Tickets. The Tournament Ticket Committee (as appointed by the Commissioner) shall develop tournament ticket policies and procedures for review and approval by the Athletics Directors each year. Tickets will be sold in book form for the entire tournament. During the week of the tournament, any remaining seats may be sold on a single session basis. No complimentary tickets will be provided for the tournament. Each institution shall notify the

Conference office of its institutional ticket allotment, for which it is financially responsible, by mid-October each year. The location of each institution's allotment will rotate on an annual basis (two sections clockwise each year). Each institution shall also purchase 100 additional lower level, side-court tickets for each session in which its team participates. Each institution participating in the tournament championship game shall have the option to purchase 50 additional tickets for such game. [*Revised: 6/3/16, 8/7/24*]

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

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 Teams**. The first team consists of the top seven finishers in the SEC Championships. The second team consists of the next seven finishers (8th-14th place) in the SEC Championships. The third team shall consist of the next seven finishers (15th-21st place) in the SEC Championship. [*Revised: 9/20/24*]
2. **All-Freshman Teams**. The all-freshman team (one men's and one women's) consists of the top seven freshmen finishers in the SEC Championships.
3. **Athletes of the Year**. The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches following the SEC Championships. The championship winners will be considered automatic Athlete of the Year nominees. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships.
4. **Freshmen of the Year**. The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches following the SEC Championships. If an institution's Athlete of the Year nominee is a freshman, that individual must be nominated for Freshman of the Year. The top freshman finishers in the championships will be considered automatic Freshman of the Year nominees. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships.
5. **Newcomer of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by a vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches following the SEC Championships. If an institution's Athlete of the Year nominee is a newcomer, that individual must be nominated for Newcomer of the Year. The top newcomer finishers in the championships will automatically be considered Newcomer of the Year nominees. Only the current season's performances will be considered, which include but are not limited to the SEC Championships. *[Adopted: 8/21/24*]
6. **Coaches of the Year**. The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The individual designated by the institution as the head cross country coach shall be eligible for the award. Coaches vote during the Athlete/Freshman of the Year process. Coaches of the championship winning teams will be considered automatic Coach of the Year nominees.
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 cross country.
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. **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 two other head coaches from different institutions based upon alphabetical rotation. For 2026-27, the coaches committee will include Arkansas, Auburn, and Missouri.

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

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Alabama serving as the chair for 2026-27. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall either be painted or placed on a minimum of two banners in an appropriate area such as near the start and/or finish line.

Conference Championships. The Conference champions (men and women) will be determined by a meet of all member institutions sponsoring a team. The championship will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations. See also, SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3.

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling. Each institution sponsoring a cross country team shall schedule teams from other Conference institutions at its own discretion during the regular season.

Squad Size. Only 14 women's/12 men's athletes shall be allowed to travel and only 12 women's/10 men's athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 5/29/25*]

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Administrative Videoconference and Meeting. Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall participate in a mandatory videoconference prior to the start of the championships to review policies and procedures. In addition, head coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall attend a mandatory head coaches meeting on the day prior to the championships to review additional information and procedures for the event. This meeting will occur near the course and early in the day if possible.

Championships Committee. The Championships Committee will consist of the Competition Manager, the head referee, and the Conference sport administrator. In consultation with the Coaches Committee, its duties shall include:

1. Processing the declaration of entries;
2. Reviewing the course prior to the coaches meeting; and
3. Serving as the final authority on all matters concerning administration of the championships, other than those handled by the jury of appeals.

Competition Manager. The Conference office shall identify, based upon an annual vote of the participating head coaches, a Competition Manager who will be responsible for executing meet operations for the Championship. Compensation for the Competition Manager shall consist of $1,000 per day, plus transportation, and lodging, all of which will be provided by the host institution. [*Adopted: 12/20/18, Revised 8/29/2025*]

Dates and Sites. The championships will be held two weeks prior to the NCAA regional meets on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday. If an institution is unable to host during its scheduled year, notification must be given at least two yeas in advance at the annual coaches meeting. In this circumstance, the championships will rotate to the next institution in sequence. See Supplement C in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites. [*Revised: 10/24/24*]

Electronic Timing Procedures. Fully electronic time and photos will be official. A chip timing system along with FinishLynx or a similar system will be used at the Championship. Student-athletes shall wear a small, lightweight chip that uniquely identifies them as they cross strategically placed, electronic mats. In the event of a protest (pertaining to the reading of the picture), the meet referee shall make the final decision.

Entry and Declarations. All entries must be made online at least 10 days prior to the start of the championships. Institutions may enter either individuals or a full team of ten runners in men's or 12 runners in women's. (Information regarding online entry will be provided by the host institution.) Final declarations shall be made during the head coaches meeting on the day before the championships. Once declarations are made final, no student-athletes may be added or entered to the competition. All competitors must have a competitor number and must have their year of eligibility listed on the entry form. [*Revised: 11/18/15*]

Format. The women will run first in even-numbered years, and the men will run first in odd-numbered years.

Host Facility Requirements. A cross country course must satisfy the established minimum host requirements as kept on file by the Conference office. [*Adopted: 9/28/22, Effective 7/1/25*]

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, a head umpire, finish line judge, two starters, head and assistant clerk. In addition, the director will obtain the remaining officials needed to conduct the meet, persons to give splits at each mile mark, and other support personnel;
- Secure the primary timing group for the championships and ensure that the necessary timing technology is in place to conduct the championships.
- Supply and ensure application of competitor number on participating student-athletes.
- Produce a championship participant manual that includes the location of the meet headquarters; telephone numbers; maps of the course; list of hotels; starting times; meet operations and procedures;

and the names of the referee, starter;

- Delineate team starting box positions on the course prior to practice (see "Race Courses" below);
- Serve as the administrator and supervisor of the championship; and
- Oversee support staff in the conduct of the event.

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 Conference championship event;
- Provide information to local, regional and national media during the championships;
- Supervise and coordinate media interviews and the media work area, which should include an on-site location if the primary media work area is off site;
- Send results to all other Conference schools and the Conference office, including the SEC website;
- Write a general, unbiased summary following the championships and send to the SEC website;
- At the end of the championships, provide final results to the Conference office;
- Provide a photographer for the championships and awards ceremony;
- Perform any other duties pertaining to the media aspect of conducting the events; and
- Work with the championship director as needed.

Officials. **[SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2]** The host institution shall be responsible for obtaining all competition officials identified in the Championship Director's responsibilities and the SEC On-Campus Championship Hosting Manual and ensuring all officials are trained in accordance with SEC 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, 8/10/22, 9/28/22, 10/22/25*]

Officials Pool. The conference office shall maintain a list of qualified referees and starters from which each host institution must select for championship events. Head coaches shall review this list annually to recommend additions or removals. If 25% or more of the head coaches vote to remove an official or oppose a proposed addition, that official shall be removed from, or not added to, the list. [*Adopted: 10/22/2025*]

Protests. NCAA rules govern protests. Additionally, in case of protest only, a videotape of the finish made from an elevated side view will be used to determine order of finish.

Race Courses. The men's course will be approximately 8,000 meters, and the women's will be approximately 6,000 meters. Splits will be given at each mile mark. The courses must be properly measured and marked by a continuous, clearly visible unbroken line on the running surface (or a suitable flag system) from start to finish. [*Revised: 8/10/22*]

Scoring. Five student-athletes will score, with two others displacing. Any remaining athletes will not influence scoring in any way. Men's and Women's meets will be scored in accordance with NCAA rules.

Squad Size. Only 12 women's and 10 men's 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: 8/18/15, 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 will be set by the host institution but must be approved by the Conference office. In addition, if admission is charged, the host institution must 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.

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – Grace Sanders; Communications – Chuck Dunlap.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Administration. The administration of Conference regular-season and championship competition is governed by NCEA regulations, except where these Commissioner's Regulations expressly supersede or conflict with NCEA regulations.

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. Head coaches or their designees will nominate no more than five of their student-athletes per event – in ranked order – for all-conference consideration. A student-athlete must compete in a minimum of five competitions (in the event for which she is nominated) to be eligible for this award. Voting will occur in the week following the SEC Championship. A total of five student-athletes will be selected per event for a maximum of 20 on the all-conference team.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Head coaches or their designees will nominate no more than five of their student-athletes per event – in ranked order – for all-freshman consideration. A student-athlete must compete in a minimum of five competitions (in the event for which she is nominated) to be eligible for this award. Voting will occur in the week following the SEC Championship. A total of five student-athletes will be selected per event for a maximum of 20 on the all-freshman team.
3. **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 following the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the Conference office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Four "Athlete of the Year" awards will be presented: Equitation Over Fences Athlete of the Year, Equitation On The Flat Athlete of the Year, Horsemanship Athlete of the Year and Reining Athlete of the Year. A student-athlete must compete in a minimum of five competitions (in the event for which she is nominated) to be eligible for this award.
4. **Freshman 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 following the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the Conference office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Four "Freshman of the Year" awards will be presented: Equitation Over Fences Freshman of the Year, Equitation On The Flat Freshman of the Year, Horsemanship Freshman of the Year and Reining Freshman of the Year. A student-athlete must compete in a minimum of five competitions (in the event for which she is nominated) to be eligible for this award.
5. **Newcomer of the Year.** The recipient, will be determined by a vote of the head coaches. A Conference staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches following the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the Conference office where a ballot will be compiled and returned to coaches for their votes. Four "Newcomer of the Year" awards will be presented: Equitation Over Fences Newcomer of the Year, Equitation On The Flat Newcomer of the Year, Horsemanship Newcomer of the Year and Reining Newcomer of the Year. A student-athlete must compete in a minimum of five competitions (in the event for which she is nominated) to be eligible for this award. *[Adopted: 8/21/24*]
6. **Coach of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by a vote of the head coaches.
7. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations
8. **Community Service Team**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Athlete of the Month.** The Conference Communications staff will select equestrian athletes of the month from nominations submitted to the conference office by the head coach, sports information director or other

designee of the member institutions. Four monthly awards will be given for the sport of equestrian: Equitation Over Fences Athlete of the Month, Equitation On The Flat Athlete of the Month, Horsemanship Athlete of the Month and Reining Athlete of the Month. These will be awarded during any month during the regular season in which any Conference team competes.

Coaches Meeting. Each head coach is required to participate in the annual coaches meeting in January. See also, SEC Bylaw 21.8.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall be painted or included on a minimum of two banners in an appropriate area in the venue.

Conference Championship. The Conference champion will be determined by a meet of all member institutions sponsoring a team. The championship will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations for Equestrian. See also, SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3

Ethical Conduct and Enforcement. Coaches are required to inform the conference office of all potential violations and reporting of NCEA Ethical Conduct and Enforcement activity (NCEA Manual 4.1 – 4.2.5) to the NCEA. If an NCEA Code of Conduct violation is witnessed and reported during a contest involving two Conference institutions, the reporting head coach (or member of his or her staff) must alert the Conference administrator prior to submission to the NCEA. [*Adopted: 1/26/17*]

Officials. In dual head-to-head competitions against Conference opponents, the visiting team shall prepare a list of at least six officials with approval from the host school. An NCEA assigner or the visiting team will select and schedule the officials. Officials must meet the NCEA standards. Judges in the sport of equestrian will be paid travel costs, lodging expenses, and $650 per meet by the host institution. Each institution will determine payment standards for stewards. Judges may not reside within a 100-mile radius of the two participating institutions, unless necessitated by extenuating circumstances as discussed and agreed upon by both participating coaches. This restriction will not apply to the annual Conference Championship. [*Revised: 6/10/20, 1/22/25*]

Tickets – 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.

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling. The regular season schedule shall consist of home and away competition between each institution. The home and away meets shall be split between the fall and spring terms. Scheduling for each year will be completed prior to December 1. The minimum entry of competitors per event is five for any Conference dual head-to-head competition.

Squad Size. All eligible student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. There is no travel squad size limit.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Administrative Teleconference and Meetings. Coaches and administrators from each institution competing in the Conference championship shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the championship to review policies and procedures. A representative from each team (along with the Conference administrator and meet secretary) shall attend a mandatory meeting held at 5 p.m. on the day prior to the championship to conduct a bracket draw. The draw for the second day of the championship will be held immediately following the first day's competition. All coaches, officials, and scribes (along with the Conference administrator) shall attend a mandatory Coaches/Officials/Scribes meeting on the first morning of the meet so that the Coaches Meeting Checklist (see NCEA manual) can be reviewed along with any other specifics pertaining to the competition.

Awards. The Conference champion will be presented a trophy immediately following the conclusion of the final day of competition. Each member of the All-Championship Team shall receive individual trophies. The All-Championship team is determined by a committee comprised of the Conference Sport Administrator (chair) and the head coach of each institution.

1. **Most Outstanding Performers – Championship.** The judges will confer and select one Most Outstanding Performer per event from each competition in the championship (total of four per competition per day). Honorees will receive flowers.

2. **All-Championship Team.** Each head coach will submit a nomination for one of their own athletes per event to the Conference Communications administrator for the SEC Championship's All-Championship Team. A ballot will be compiled and coaches will vote on this award immediately following the Conference Championship. The four All-Championship Team recipients, one from each event, will receive their individual trophies at the time of the team trophy presentation.

Host Institution Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the host institution's tournament director and sports information contact are listed in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference office.

Dates and Sites. The championship will be held on the Friday and Saturday three weeks prior to the NCEA Championship. See Supplement C in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites.

Entries. Five riders per the four events will be offered to each of the four Conference institutions sponsoring equestrian.

Horses.

Numbers Required. Each member institution will provide 12 horses to the host institution for use at the Championship. Of those 12, there will ideally be three horses for each event. Each horse must be capable of competing both days and at the required level of the patterns and tests. All demo horses and second alternate horses will be provided by the host institution.

Nomination Process. The host institution will organize the nomination and voting on all horses during the same conference calls used for establishing the patterns and tests with the following guidelines:

A. Each institution will nominate three horses from each of the four competing institutions for each event (nominating 12) by Jan. 31 to the host institution.

B. The host institution will distribute all nominated horses to the member institutions by Feb. 5 for consideration. Each member institution is encouraged to remove any nominated horse not suitable to travel.

C. The host institution will organize Conference calls, including the Conference Sport Administrator, during the first two weeks of February for the coaches to discuss, edit, and vote for patterns to be used in the Championship. This process will be completed no later than Feb. 15.

D. It should be noted that changes to this list may need to occur due to the complexities of the horses' soundness and suitability. Therefore, it is suggested to have an alternate horse designated for each event at each school in case one of the three is unable to travel.

Placement in Brackets. Horses used in the meet brackets will not be from either of the competing teams. (i.e. if team A rides against team B then they will ride team C and D's horses).

Draw. First-round placement of competing teams into brackets based on seeding will be done by draw at the pre-championship meeting the day preceding the championship. The higher seeded team will decide which side

(left/right) of the bracket to be on for both semi-final and championship. Horse and ride order of go will be determined randomly by computerized draw system. [*Revised: 8/15/26*]

Inclement Weather. In the event of severe inclement weather, the meet may be called by the steward after consulting with the Championship Director and the Conference administrator. If the meet is unable to continue, it will be considered complete if 75 percent of the meet schedule has been completed. If 75 percent cannot be completed, no Conference Champion will be named.

Officials.

Judges/Stewards. Once the list of judges for the NCEA National Championship has been released, the host institution will begin working with the remaining coaches to nominate, vote and approve the necessary officials for the following Conference Championship. The host will be responsible for executing and paying the contract with the officials and will pay fees plus travel expenses, meals and lodging.

Scribes. The host institution shall be required to provide four scribes. An individual serving as a scribe shall not be a student-athlete and may not have any affiliation with any of the competing teams, unless the individual is approved in advance of the Championship by a majority of the participating coaches. Competing teams may not have a scribe sit with a judge. A scribe shall not have contact with coaches, student-athletes or other team members from the time they meet the judges until the meet is complete. [*Revised: 3/13/19*]

Fees. The host institution will issue the following payment for officials and scribes: [*Revised: 12/12/18, 1/22/25*]

Judges (6 – three per discipline)	$650 fee/day of meet
Stewards (2 – one per discipline)	$300 fee/day of meet
Scribe (6 – one for each judge)	$150 fee/day of meet

Patterns, Tests and Courses. The host institution will organize the nomination, editing, and voting on all patterns and tests using the following guidelines Each institution will submit to the host institution a horsemanship pattern, flat test and reining pattern suggestion by Jan. 31. The host institution shall hire a course designer for the fences round discipline. The host institution will distribute all nominated patterns, tests and courses to the member institutions for consideration by Feb. 5. The host institution will organize conference calls, including the Conference administrator, on Feb. 15 for the coaches to discuss, edit, and vote for patterns to be used in the Championship. This process will be completed no later than Feb. 15. [*Revised: 1/22/25*]

Practices. The host institution shall make its facility available for practices the day prior to competition. The host institution, in conjunction with the head coaches, shall determine an appropriate pre-championship practice schedule.

Pre-Championship Paperwork. The host institution shall provide the pre-meet paperwork to all officials and institutions utilizing the NCEA post season timelines as listed in NCEA 5.3.1.2.

Schedule. The meet schedule for the Championship will be determined by the host institution with approval from the head coaches and the Conference office.

Seeding. Each team will be seeded based on its Conference regular-season winning percentage. In case of a tie, the results of the two teams involved in the tie will be utilized under the following methods:

1. Head-to-Head Result
2. Point Spread Between Tied Teams – Team Points
3. Point Spread Between Tied Teams – Raw Score (Western equivalency)

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

Tickets. The host institution may decide whether to charge admission. If an institution chooses to charge admission, ticket prices will be set by the host institution, but must be approved by the Conference office. In addition, if admission is charged, the host institution shall 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 amount of tickets.

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – Roman Oben; Championship Game/Game Management – Jeremy Hammond; Communications –Chuck Dunlap; Officiating – John McDaid; Scheduling/Television – Matt Evans.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

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

Artificial Noisemakers. See SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5

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

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

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Conference coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
2. **All-Freshman Team**. The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Conference coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
3. **Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
4. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Conference coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
5. **Newcomer of the Year.** The recipient, who must be a transfer who has never previously competed in SEC competition, will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Conference coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
6. **Coach of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Conference coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
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**. The Conference office staff will select an offensive, defensive, offensive lineman, defensive lineman, and special teams "player-of-the- week" from nominations submitted by the sports information directors.
10. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

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

Permitted Bags.

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

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

Bands. **[SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5d]** The following guidelines apply to Conference contests: [*Revised: 11/10/23*]

1. If a visiting team's band plans to perform at halftime, the team must request permission from the host institution's Athletics Director by April 1. If permission is not granted, the visiting band may not perform at halftime. [*Revised: 12/13/16*]
2. If both bands perform at halftime, the visiting team band shall have six minutes to perform. [*Revised: 12/13/16*]
3. In the event of inclement weather, the decision on whether to permit marching bands on the field shall be at the sole discretion of home team game management personnel.
4. Visiting team bands shall arrive at the stadium no later than one hour prior to kick-off. This does not apply to smaller pep bands of 50 members or less.
5. The home band must be located on the opposite side of the field from the visiting team bench; or if located on the same side as the visiting team bench, the band must be seated from the 30-yard line toward the goal line. Any band seats located toward midfield from the 30-yard line may be no closer than 25 rows from the field.
6. After the three-minute mark on the pre-game clock, band members (and instruments/equipment) shall not occupy the area between the 45-yard lines and may not form "tunnels" that cause team members to enter the field in this area.
7. The home team game management shall establish how band members must exit the field following performance (e.g. must exit toward the end zones).
8. Bands, and any component thereof (e.g. drums), shall not play from the time the offensive center puts a hand on the football until the football has been snapped. [*Revised: 6/1/18*]
9. Amplification of the home team band is permitted during times the band is allowed to play.
10. The visiting institution's band shall be limited to the playing of two songs (i.e., fight song, alma mater) following the conclusion of a game.
11. In order to permit a home team to conduct certain traditional events, presentations, or announcements without interruption from the visiting band, the home team game production and/or band director must communicate the times in which a visiting band may be restricted from performing to the visiting band director no later than Thursday prior to a contest. The final game script and review of times in which the visiting band is restricted shall also be provided no less than sixty (60) minutes prior to kick-off. Productions in which the visiting band may be restricted include but are not limited to: 1) traditional pregame chant or cheer, 2) recognition of current student-athletes/teams or or celebrated teams or individuals, 3) recognition of significant donations, 5) faculty presentations, 6) military recognition, or 7) 3rd/4th Quarter transition. A visiting team band may also not perform during Senior Day presentations. These regulations are separate from Halftime Performances for which time will be allocated by the home institution. [*Adopted: 5/31/19*]
12. If a school does not comply with these regulations, the Athletics Director of the involved institution may be asked to rectify the situation. Failure to comply with the regulations may also subject the involved institution to financial or other penalties as prescribed by the Commissioner.

Bench Area Signage. Institutions shall be prohibited from displaying commercial marks and logos on the sideline/bench area of all Conference contests (home and away) except as permitted below:

1. An institution may display a manufacturer's logo on game equipment or apparel (e.g. drink containers, coaching communication systems, kicking nets, etc.)
2. An institution may display marks of their official medical provider(s) on medical tents.
3. An institution may display commercial advertisements on coaches' headsets.
4. A home team (only) may display commercial marks or logos on non-playing equipment (e.g. heating/cooling benches, etc.).

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

1. All elements of the item or structure must be inside the team area on its sideline;
2. A cover/tarp shall only exist on the top and not on the sides or back of the item utilized to provide cover;
3. The item used to provide the cover shall be no higher than five feet, six inches (5'6") from the ground at its

highest point;

4. Corporate branding, marks or words are not permitted on any cover/tarp or on the structure, items, equipment or associated materials used to construct and/or provide the cover; and
5. Institutional, athletics, and/or Conference branding, marks or words are permitted on the cover/tarp and on the structure, items, equipment or associated materials used to construct and/or provide the cover.

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

Cheerleaders. The following guidelines will apply:

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

the Athletics Director's officially designated representative who is authorized to take the following action:

A. If the violation is obvious, the enforcement official shall, depending on the seriousness of the offense, take any of the following actions: issue a warning, place the squad on probation, have the sound system disconnected, have microphones or megaphones taken away for the remainder of that game and/or any number of future games. If the squad is given a warning or placed on probation, any second violation shall result in revocation of the use of any amplified sound system or microphone or megaphone for the rest of the season.

B. If the alleged violation is not obvious, the enforcement official shall immediately review the alleged violation with the cheer coach and/or the squad captain(s) and any other persons as necessary. If there is sufficient doubt of the violation the official shall issue a warning. If the official determines that there has been a violation, he/she may take the action outlined in No. 1 above.

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

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

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with LSU serving as the chair for 2026-27. A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. An individual must have attended two annual coaches' meetings and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Coach-to-Player Communication Technology. The use of coach-to-player communication technology shall be permitted consistent with NCAA Playing Rules. Additional policies regarding the management and use of such technology shall be maintained in the SEC Football Game Management Manual. [*Adopted: 8/7/24*]

College Football Playoff Automatic Qualifier. The Conference champion, as determined by a game between the two teams with the highest winning percentage in the regular season, shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the College Football Playoff Championship. If inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the CFP requires notification for selection to the Playoff, the team with the highest winning percentage in the regular season shall be designated as the automatic qualifier. If both teams have the same winning percentage, the Conference Tiebreak Procedures will be used to determine the Automatic Qualifier. [*Adopted: 11/6/24*]

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall be painted in school approved colors on field between the numbers and hash marks, and must be painted diagonally from each other facing the press box (TV Cameras) on either the 25 or 35 yard line.

Conference Championship. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

1. The Conference champion will be determined by a game between the two teams with the highest winning percentage in the regular season. Standings will be calculated on a percentage basis, using only Conference games. Only those teams which have played and completed all nine scheduled Conference contests shall be eligible for a championship. Details on all tie-breaking procedures are outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations. The site of the championship game shall be set by a vote of the Conference member institutions. [*Revised: 5/3/17*]
2. If the championship game is cancelled (due to act of God, war, terrorist attack, or other reason beyond the control of the Conference), the two teams with the highest winning percentage in the regular season (utilizing Conference Tiebreak Procedures as necessary) shall be declared Conference Co-Champions, and the team with the highest winning percentage in the regular season shall be declared the Conference's Automatic Qualifier for the College Football Playoff. If both teams have the same winning percentage, the Tiebreak Procedures will be used to determine the Automatic Qualifier. [*Revised: 11/6/24*]

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

Competition Area Lighting. Stadium light shows fall into the following two categories: 1) full stadium light coloring in which the game lights are dimmed and/or change colors, or, 2) game lighting remains while lights perform movement, including chase and flickering effects. When student-athletes are on the field or sidelines and during the times when light shows are permitted, the playing surface must never go dark; meaning total stadium lights may not ever be turned off at the same time. When student-athletes are not on the field or sidelines and during the times when light shows are permitted, the playing surface may go dark. In any scenario when dimming lights is permissible, institutions must use professional, best judgement to ensure that the dimming does not impact the safety of the game participants or degrade the ability to capture quality video for replay and broadcast purposes. Repeated violations of the policy may result in more restrictive policies or fines to institutions as determined by the Commissioner. [*Adopted: 6/12/20, Revised: 8/13/25*]

1. **Pregame, Halftime and Postgame.** Stadium lights may be dimmed, change colors and/or perform lighting movement effects during pregame, halftime, postgame. [*Revised: 8/13/25*]
2. **Media Timeouts.** When a light show occurs during a media timeout, lights must remain at full game lighting until the timeout clock starts its countdown and return to game lighting fifteen seconds (:15) prior to the end of the timeout. [*Revised: 8/13/25*]
3. **Touchdown, Point-After-Touchdown, Field Goal and Safety.** Stadium lights may be dimmed, change colors, and/or perform lighting movement effects after a Touchdown, Point-After-Touchdown, Field Goal, or Safety once a minimum of three seconds (:03) has passed following the game officials signal of a scoring play. [*Revised: 9/9/22, 8/13/25*]

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

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

1. **110 Minute Meeting Location.**
   A. An institution shall provide a location, preferably indoors, that is free of noise and distractions for the 110 Minute Meeting.
   B. An institution shall provide ample security that prevents general public access and ensures appropriate staff member access to the 110 Minute Meeting.
2. **Coaches Locker Room.**
   A. An institution shall provide operable heating and air conditioning in any coaches locker rooms.
   B. An institution shall provide separate room/space for coaches inside or connected to the team locker room that accommodates a minimum of eleven (11) coaches.
   C. An institution shall provide a game clock that is synched with the in-stadium game clock in visiting coaches locker room(s). [*Adopted: 5/3/23*]
3. **Game Officials Locker Room.**
   A. An institution shall provide operable heating and air conditioning in the game officials locker room.
   B. An institution should provide a separate location/area for the chain crew. If the chain crew must occupy the same space, the chain crew must be able to depart the game officials locker room upon request of the referee to allow discussion to occur amongst the game officials.
4. **Medical and X-Ray.**
   A. An institution shall provide the ability to conduct an x-ray of a student-athlete in a private area at the stadium. A student-athlete and supporting medical staff shall not be required to walk through an opponent's locker room to access the designated x-ray location.
   B. An institution must ensure that an ambulance and field level EMTs and/or paramedics are on-site on

game days.

C. An institution shall have a designated hospital for medical treatment/examination that is identified prior to the first game of the season. More than one hospital may be designated if different hospitals are equipped to handle different types of injuries, in which case the institution must clearly designate and include in its emergency plan which hospital shall be used for a specific type of injury.

D. A home institution shall secure transportation back to the stadium or airport for a visiting student-athlete(s) following treatment at a local hospital if the visiting team's medical staff grants approval for the student-athlete to re-join the team on game day prior to the team's departure.

5. **Playing Surface.** For stadiums with artificial turf, an institution shall test/examine the turf a minimum of twice annually to ensure it is within the safe range in all aspects. The turf should be tested no later than a month prior to the season and once during the mid-point of the football season.

6. **Press Box Booths.**
   A. *Replay and Medical Observer Booth* – An institution shall ensure that replay officials and medical observers are able to view the entire field. The Replay and Medical observer Booth must have a sideline view and be located on the same side of the stadium as the network television booth.
   B. *Coaches Booths* – An institution shall ensure the visiting team's booth is able to accommodate the same number of people and have the same number of headset connections as the home team's booth.
   C. Institutions shall provide golf cart transportation to the visiting team coaches if necessary to allow for unimpeded access to the coaches booth and/or elevator, stairwell, path, etc. that leads to the booth.
   D. Institutions shall ensure that elevators are held for coaches to be transported to/from the press box prior to kickoff, halftime and postgame.

7. **Sideline Power.** [*Revised: 6/12/20*]
   A. An institution must supply the same amount of power to the visiting team's sideline that exists on the home team's sideline.

   B. An institution must provide power on both sidelines that allows for cooling or heating benches, as well as ample power on each sideline for other standard equipment utilized by teams. If a generator is required to power the visiting team's cooling or heating benches, the visiting team shall make arrangements to obtain a generator in consultation with the home team's game management staff. The home team is responsible for the cost of the generator and shall designate a location to operate the generator. The following outlines the current power requirements for a standard cooling or heating bench set-up:

      A. Not Using a Generator: 200 amps, 3 phase, 208/240 volts at each 35-yard line (A 200 amp disconnect box (w/circuit breaker) located against the field wall at each 35-yard line is ideal.); or

      B. Using a Generator: A standard 100KW generator; 4/0 AWG 400 amp cables with 5 cables total (3-hot, 1-ground, 1-neutral).

   C. When a team does not utilize cooling or heating benches, an institution must provide power that allows for equipment to cool or heat the team area on both sidelines.

8. **Visiting Team Equipment Truck Parking.** A visiting team's equipment truck shall be permitted to remain in the same location that it parks for unloading unless this location presents a safety/security concern.

9. **Visiting Team Interview/Press Conference Room.**
   A. An institution shall provide a location, preferably indoors, that is free of noise and distractions for the visiting team to conduct interviews/press conferences.
   B. An institution shall provide ample security that prevents general public access and ensures appropriate staff member access to the visiting team interviews and press conferences.
   C. A designated room/space for visiting team interviews/press conferences may be used for other purposes during the game if it does not delay or impede the postgame interview/press conference.

10. **Visiting Team Locker Room.**
    A. An institution shall provide operable heating and air conditioning in the visiting team locker room.
    B. An institution shall provide ample security that prevents general public access and ensures appropriate staff member access to the visiting team locker room.

C. An institution shall provide a minimum of eight (8) showers in the visiting team locker room. A minimum of ten (10) showers in the visiting team locker room should be considered in future stadium construction or renovations.

D. An institution shall provide lockers to accommodate a minimum of seventy (70) student-athletes in the visiting team locker room. An acceptable alternative to lockers is seating and shelving for a minimum of seventy student-athletes that allows helmets and shoulder pads to be hung or stored and not placed on the floor.

11. **Visiting Team Security.** An institution shall ensure that once the visiting team arrives to the stadium, a security screening process shall not delay their entry. If security screening is required, the visiting team shall be provided the option for screening to occur at its team hotel prior to departure to the stadium.

12. **Frequency Coordinator.** Each institution shall employ a dedicated Frequency Coordinator for all home games (Conference and non-Conference). [*Adopted: 2/18/25*]

13. **Coaching Communications.** Each institution shall provide: [*Adopted: 2/18/25*]

    A. Eight (8) strands of single-mode fiber dedicated for coach-to-coach communication (four pairs for home team communications and four pairs for visiting team communications)

    B. OpticalCon Duo connectors and LC/ST connectors

    C. 60' LC to Duplex fiber jumper

14. **Visiting Team Locker Room Video Displays.** Each institution shall provide the following in the visiting team locker room to support the use of in-game video: [*Adopted: 5/9/25*]

    A. Two (2) 65" inch TVs, with a resolution of 1080p or greater and HDMI inputs, mounted on a rolling cart.

    B. 50ft Power Extension Cables for each TV Cart.

    C. USB-C to HDMI Adapters.

    D. 15ft HDMI Cords.

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

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

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

Game Management.

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

   A. Determining who is given permission to be on the sideline (unauthorized persons shall be removed);

B. Controlling handout literature and eliminating objectionable banners; and

C. Instructing local police to divert heavy traffic away from the game site so that spectators are able to leave in a timely manner.

2. The host institution shall hold a game management meeting approximately one hour and 50 minutes prior to kick-off of each contest in a private location determined by the host institution (the "110-minute meeting").

3. The host institution shall provide a staff person to be assigned to the visiting team and available near the visiting team bench and locker room area for the duration of the visiting team's stay on site.

4. Additional guidelines related to the game management of regular season football contests are set forth in the SEC Game Management Manual.

In-Game Video Technology. The use of in-game video technology shall be permitted consistent with NCAA Playing Rules. Additional policies regarding the management and use of such technology shall be maintained in the SEC Football Game Management Manual. [*Adopted: 8/7/24*]

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

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

1. **Definitions**.

A. **Delay** - To delay a contest is to delay the start of a contest until a later time on the same date.

B. **Relocate** - To relocate a contest is to change the location of the competition.

C. **Suspend** - To suspend a contest is to temporarily halt play for a short duration after the contest begins.

D. **Cancel** - To cancel a contest is to nullify it either before or after it begins and to make no provision for rescheduling it or for including its score or other performance statistics in Conference records.

E. **Postpone** - To postpone a contest is to (a) defer its starting time to a later date, or to (b) suspend it after play has begun and make provision to resume it at a later date with all scores and other performance statistics up to the point of postponement added to those achieved in the resumed portion of the contest.

F. **Terminate** - To terminate a contest is to end it short of a full-designated duration of play, officially record it as a completed contest, and make no provision to resume it at a later date.

2. **Authority**. Authority to delay or relocate a contest is vested with the home institution's Athletics Director or designated senior level administrator as directed in the guidelines below. 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, who may also delay, relocate, or suspend a contest at his/her discretion when circumstances warrant. [*Revised: 1/31/24*]

3. **Guidelines**.

A. **Prior to the Contest.**

1. If extenuating circumstances occur that necessitate a contest be moved to an earlier start time, an earlier start date, and/or relocated within the same city, the two participating institutions shall determine the date, time, and location of the contest, subject to the approval of the Commissioner. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to

play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit. Each institution shall annually maintain a running list of potential alternate facilities that could be utilized in the event of a relocation [*Adopted: 12/13/16; Revised: 1/31/24*]

2. If a contest is postponed prior to its start for any reason, the contest shall be rescheduled for the following day (e.g. a Saturday game shall be rescheduled for Sunday) unless circumstances prevent the contest from safely being played, in which case the two participating institutions, in consultation with the Commissioner or his/her designee, shall reschedule the contest for a later time or date. If the participating institutions are unable to agree on rescheduling, the Commissioner shall have the authority to direct the time, date, and location of the contest as necessary. A team's refusal to play in a rescheduled contest as directed by the Commissioner shall be considered a forfeit. [*Adopted: 12/13/16*]
3. Prior to 60 minutes before scheduled kick-off, the home institution's Director of Athletics or designated senior level administrator shall have the authority to determine whether a contest should temporarily be delayed until a later time on the same date. [*Revised: 12/13/16*]
4. At 60 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off, the decision to suspend play shall become the responsibility of the game officials, at the direction of home game management.

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

If a contest is suspended after play has begun:

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

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

Lightning Policy.

1. Each member institution shall be responsible for having the capability of determining when lightning strikes

are within specified distances of the competition site for all outdoor events.

2. When lightning is detected within 15 miles of the competition site, the home institution should notify the head referee.
3. When lightning is detected within a minimum of 10 miles of the competition site, home team management shall utilize the public address system to inform those in attendance that inclement weather including lightning is within 10 (or more) miles and that patrons should 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, the competition shall be suspended. Competition may be resumed after 30 minutes of no detected lightning strikes within an eight mile radius. A 10 minute warm-up period may be granted following this 30-minute suspension.
5. In cases of severe weather being detected prior to the start of competition:
   A. When lightning is detected within a minimum of 10 miles from the competition site after gates have opened to the public, home team management shall utilize the public address system to inform those in attendance that inclement weather including lightning is within 10 (or more) miles and that should patrons vacate the facility for safe shelter, they will be allowed to re-enter with a ticket stub. [*Revised: 6/5/20*]

   B. When lightning is detected within eight (8) miles of the competition site, all on-field activities (e.g., warm-ups, marching band, national anthem, introductions) shall be suspended. On-field activities may resume after 30 minutes of no detected lightning strikes within an eight (8) mile radius. A maximum of 10 minutes may be used, at the discretion of the home institution, for the marching band, national anthem and introductions, immediately following the 30-minute time period of no detected lightning strikes.

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

Medical Observer.

1. The Conference shall provide a qualified medical professional to serve as an independent medical observer for all Conference contests and all non-conference contests conducted at a home site (including neutral site facilities where the institution plays an annual contest). Non-conference institutions competing at a Conference home site (including neutral site facilities where the Conference institution plays an annual contest) may agree to utilize the Conference medical observer by executing a medical observer "opt-in" agreement prior to the game.
2. Host institutions shall provide a secure and controlled location for the medical observer within the replay booth to perform his or her duties. In addition, host institutions shall provide a high-definition television with access to the game broadcast, headphones with access to game broadcast audio, a DVR, and a telephone with the ability to communicate with the medical staff of both teams. Institutional medical observers for non-conference institutions may not utilize the replay booth to perform his or her duties. However, an host institution may, at its discretion, provide another location for the non-conference institutional observer to perform his or her duties.
3. In the event the medical observer has clear visual evidence the medical observer will communicate with the team's medical or athletic training staff. The medical observer will contact the replay officials immediately to inform them that a medical stoppage is needed and identify the player by his team and jersey number. Following that communication, the medical observer will communicate observations to the player's medical staff and inform them of the communication for the medical stoppage. If the player is removed from the game or proceeds off the field unassisted, the medical observer will communicate their observations to the player's medical staff.
4. Upon being notified by the medical observer, the replay official shall immediately contact the Referee over the wireless crew communication system and identify the player by his team and jersey number. The Referee or any other official shall immediately stop the game while the ball is dead, go to the player in question, and follow all procedures as outlined in Rule 3 of the NCAA playing rules concerning players and Injury Timeouts, including clock management. However, if play is stopped due to the medical observer process with less than one minute in the half, then Article 5.f of NCAA Rule 3-3 (10 second runoff provision) will

not apply. The wing official will notify the Head Coach of the reason for the Injury Timeout, and the Referee will make the following announcement: "Time Out … Medical Stop." The Referee shall not announce or identify the player who is being removed from the game.

5. Once removed from the field, the team medical staff shall conduct an evaluation of the player. The return to play decision will be made by the institution's medical staff consistent with the institution's protocols and Rule 3-3-5 of the NCAA playing rules concerning injury timeouts.
6. A team may not deliberately initiate these procedures (1) to stop play unnecessarily, (2) to prolong or delay the medical stoppage, (3) to improperly take advantage of a stoppage in play, or (4) to influence the actions of the medical observer.
7. An additional pager system which connects the medical observer in the replay booth to team medical personnel on the sideline shall be used for communication that does not require a stoppage in play. [*Adopted: 5/31/19*]

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

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

Officials. **[SEC Bylaws 10.5 and 30.20.1]**

1. The Conference office shall assign officials for all home games and any games specified in contractual agreements with Conference institutions.
2. No coach, trainer, player or member of the team's official party shall talk to game officials prior to, during or after a game concerning any matter related to the game, except for discussions related to NCAA rules. There shall be no communication of any sort between the coaches and officials at halftime. Under no circumstances shall a coach enter the officials' locker room. If a prolonged conversation is required, both coaches should be present. All violations of this policy are to be reported by the coaches or game officials to the Conference office the day following the incident.
3. Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is absolutely prohibited. Comments on officiating are to be directed only to the Conference office. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning student-athletes, coaches or officials, shall be directed only to the Conference office. Public comments related to officiating by officials, coaches or institutional personnel are prohibited.
4. 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.
5. Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone, and all matters pertaining to officials or officiating will be directed to the Conference office only. Likewise, this policy will preclude officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.
6. Sports information directors and coaches will make no reference to officiating in institutional press releases. The list of officials assigned to a game should not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of the pre-game information packets before a game. Additionally, no hometowns, phone numbers, etc. should be listed in these packets. The names of the officials shall not be announced during pre-game public address introductions.
7. It is the responsibility of home team game management to confirm game times and other information on the Conference officiating website.
8. Game officials are responsible for officiating the contest and enforcing the game rules. They are not charged with crowd control or game management responsibility; however, they do have the authority to halt a game if crowd control problems arise.
9. The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at Conference games:

A. Security escorts for officials should be provided as follows:
   i. A person at each institution should be in contact with the umpire the week of the game to finalize game day travel. A van with police escorts should pick up the officials at the hotel no later than 2 hours prior to kickoff. Only approved personnel are permitted to accompany the officials to and from the stadium. Officers should escort officials to the dressing room, to and from the field, and back to the van after the game. Police escorts will escort the officials' van back to the hotel immediately following the game.
   ii. A dressing room key should be either given to one of the officials, or a person designated by the game management director. The designated person must lock the dressing room while the officials are officiating and must be waiting at the dressing room door when the officials return at halftime and at the end of the game. The officials must have immediate access to their dressing room at halftime and at the conclusion of the game.
   iii. If the officials must walk through public concourses or areas to reach the team locker rooms before the game and/or at the halftime, they must be escorted by security personnel.

B. The officials' dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as described in the SEC Game Management Manual:

C. If an official requests the service of a trainer or needs any medical supplies, the trainer should come to the officials' dressing room to provide the service or deliver the supplies. The official should not go to the training room.

D. Absolutely no one shall be allowed access to the officials' dressing room without the permission of the Southeastern Conference except (1) the officials assigned to the game, (2) the event manager and (3) Southeastern Conference staff and observers.

E. The home institution is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and delivery to the referee of the wireless microphone unit as set forth in the SEC Game Management Manual.

10. 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.
11. The crew of officials assigned to each game shall receive a total of 20 complimentary tickets (two for each official including the instant replay official and communicator). Seat assignments shall be located on the sideline between the goal lines. The tickets are to be shipped to a designated staff member in the Conference office no later than the first week in August. The Conference office will be responsible for distributing the tickets to the appropriate individuals. Officials will not be permitted to request the purchase of any additional tickets from any institution.

Officiating Video Submission. Each institution shall submit to the conference office video footage which fully captures all 30 on-field participants (11 offense, 11 defense, 8 officials) at all times for all home contests in which SEC officials are assigned. Such video shall be submitted by no later than 12pm local time on the day following the contest and shall not be edited in any form. [*Adopted: 5/30/25*]

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

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

Practice (Spring). All spring practices, including spring games, must be held either: (1) on campus; (2) in a facility regularly used for practice or home competition in the immediate campus community; or (3) in a facility used at least twice during the applicable academic year for regular season home competition. All spring practice games shall be

intra-squad games. There shall be no spring practice conducted by an institution after the closing date of its spring semester or quarter.

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

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

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

1. The playing field must be available for pre-game warm-up no later than 120 minutes before kickoff. Kickers shall be allowed to kick at both ends of the field until 65 minutes prior to scheduled kick-off. Additionally, each team shall be permitted to walk through the playing field on game day prior to 120 minutes before kickoff if the playing field is the most direct route to its locker room from the designated team bus drop-off location.
2. All warmup activities (pregame or during suspensions of game play) shall occur only in the locker room or on the field starting 120 minutes prior to kickoff in Conference contests (only). Teams shall not be permitted to warmup in a different location. [*Adopted: 11/4/20*]
3. The game clock shall begin the pre-game countdown at 90 minutes prior to kickoff. In the event of a television "slide", the game clock shall be reset and restarted at the 60-minute mark. Pre-game warm-up areas shall adhere to the diagram on Supplement A-1 of this section until 40 minutes prior to kickoff, at which time warm-up areas shall adhere to the diagram on Supplement A-2. The home team shall provide the visiting team with completed diagrams no later than practice the day before the game. In stadiums where the team entrances are on opposite ends of the field, each team shall conduct pre-game warm-ups on the end of the field closest to its entrance. When entering or leaving the field during warm-ups, a team may not enter the designated warm-up area of the opposing team.
4. Teams may be requested to leave the field for pre-game activities (e.g., bands, ceremonies, etc.) not to exceed 17 minutes (i.e., at the 20-minute mark on the pre-game clock), except for Senior Day. For Senior Day ceremonies before a team's last regular-season home game, the teams may be requested to leave the field for 22 minutes (25-minute mark on the pre-game clock). All Senior Day activities must take place during this 22-minute period. The field must once again be available for at least three minutes before kickoff of the second half. If both teams are on the field at the time scheduled for the start of the second half and the field is not cleared for play, the home team will be penalized 10 yards on the subsequent free kick. Bands, speeches, presentations, homecoming and similar activities are under the jurisdiction of home game management and a prompt start of each half is mandatory.
5. Under no circumstances shall a participating player or coach from either team enter the playing field while a band is performing at halftime. A player violating this provision is subject to an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty or subsequent action by the Conference office. [*Revised: 7/25/17, 7/25/19*]

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

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

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.

1. **Schedule Composition.** Each team shall play eight Conference games each year. The sites, dates, and rotation of the eight-game schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference. Any conflicts that result in this schedule that cannot be resolved by the institutions involved will be submitted to the Presidents and Chancellors for final resolution.
2. **Relocating a Conference Contest.** There must be mutual agreement between the athletics directors of the two-participating institutions and approval from the Commissioner prior to the relocation of a regularly scheduled Conference football contest from an institution's regular home campus playing facility to a playing facility outside of the home state of the host institution. It shall be the sole decision of the home institution to relocate a regularly scheduled Conference football contest from an institution's regular home campus playing facility to another playing facility within the state of the home institution. The home team shall notify the visiting team of the change in location no later than December 31 of the prior year, or if after such date, mutual agreement must occur. This regulation does not apply to games relocated under the Commissioner's authority under the interrupted game procedures. [*Adopted: 5/1/18*]
3. **Non-Conference Scheduling**. Each institution shall play at least one additional game each year against an opponent from either the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big 10 Conference, Big 12 Conference, Pac-12 Conference, or Division I FBS Independents (Army, BYU, or Notre Dame).
4. **Freshman and Junior-Varsity Football**. Freshman or junior-varsity football teams shall be allowed to play only five games in any regular season except intramural games. No freshman or junior-varsity games shall be played prior to the first varsity game. All freshman or junior-varsity games shall be played on the home campus of one of the competing institutions, with the exception that any two Conference teams may schedule their freshman or junior-varsity games in a stadium which is used each year for the varsity game between the two schools. Conference officials shall officiate all Conference games.

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

Student-Athlete Availability Reporting. Institutions shall disclose student-athletes' availability to participate in all Conference contests via standardized Availability Reports as set forth below. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]

1. **Initial Reporting.** Prior to a Saturday contest, an institution shall issue an initial Availability Report on Wednesday by no later than 7:00 pm CT/8:00 pm ET and an updated Availability Report once per day on Thursday and Friday by no later than 7:00 pm CT/8:00 pm ET. If a Conference game is played on a day other than Saturday, the Availability Reports must be issued on the corresponding days (e.g., prior to a Friday game, the initial Availability Report must be issued on a Tuesday).
2. **Designated Statuses Prior to Game Day.** If an institution has knowledge that a student-athlete may not participate in a contest for any reason (e.g. injury, illness, suspension, ineligibility, personal matter, etc.), the institution shall designate the student-athlete's participation status on any Availability Report issues prior to game day as follows:
   a. Out (i.e., will not play/0% chance to play);
   b. Doubtful (i.e., unlikely to play/25% chance to play);
   c. Questionable (i.e., uncertain to play/50% chance to play); or
   d. Probable (i.e., probable to play/75% chance to play).
   e. An institution must also affirmatively designate a student-athlete as Available (i.e., will play/100% chance to play) in instances in which a student-athlete previously appeared on an Availability Report for a contest but is subsequently expected to participate. Any student-athlete who does not appear on an institution's Availability Report shall be regarded as Available, unless the student-athlete is designated as exempt.
3. **Exemptions.** An institution is not required to include a student-athlete in an Availability Report if the student-athlete is not expected to participate in games (e.g., a redshirt student-athlete who does not dress) or if the

student-athlete infrequently participates in minimal competition (e.g., the final minutes of a game no longer in contest). When an institution is in doubt about whether a student-athlete may be exempt per this policy, the institution should err on the side of transparency and include a student-athlete in its Availability Report.

4. **Game Day Reporting.** On game day, an institution must issue an updated Availability Report no later than ninety (90) minutes prior to the scheduled start time. The only designated statuses on the game day report shall be:
   a. Available (i.e., will dress for the game and be available to play);
   b. Game Time Decision (i.e., coaches and/or medical personnel need to evaluate the student-athlete in pre-game warmups before deciding whether he can participate in the game). [Note: Instances of a student-athlete being designated as a Game Time Decision must be kept to a reasonable minimum, and any excessive use of this designated may trigger a review and additional penalties by the Commissioner.]; or
   c. Out (i.e., not dressing or available for the game).
5. **Duty to Act in Good Faith.** Institutional personnel shall act in good faith to comply with this policy. Acts of gamesmanship intended to hide a student-athlete's participation status for competitive or strategic reasons are prohibited. Any other conduct that be construed as misleading or creating confusion as to a student-athlete's participation status is also prohibited. An institution must take extra precautions to act in good faith to accurately disclose the status of a high-profile student-athlete.
6. **Duty to Avoid Surprise.** An institution must avoid a surprise (i.e., a sudden and drastic change in a student-athlete's participation status) absent extenuating circumstances (e.g., an unexpected illness or injury), and must take extra precautions to avoid a surprise in regard to a high-profile student-athlete's status. An institution must make a reasonable effort to progress a student-athlete through the designated statuses in a gradual manner leading up to a contest (e.g. a student-athlete is not updated from Out directly to Available). If a student-athlete has any chance to play in a scheduled contest, he/she shall not be listed as Out and, at a minimum, must be listed as Doubtful on an initial report.
7. **Duty to Avoid Inconsistent Comments.** Institutional personnel shall not make public comments (including on social media) regarding a student-athlete's availability that are inconsistent with the student-athlete's status on an Availability Report.
8. **Submission.** An institution's Availability Report must be uploaded to an online hub on the conference's website. The Availability Report for both participating teams shall be made publicly available at the same time. Each institution shall designate one primary and one secondary inputter who shall be responsible for inputting information into the hub. A Head Coach, Sports Information Director, and Head Athletic Trainer, shall be jointly involved in satisfying these requirements, with the Head Coach maintaining ultimate responsibility for compliance with the policy.
9. **Enforcement.** The conference office shall possess the authority to investigate potential violations of this policy which shall include (but is not limited to) the ability to interview relevant student-athletes and personnel and review relevant materials (e.g., practice plans, practice film, etc.). Institutional personnel shall fully cooperate with this process. An institution who believes it was placed at a competitive disadvantage as a result of an opponent's alleged violation of this policy shall have until 1:00 p.m. CT / 2:00 p.m. ET on the day after a contest to provide relevant information supporting such contention to the conference office.
10. **Penalties.** Failure to provide accurate and timely information on an Availability Report will subject the offending institution, and, if appropriate, the offending head coach, to accountability measures which shall be applied at the Commissioner's discretion and may include private or public reprimands, fines, or other action. Measures other than financial penalties (e.g., a warning and/or continuing education for relevant institutional personnel) may be imposed in instances in which a violation did not materially impact competition or the violation resulted from an inadvertent mistake, and such incidents shall not count towards the progressive system for financial penalties.
11. **Prescribed Financial Penalties.** In instances in which a financial penalty is deemed appropriate, the following penalty schedule, which shall reset on an annual basis, shall apply to the offending institution, subject to adjustment based upon circumstances such as competitive impact, repeat violator status, etc.):

a. First Offense: Up to a $25,000 penalty
b. Second Offense: Up to a $50,000 penalty
c. Third Offense and Any Successive Offense: Up to a $100,000 penalty

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

Squad Size.

1. **Home Team.** A home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 80 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. The non-participating student-athletes shall dress out at no additional cost to the institution. Non-participating student-athletes shall not receive pre-game meals or overnight lodging, but may receive a post-game meal provided the post-game meal is served at the stadium. No cash stipend may be provided to non-participating student-athletes for post-game meals away from the stadium.
2. **Visiting Team.** 74 travel-eligible student-athletes. A student-athlete who has suffered a season ending injury and will no longer participate may travel without counting towards the visiting team's limit. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 9/6/23*]
3. **Neutral Site Games.** 74 travel-eligible student-athletes for both participating teams. A student-athlete who has suffered a season ending injury and will no longer participate may travel without counting towards the participating team's limit. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 9/6/23*]
4. **Junior Varsity Teams.** The squad size for junior varsity teams is 55 eligible student-athletes.

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

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

Tickets. There shall be a Letter of Agreement between participating institutions on the number of tickets to be exchanged. The host institution must provide the visiting institution a minimum of 2,000 tickets located in the lower level of the stadium, of which at least 1000 tickets must be within one single block. A visiting institution may return any number of tickets for credit prior to August 1. From August 1 to 30 days prior to the game, an institution may only return up to 1,000 tickets for credit. Within 30 days of the game, an institution may only return 500 (of the 1,000) tickets for credit. [*Revised: 5/31/19, Revised 8/7/24*]

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

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

Video Boards/Replays. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

1. **Replays.** Video replays may be shown ~~is~~ on an in-stadium video board from the end of a play until the beginning of the next play, except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. Replays of touchdowns (not stopped for official review) may be shown following the point after attempt up until the ensuing kickoff. Replays may also be shown at a later time during the game as part of a package of highlights during a quarter or halftime break. Video from the official video review system may not be shown during a replay, except during an official video review. Under no circumstance may the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each institution must designate a full-time staff member with a high-

degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-stadium video board.

2. **Official Video Review.** When a stoppage occurs for an official video review, the in-stadium video board operator must use either the unaltered television network program feed or the unaltered video feed from the replay booth as the exclusive video source for plays under review. Replays of the video review are permitted only between Referee announcements to stop play and to communicate the outcome of the review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-stadium video board during stoppage for an official review. Video from the official video review system may only be shown during an official video review. Under no circumstances may the video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, or incite the crowd during or following a review.

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

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

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

Format. The championship game shall be played between the two teams with the highest winning percentage in regular season conference play.

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

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

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

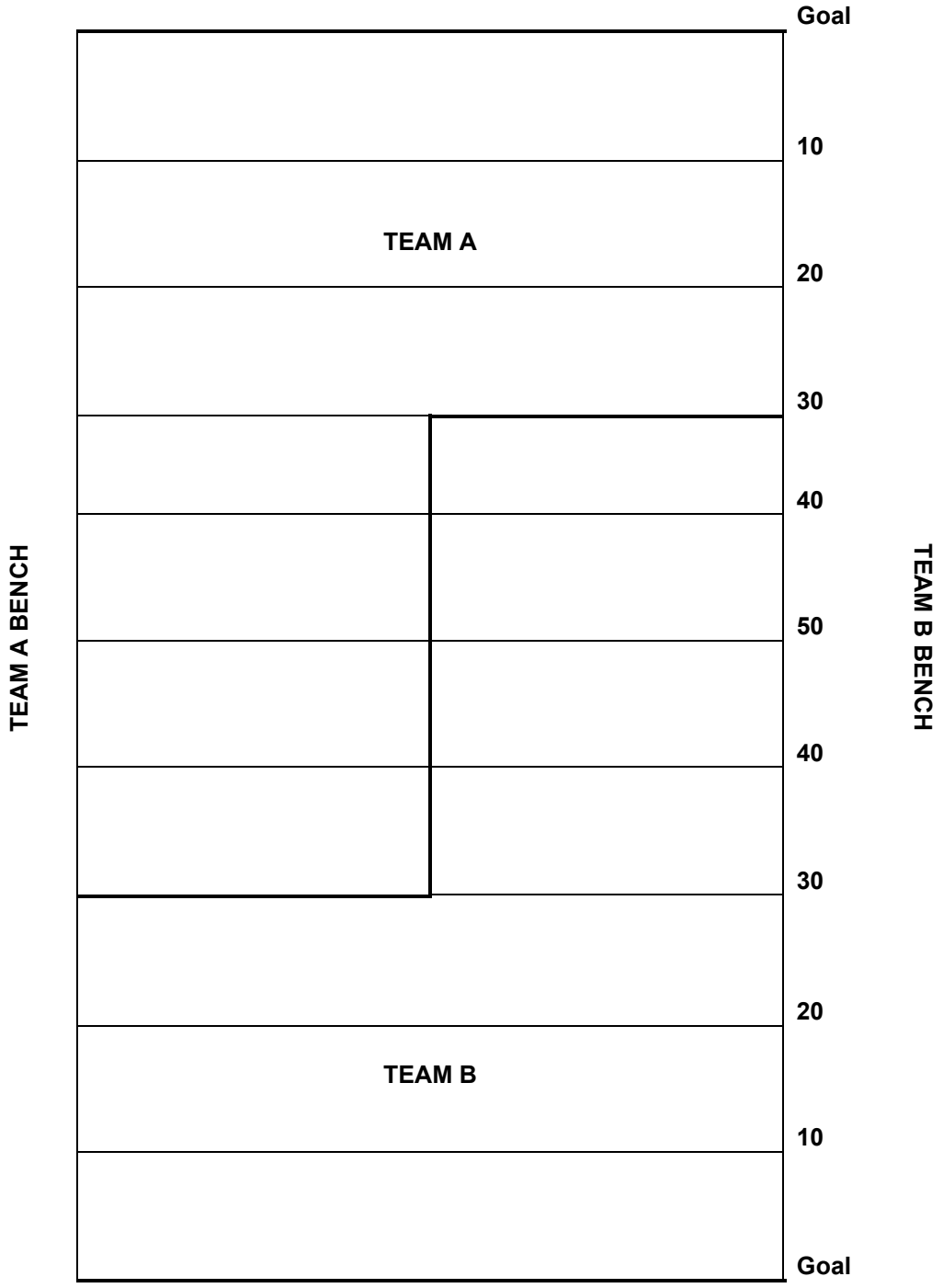
Tickets. The Conference office is responsible for the ticket plan, the design and printing of the tickets as well as the marketing of the tickets. Each participating institution will be allocated 15,000 tickets. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

Tiebreak Procedures. In the event of a tie between teams competing for a place in the Conference championship game, the following procedures will be used in descending order until the tie is broken. If the regular season standings determine a clear Conference champion and two or more teams are tied for second place, the Conference champion will be the home team in the Championship Game and the tiebreaking procedures will be used to determine its opponent. If a tiebreaker step produces standings with two teams tied for first place in the Conference, both will qualify for the championship game. To decide the seeding of the two teams, both will progress through the two-team tiebreaker procedures until the tie is broken, which will determine home/away designation for the SEC Championship Game. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

1. Head-to-head competition among the tied teams
2. Record versus all common Conference opponents among the tied teams
3. Record against highest (best) placed common Conference opponent in the Conference standings, and proceeding through the Conference standings among the tied teams
4. Cumulative Conference winning percentage of all Conference opponents among the tied teams
5. Capped relative total scoring margin versus all Conference opponents among the tied teams
6. Random draw of the tied teams

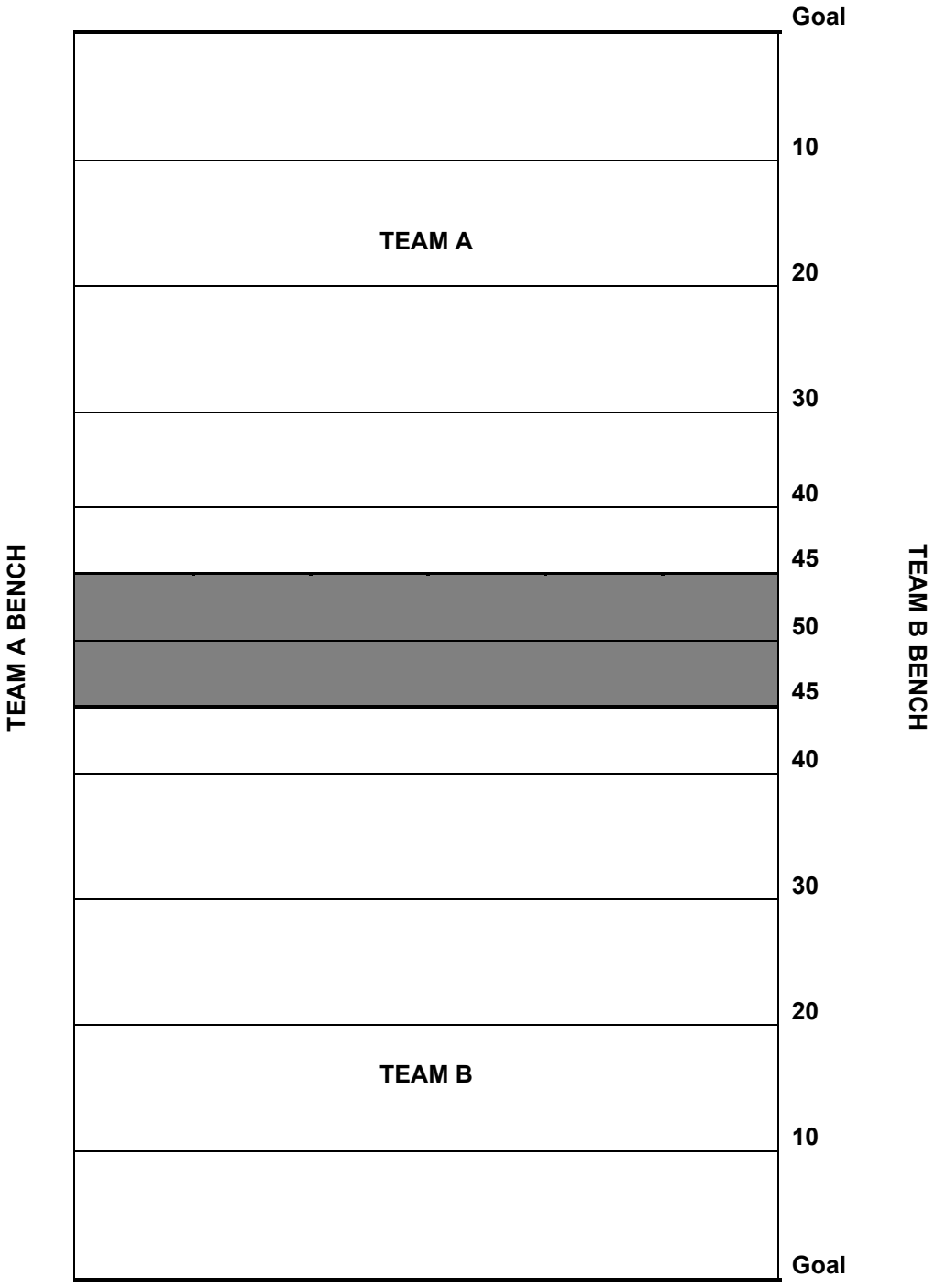
SUPPLEMENT A-1

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



SUPPLEMENT A-2

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



Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – Kory Dahlen; Communications – Chuck Dunlap.

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 first team (ten players) and second team (ten players) will be determined by a vote of the head coaches. Completed online nomination forms are due at the Conference office the Monday prior to the Conference championship. Online voting ballots will be distributed the week following the Conference championship. Coaches shall list 20 players from the nomination forms on their voting ballot. The top seven players listed will receive two points and the next ten players will receive one point. The winner of the Conference championship will automatically be included on the first team and should not be listed on the voting ballot. The top nine point receivers (along with the winner of the SEC Championship) will be the first team and the next ten players will be the second team. The Scoreboard/Clipp'd national rankings following the Conference championship will be utilized to determine the nominees. The Top-50 will be used to determine All-SEC nominees. The individual award votes must be cast for an individual that appears on the Top-50 list. [*Revised: 12/17/25*]
2. **All-Freshman Team**. The all-freshman team (five players) will be determined by a vote of the coaches. Completed online nomination forms are due at the Conference office the Monday prior to the Conference championship. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date. The Scoreboard/Clipp'd national rankings following the Conference championship will be utilized to determine the nominees. The Top-16 will be used to determine All-Freshman nominees. [*Revised: 12/17/25*]
3. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date.
4. **Freshman of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date.
5. **Newcomer of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
6. **Coach of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed the week following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date.
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. **Player of the Week**. Player of the Week awards shall be administered in the Fall (in weeks in which more than one Conference team competes) and Spring playing seasons as outlined in General Administration. [*Revised: 12/15/21*]
10. **Freshman of the Week.** Freshman of the Week awards shall be administered in the Fall (in weeks in which more than one Conference team competes) and Spring playing seasons as outlined in General Administration. [*Revised: 12/15/21*]

Coaches Committee. The coaches committee will be made up of three head coaches from different institutions and will follow an alphabetical rotation with one coach rotating off the committee each year. For 2026, the coaches committee will include Vanderbilt, Alabama, and Arkansas. Should the championship return to campus sites (in the first year), the committee shall be composed of the host coach of the current year's championship, along with the host

coaches of the next two years' championships. In subsequent years, the committee shall be composed of the host coach of the preceding year's championship, the host coach of the current year's championship, and the host coach of the next year's championship.

Coaches Meeting Each head coach shall be required to attend the annual coaches meeting in November at the Conference office. See also, SEC Bylaw 21.8.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Alabama serving as the chair for 2026. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall be painted or included on a minimum of two banners in an appropriate area in the venue.

Conference Championship. The Conference champion will be determined by a tournament of all member institutions sponsoring a team. The championship will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

NCAA Automatic Qualification. The Conference tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the provision of the Inclement Weather policy shall be used to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier. [*Revised: 12/12/17*]

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

1. Each member institution sponsoring a men's golf team may schedule teams of other member institutions at its discretion during the regular season.
2. The United States Golf Association rules shall be followed. The local management will have the prerogative to set any local ground rules when appropriate and necessary.

Squad Size. Only 8 athletes shall be allowed to travel and only 6 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 5/29/25*]

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Championship Director. The responsibilities of the championship director shall include:

1. Supervise the championship;
2. Plan and coordinate all activities of the championship;
3. Produce the Championship Manual and distribute to coaches; and
4. Obtain qualified USGA rules officials to be present on the course throughout the championship.

Dates and Sites. The Championship shall be held on the Wednesday through Sunday in the week of the fourth Sunday in April. A practice round shall be played on the Tuesday prior to the Championship. See Supplement C in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites. [*Revised: 12/15/15*]

Dress Code: Contestants must wear uniforms of the same color during competition and practice. Walking or Bermuda shorts are permitted, provided they are team shorts and are of the same color. Slacks or shorts may be worn at the individual's discretion, provided they are of the same color and are considered the team uniform. If a student-athlete wears headgear during competition, it must display only an institutional, conference or NCAA logo, or no logo. If there is no logo, a coach's or team member's headgear must be of an institutional color. A manufacturer's logo may appear on the side or back of the item as long as it conforms to NCAA Bylaw 12.5.5. Team members are not required to wear the same headgear. In the best interest of intercollegiate golf and the championships, participants must wear appropriate golf attire at the tournament site. All participants and coaches should have their shirts tucked in while on the golf course for practice and competition rounds.

Entries and Substitutions. Each team may enter five players. Unless a team chooses to substitute a sixth player prior to a match play draw, the team's top five players that played in the previous round shall be used for the draw. Prior to a round (stroke or match play), a team may substitute a sixth player for any member of the team provided that: [*Adopted 3/13/19*]

1. The Rules Committee is notified of the substitution at least 10 minutes prior to that team member's starting time. When a team has substituted a sixth player, the substitution becomes final 10 minutes prior to that team member's starting time and no further changes may be made by the team for that round. However, prior to the 10-minute mark, the team may withdraw the substitution by notifying the Rules Committee and may substitute for another player as provided above. The team member that was substituted for shall become the sixth player and the team is limited to that player if the team wishes to substitute a player prior to any subsequent Championship round.
2. The sixth player is an otherwise eligible member of the institution's team.

Equipment and Personnel. The host shall provide the following:

1. Scoreboard, score sheets, scorekeeper and scoring volunteers;
2. Starters for each day;
3. Scorecards arranged according to starting times and labeled by player name and institution;
4. Rules officials to administer scoring, rules interpretations, and maintain satisfactory pace of play;
5. Golf carts for rules officials, media, each head coach and Conference staff;
6. Information packet about the championship; and
7. Refreshments for players at the first tee, the turn and the last hole.

(See Supplement A of this section for an outline of the championship administration.)

Format. The championship will consist of 54-holes of stroke play, followed by match play amongst the top eight finishing teams in stroke play as detailed below:

Day 1 - 18 holes of stroke play

Day 2 - 18 holes of stroke play

Day 3 - 18 holes of stroke play

Day 4 - Four morning matches | Two afternoon matches

Day 5 - Championship match

The individual medalist and runner-up will be awarded based on stroke-play competition. The team championship will be awarded to the match-play winner. [*Revised: 12/15/15; Revised: 6/3/16; Revised: 12/12/17; Revised: 8/7/18*]

Format for Match Play.

1. For match play, the top eight teams will be placed into a bracket with the No. 1 seed playing the No. 8 seed, the No. 2 seed playing the No. 7 seed, the No. 3 seed playing the No. 6 seed and the No. 4 seed playing the No. 5 seed in match play. A total of five points will be available with one point being awarded for each individual match. A stipulated round will be extended to as many holes as necessary to determine a match winner. Winning teams will advance to the semifinals and subsequently the finals. The first team to win three points within the team match will advance, or in the case of the final match be declared the Conference champion. Once a team has won three individual matches, any remaining individual matches will be halted at that point with the individual match recorded as it currently stood. Match play lineups will be determined using the same method employed at the Presidents Cup matches.
2. The higher-seeded team (as determined through the 54-hole stroke-play portion), "Team 1", will have the first choice of putting a player on the board for Match #1. The opposing team, "Team 2", will then name its player for Match #1.
3. Team 2 will then name its player for Match #2, and Team 1 will name its player for Match #2. The process will continue in an "S" curve until the players for all five matches are named. However, Team 1 may defer in the selection process and permit Team 2 to begin the overall selection process.
4. Pairings for the quarterfinals will be determined following the completion of the 54-hole stroke-play competition and the crowning of the individual champion and runner-up. Pairings for the team semifinals and finals will be determined following the completion of the previous match play round.
5. Ties for pairing positions will be broken according to the non-sudden-death tiebreaking procedures outlined below.
6. The Rules committee will do everything possible to complete 54 holes of stroke play and each match of the championship. However, the committee reserves the right to modify pairings for weather. See "Inclement Weather" below.

Golf Carts. Golf carts will be provided to members of the rules committee and selected tournament staff.

1. **Players**. In accordance with USGA Rules of Golf, golf carts are not permitted during competition, but are permitted during the practice round.
2. **Coaches**. One cart will be provided to each institution and any member of the travel party may drive the cart and transport anyone they desire, except players engaged in competition.
3. **Spectators**. Golf carts are not permitted for spectators. Exceptions may be made for special needs. In this case, a head coach must submit the name of the spectator for whom a golf cart is requested to the tournament director at least seven days in advance of the tournament. The tournament director will then send a Golf Cart Request Form to be completed by such spectator. Fulfillment of these requests will be at the discretion of the Conference Sport Administrator, provided carts are available.

Inclement Weather: The championship may be shortened due to inclement weather as no provision is made for extending the championship to a sixth day. The Rules Committee, in consultation with the Tournament Director and Coaches Committee, will determine whether a round should be cancelled or resumed and determine pairings as appropriate for the cancelled or resumed rounds. [*Revised: 12/12/17*]

1. A minimum of 36 holes of stroke play competition must be completed in order to name an individual and team champion. If 36 holes are not completed, the Conference Champion shall be the #1 seed (based on the final regular season Golfstat rankings).
2. A Minimum of 54 holes of stroke play must be completed in order for match play to begin.
3. If weather dictates that the match portion of the tournament cannot begin as scheduled, the Rules Committee, in consultation with the Coaches Committee, may shorten the match play portion of the tournament to four team rather than eight.
4. If weather dictates that the match play portion of the tournament is unable to be played, the Conference

Champion shall be the team with the lowest team score of the rounds that all teams have completed in the stroke play portion of the tournament.

5. If only one round of match play is completed, the Conference Champion shall be the team (of the four remaining teams) with the lowest composite team score from the 54-hole stroke play portion of the event. In the event of a tie, the Non-Sudden Death Playoff Procedures shall be used.
6. If two rounds of match play are completed, the final two teams remaining in match play will be declared co-Champions. The team with the highest seed (based on the final regular season Golfstat rankings) will be the Conference's NCAA Automatic Qualifier.

Manual. The Conference (or host institution if conducted on-campus) shall distribute a championship manual, outlining the policies and procedures for the championship, as well as information specific to a tournament site, to each institution no later than two weeks prior to the championship.

Media Services. It will be the responsibility of the Conference Communications Office to provide the following services during the championship:

1. Prepare and distribute advance publicity for the conference championship;
2. Provide information to local, regional and national media during the championship;
3. Supervise and coordinate media interviews and the media work area;
4. Distribute daily and final results to all conference schools and media (all daily and final results will be posted to www.SECsports.com).

Officials. **[SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2]**

Pairings. Pairings for the practice round, first round will be determined by the final regular season Clippd rankings. For the second and third round, teams will be paired according to score. All teams shall begin on the first or tenth tee. Team ties will be broken using the NCAA Championship tie-breaking procedures for all rounds of play as follows (except for determining the eighth spot for match play, in which case a playoff will commence following 54 holes of stroke play): [*Revised: 2/16/24*]

1. Cumulative total of the non-counting scores,
2. Cumulative total of lowest player score from each round,
3. Cumulative total of the second lowest player score from each round,
4. Cumulative total of the third lowest player score from each round,
5. Cumulative total of the fourth lowest player score from each round,
6. Revert to original seeding of teams.

Portable Electronic Devices. The use of portable electronic devices (iPods, etc…) with earphones or the like are prohibited on the competition course during any round of the Championship, including the practice round. Violation of this policy will result in the following penalties: (First Offense) player receives a warning; (Second Offense) two-stroke penalty assessed during the opening round of the championship; (Third Offense) disqualification from championship.

Practice Rounds.

1. Each team may play one 18-hole practice round at the site of the championship on the day prior to the event. Teams are limited to six players during the practice round. [*Revised: 12/12/17; Revised: 8/7/18*]
2. All other team play (defined as five or more players or any player with a coach) at the site of the championship is prohibited: All other individual play at the site of the championship is prohibited, except as follows: 1) Student-athletes who are members of the championship site course may play at any time, 2) Student-athletes may participate in official professional or established amateur events (e.g. Jones Cup, Southern Amateur). [*Revised: 8/7/18; Revised; 12/7/22*]
3. Student-athletes are not permitted to use the practice facilities (defined as inside the gates of the club) at the site of the championship from April 1 until the day of the designated practice round, except as permitted in provisions (1) through (3) above. [*Revised: 8/7/18*]

4. Violation of this policy will result in the following penalties: (First Offense) forfeiture of practice round for that individual; (Second Offense) two-stroke penalty assessed to that individual during opening round of the championship; (Third Violation) disqualification of that individual from the championship.

Pre-Tournament Meeting: Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championship shall attend a mandatory meeting prior to the start of the championship to review policies and procedures.

Rules Committee. The rules committee will be comprised of selected USGA rules officials and the host golf professional or their designee. This committee shall handle the following assignments:

1. Set the length of the course;
2. Set the tee boxes and flagstick positions for each day and provide placement sheets for competitors;
3. Mark the course according to USGA standards;
4. Compile a local rules sheet to cover unusual circumstances; and
5. Be available on the course at all times during competition for specific rulings.

Sites. The site of the championship each year will be determined by a vote of the coaches with approval of the Athletics Directors. In the event the championship returns to campus sites, the following rotation will be followed: 1) Ole Miss, 2) South Carolina, 3) Arkansas, 4) Mississippi State, 5) LSU, 6) Florida, 7) Tennessee, 8) Vanderbilt, 9) Alabama, 10) Auburn, 11) Georgia, 12) Kentucky, 13) Missouri, 14) Texas A&M, 15) Oklahoma, 16) Texas

Starting Times. Starting tee times will be determined prior to the event with 10-minute intervals between each group. A split tee start will be utilized for the stroke play portion of the competition and the quarterfinals and semi-finals of match play. The Rules Committee, in consultation with the Tournament Director and Coaches Committee, will determine whether there will be changes to starting times. Seeding for the practice round and first round will be determined by the final regular season Golfstat rankings.

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

Ties. Following 54 holes of stroke play competition, the top eight teams will advance for match play competition. The individual champion and individual runner-up will be determined following 54 holes of stroke play. Ties will be broken to determine the eight teams advancing to match play as well as first place for the individual champion based on the playoff scenarios outlined below. The Rules Committee, in consultation with the Tournament Director, Coaches Committee and the Golf Club, will determine the schedule and holes for playoffs. [*Revised: 3/13/19*]

1. **Individual:** All players tied for the individual championship will draw numbers to determine the order of teeing off. Only first place will be determined. If weather and/or daylight does not allow for an individual playoff, the tied participants will be deemed co-champions. The Rules Committee, in consultation with the Tournament Director, Coaches Committee and the Golf Club, will determine the schedule and holes for such playoff. **If a player is involved in a playoff for both the individual title as well as team, the team playoff will take precedent.* [*Revised: 3/13/19*]

2. **Team Competition:** Team ties for the eighth position following 54 holes of stroke play shall be broken by a sudden-death playoff counting the aggregate scoring (all five player scores counting) on each hole. Play shall continue with new scoring on each successive hole until a winner is determined. The Rules Committee, in consultation with the Tournament Director, Coaches Committee and Golf Club, will determine the holes for play. If a playoff involves more than two teams, a shotgun format shall be used. Once the shotgun sudden-death format is started, that format shall be used until a winner is determined. [*Revised: 3/13/19*]

    A. **Sudden Death Playoff Procedures.** Teams will draw for positions. For a two-team playoff, the winner of the draw shall have the option of the A or B positions set forth below. For a playoff involving more than two teams, the teams shall assume the drawn letter position (A, B, C, etc.) set forth below. Players will play the numbered position they held at the start of the tournament. The format in pairings for a playoff of six teams or more shall be consistent with the foregoing format as determined by the coaches' committee.

TWO TEAMS (A & B; TEE OFF ALTERNATELY)

#5A#5B	#4A	#4B	#3A	playoff hole 1
#3B#2A	#2B	#1A	#1B	playoff hole 1

SHOTGUN FORMAT

THREE TEAMS

#5A#5B	#5C	playoff hole 5
#4A#4B	#4C	playoff hole 4
#3A#3B	#3C	playoff hole 3
#2A#2B	#2C	playoff hole 2
#1A#1B	#1C	playoff hole 1

FOUR TEAMS

#5A#5B	#5C	#5D	playoff hole 5
#4A#4B	#4C	#4D	playoff hole 4
#3A#3B	#3C	#3D	playoff hole 3
#2A#2B	#2C	#2D	playoff hole 2
#1A#1B	#1C	#1D	playoff hole 1

FIVE TEAMS

#5A#5B	#5C	#5D	#5E	playoff hole 5
#4A#4B	#4C	#4D	#4E	playoff hole 4
#3A#3B	#3C	#3D	#3E	playoff hole 3
#2A#2B	#2C	#2D	#2E	playoff hole 2
#1A#1B	#1C	#1D	#1E	playoff hole 1

B. **Non Sudden-Death Playoff Procedures.** For the purposes of ranking teams for pairings, as well as situations in which a sudden-death playoff cannot be completed, the following system shall be used to break ties, except as provided elsewhere when ties need not be broken at the championships: [*Revised: 2/16/24*]

1. Cumulative total of the non-counting scores,
2. Cumulative total of the lowest player score from each round,
3. Cumulative total of the second lowest player score from each round
4. Cumulative total of the third lowest player score from each round
5. Cumulative total of the fourth lowest player score from each round
6. Revert to original seeding of teams.

Individuals. When a tie exists within a team, the individual with the lowest team position shall be given the later tee time. When a tie exists not within a team, the following shall be applied:

1. Low score of the most recent round
2. Low score of next previous round
3. Revert to original seeding of individuals.

Transporting Players. For the exclusive purpose of transporting players for rulings and lost ball situations, coaches will have the same status as the Rules Committee and will not be required to request specific authorization. To clarify, the intent is for players to walk the course (except or the day on which 36 holes of stroke play are being played, in which case players will ride). Therefore, coaches should only transport players over distances previously walked where a player is required to backtrack on the course to comply with the rules.

Uniforms. 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 conform to NCAA regulations (NCAA Bylaw 12.5.4) governing the appearance of commercial identification on uniforms, equipment and apparel. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in ineligibility to continue participation. Participants must wear uniforms of the same color identifying the institution they represent during competition and practice. Walking or Bermuda shorts are permitted provided they are team shorts and are of the same color. Participants may wear slacks or shorts at the

individual's discretion, provided they are of the same color and are considered the team uniform.

SUPPLEMENT A

SEC MEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

Conference Provides:

1. Commemorative gift for student-athletes who participate in championship.
2. T-shirts for participants.
3. Refreshments for participants and coaches on the course.
4. Awards (See Supplement A of the General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations).
5. Logos for the scoreboard.
6. Rules official, athletic trainer, and scoreboard personnel.
7. Lodging for rules officials, tournament staff, and athletic trainer.
8. Tournament golf flags and tee markers.
9. Championship manual.
10. Practice range signage.
11. Golf-Stat setup.
12. Daily media releases.

Host Responsibilities/Administration:

1. Tournament headquarters office/media workroom with access to telephone(s), internet connection, copier, computer and necessary office supplies (paper, stapler, etc.), and located as near to the course as possible.
2. Coaches meeting space on evening prior to Round 1.
3. Scoreboard material (individual and team leader boards, plastic covering for weather protection, and supplies such as markers, staples, etc.).
4. Golf course availability:
   A. One practice round;
   B. Four days of competition; and
   C. Clearance for a play-off if necessary, following the final round.
5. Practice range availability with balls (same days as above).
6. 30+ golf carts:
   A. One for each head coach;
   B. Eight for rules officials;
   C. Five for Conference personnel;
   D. One for the SEC Network;
   E. Four for volunteers;
   F. Additional carts as needed.
7. Signal for inclement weather (siren, shot gun, etc.).
8. Waters, coolers, and ice on the course as designated by the tournament staff.
9. Tents, tables and chairs:
   A. Starter's tent at No.1 tee and No. 10 tee;
   B. Scorer's tent close to the No. 9 and No. 18 greens; containing one table and six chairs;
   C. Rope off No. 1 and No. 10 tee and No. 9 and No. 18 greens.
   D. Awards ceremony near the scoreboard at conclusion of final round (one table with tablecloth for awards and chairs for the winning team, individual medalist, and runner-up medalist)

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – Meredith Brady; Communications – Chuck Dunlap.

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 first team (ten players) and second team (ten players) will be determined by a vote of the head coaches. The Scoreboard/Clipp'd national rankings following the Conference championship will be utilized to determine the nominees for the women's golf postseason awards. The Top-50 will be used to determine All-SEC nominees. Online voting ballots will be distributed in the days following the Conference championship. Coaches shall list 19 players from the nomination forms on their voting ballot in order of preference. The top player listed will receive 20 points and the final player listed will receive two points. The winner of the Conference championship will automatically be included on the first team and should not be listed on the voting ballot for All-SEC honors. The top nine point receivers (along with the winner of the SEC Championship) will be the first team and the next ten players will be the second team. A virtual meeting to hold discussion of the All-SEC and All-Freshman nominees can be held with the head coaches prior to voting. [*Revised: 9/20/24, 12/17/25*]
2. **All-Freshman Team**. The all-freshman team (eight players) will be determined by a vote of the coaches. The Scoreboard/Clipp'd national rankings following the Conference championship will be utilized to determine the nominees for the women's golf postseason awards. The Top-16 will be used to determine All-Freshmen nominees. Online voting ballots will be distributed in the days following the Conference championship. Coaches shall list eight players from the nomination forms on their voting ballot in order of preference. The top player listed will receive eight points and the final player listed will receive one point. The top eight point receivers will be the All-Freshman team. A virtual meeting to hold discussion of the All-SEC and All-Freshman nominees can be held with the head coaches prior to voting. [*Revised: 9/20/24, 12/17/25*]
3. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date. Coaches will vote for three competitors in order of preference, with the first receiving three points, two points for the second and one point for the third. All votes must be cast for an individual listed on the ScoreBoard/Clipp'd Top 50 nominees. [*Revised: 12/17/25*]
4. **Freshman of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date. Coaches will vote for three competitors in order of preference, with the first receiving three points, two points for the second and one point for the third. All votes must be cast for an individual listed on the ScoreBoard/Clipp'd Top 16 nominees. [*Revised: 12/17/25*]
5. **Newcomer of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date. Coaches will vote for three competitors in order of preference, with the first receiving three points, two points for the second and one point for the third. All votes must be cast for an individual listed on the ScoreBoard/Clipp'd Top 50 nominees. [*Adopted: 8/21/24, Revised: 12/17/25*]
6. **Coach of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote on an online ballot distributed following the Conference championship and shall return it to the Conference office by the requested date. Coaches will vote for three peers in order of preference, with the first receiving three points, two points for the second and one point for the third. [*Revised: 12/17/25*]
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. **Player of the Week**. Player of the Week awards shall be administered in the Fall (in weeks in which more than one Conference team competes) and Spring playing seasons as outlined in General Administration. [*Revised: 12/15/21*]
10. **Freshman of the Week.** Freshman of the Week awards shall be administered in the Fall (in weeks in which more than one Conference team competes) and Spring playing seasons as outlined in General Administration. [*Revised: 12/15/21*]

Coaches Committee. The coaches committee will be made up of three head coaches from different institutions and will follow an alphabetical rotation with one coach rotating off the committee each year. For 2025, the coaches committee will consist of Alabama, Arkansas, and Auburn. Should the championship return to campus sites (in the first year), the committee shall be composed of the host coach of the current year's championship, along with the host coaches of the next two years' championships. In subsequent years, the committee shall be composed of the host coach of the preceding year's championship, the host coach of the current year's championship, and the host coach of the next year's championship.

Coaches Meeting. Each head coach shall be required to attend the annual meeting held in November 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 the University of Georgia as the chair for 2026. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall be painted or included on a minimum of two banners in an appropriate area in the venue.

Conference Championship. The Conference champion will be determined by a tournament of all member institutions sponsoring a team. The championship will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations.

NCAA Automatic Qualification. The Conference tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the provision of the Inclement Weather policy shall be used to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier. [*Revised: 12/12/17*]

Officials. 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.

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

1. Each member institution sponsoring a women's golf team may schedule teams of other member institutions at its discretion during the regular season.
2. The United States Golf Association rules shall be followed. The local management will have the prerogative to set any local ground rules when appropriate and necessary.

Squad Size. Only 8 athletes shall be allowed to travel and only 6 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 5/29/25*]

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Championship Director. The host championship director shall: [*Revised: 11/14/23*]

1. Supervise the championship;
2. Plan and coordinate all activities of the championship;
3. Produce the Championship Manual and distribute to coaches; and
4. Obtain qualified USGA rules officials to be present on the course throughout the championship.

Course Set-Up. The host golf professional and head rules official shall perform the following duties: [*Revised: 11/14/23*]

1. Set the length of the course at a minimum of 5,800 yards (NCAA regulation);
2. Set the tee boxes and flagstick positions for each day;
3. Mark the course according to USGA standards; and
4. Compile a local rules sheet to cover any unusual circumstances.

Dates and Sites. The Championship shall be held three weeks prior to the NCAA Regionals, except in years when the championship falls on a holiday weekend. The Championship shall be held four weeks prior to NCAA Regionals in years where the three weeks prior to NCAA Regionals is a holiday weekend. A practice round shall be played five days prior to the championship round. Championship dates are subject to course availability. See Supplement C in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites. [*Revised: 1/29/20, 11/14/23, 5/28/26]*

Entries and Substitutions. Each team may enter five players. Unless a team chooses to substitute a sixth player prior to a match play draw, the team's top five players that played in the previous round shall be used for the draw. Prior to a round (stroke or match play), a team may substitute a sixth player for any member of the team provided that:

1. The Rules Committee is notified of the substitution at least 10 minutes prior to that team member's starting time. When a team has substituted a sixth player, the substitution becomes final 10 minutes prior to that team member's starting time and no further changes may be made by the team for that round. However, prior to the 10-minute mark, the team may withdraw the substitution by notifying the Rules Committee and may substitute for another player as provided above. The team member that was substituted for shall become the sixth player and the team is limited to that player if the team wishes to substitute a player prior to any subsequent Championship round.
2. The sixth player is an otherwise eligible member of the institution's team. [*Revised: 12/12/17, 3/23/22*]

Equipment and Personnel. The host shall provide the following: [*Revised: 11/14/23*]

1. Scoreboard, score sheets, scorekeeper and scoring volunteers;
2. Starters for each day;
3. Scorecards arranged according to starting times and labeled by player name and institution;
4. Rules officials to administer scoring, rules interpretations, and maintain satisfactory pace of play;
5. Golf carts for rules officials, media, each head coach and Conference staff;
6. Information packet about the championship; and
7. Refreshments for players.

Format.The championship will consist of 54-holes of stroke play, followed by match play amongst the top eight finishing teams in stroke play as detailed below. During stroke play, the best four-of-five scores will be counted daily toward the team total. USGA rules will be followed, plus any local rules as determined as appropriate and necessary by the Rules Officials.

Day 1 - Practice Day

Day 2 - 18 holes of stroke play

Day 3 - 18 holes of stroke play

Day 4 – 18 holes of stroke play

Day 5 - Four morning matches | Two afternoon matches

Day 6 - Championship match

The individual medalist and runner-up will be awarded based on stroke-play competition. The team championship will be awarded to the match-play winner. [*Revised: 6/22/17; 12/12/17; 11/14/23*]

Format for Match Play. [*Added: 11/14/23*]

1. For match play, the top eight teams will be placed into a bracket with the No. 1 seed playing the No. 8 seed, the No. 2 seed playing the No. 7 seed, the No. 3 seed playing the No. 6 seed and the No. 4 seed playing the No. 5 seed in match play. A total of five points will be available with one point being awarded for each individual match. A stipulated round will be extended to as many holes as necessary to determine a match winner. Winning teams will advance to the semifinals and subsequently the finals. The first team to win three points within the team match will advance, or in the case of the final match be declared the Conference champion. Once a team has won three individual matches, any remaining individual matches will be halted at that point with the individual match recorded as it currently stood. Match play lineups will be determined using the same method employed at the Presidents Cup matches.
2. The higher-seeded team (as determined through the 54-hole stroke-play portion), "Team 1", will have the first choice of putting a player on the board for Match #1. The opposing team, "Team 2", will then name its player for Match #1.
3. Team 2 will then name its player for Match #2, and Team 1 will name its player for Match #2. The process will continue in an "S" curve until the players for all five matches are named. However, Team 1 may defer in the selection process and permit Team 2 to begin the overall selection process.
4. Pairings for the quarterfinals will be determined following the completion of the 54-hole stroke-play competition and the crowning of the individual champion and runner-up. Pairings for the team semifinals and finals will be determined following the completion of the previous match play round.
5. Ties for pairing positions will be broken according to the non-sudden-death tiebreaking procedures outlined below.
6. The Rules committee will do everything possible to complete 54 holes of stroke play and each match of the championship. However, the committee reserves the right to modify pairings for weather. See "Inclement Weather" below.

Golf Carts. Golf carts will be assigned by SEC tournament staff.

1. **Players**. The tournament committee may approve the use of player carts if deemed necessary by inclement weather or other circumstances. [*Revised: 12/12/17; 11/14/23]*
2. **Coaches**. One cart will be provided to each institution and only a member of the coaching staff may drive the cart., Coaches may transport anyone they desire, except players engaged in competition.. [*Revised: 12/12/17; 11/14/23]*
3. **Spectators**. Golf carts are not permitted for spectators. Exceptions may be made for special needs. In this case, a head coach must submit the name of the spectator for whom a golf cart is requested to the tournament director at least seven days in advance of the tournament. The tournament director will then send a Golf Cart Request Form to be completed by such spectator. Fulfillment of these requests will be at the discretion of the Conference Sport Administrator, provided carts are available. [*Revised: 11/14/23*]

Inclement Weather. The championship may be shortened due to inclement weather as no provision is made for extending the championship to a sixth day. [*Revised: 12/12/17, 1/29/20*]

1. A minimum of 36 holes of stroke play competition must be completed in order to name an individual and team champion. If 36 holes are not completed, the Conference Champion shall be the #1 seed (based on Clippd rankings).
2. A Minimum of 36 holes of stroke play must be completed in order for match play to begin.
3. If weather dictates that the match portion of the tournament cannot begin as scheduled, the Rules Committee, in consultation with the Coaches Committee, may shorten the match play portion of the tournament to four team rather than eight.

4. If weather dictates that the match play portion of the tournament is unable to be played, the Conference Champion shall be the team with the lowest team score of the rounds that all teams have completed in the stroke play portion of the tournament.
5. If only one round of match play is completed, the Conference Champion shall be the team (of the four remaining teams) with the lowest composite team score from the 54-hole stroke play portion of the event. In the event of a tie, the Non-Sudden Death Playoff Procedures shall be used.
6. If two rounds of match play are completed (i.e. two of the eight teams remain), the final two teams remaining in match play will be declared co- Champions. The team with the highest seed (based on the final regular season Clippd rankings) will be the Conference's NCAA Automatic Qualifier.
7. In the event finals match play begins but is unable to be completed, the team with the lowest score in stroke play shall be designated as the Conference's automatic qualifier. If the finals match teams tie for lowest stroke play score, the team with the highest ranking in the final Clippd poll prior to the Championship shall be designated as the Conference's automatic qualifier. [*Adopted: 1/29/20*]

Manual. The Conference (or host institution if conducted on-campus) shall distribute a championship manual, outlining the policies and procedures for the championship, as well as information specific to a tournament site, to each institution no later than four weeks prior to the championship.

Media Services. It will be the responsibility of the Conference Communications Office to provide the following services during the championship: [*Added: 11/14/23*]

1. Prepare and distribute advance publicity for the conference championship;
2. Provide information to local, regional and national media during the championship;
3. Supervise and coordinate media interviews and the media work area;
4. Distribute daily and final results to all conference schools and media (all daily and final results will be posted to www.SECsports.com).

Pairings. For the 2026 tournament, pairings for the practice round and first round will be determined by the final regular season Clippd rankings. For the second and third round, teams will be paired according to score. All teams shall begin on the first or tenth tee. [

1. **Team Ties.** Team ties will be broken using the NCAA Championship tie-breaking procedures for all rounds of play as follows (except for determining the eighth spot for match play, in which case a playoff will commence following 54 holes of stroke play): [*Revised: 11/14/23*]
   a. First tiebreaker – cumulative total of the non-counting scores.
   b. Second tiebreaker – cumulative total of the lowest player score from each round.
   c. Third tiebreaker – cumulative total of the second lowest player score from each round.
   d. Fourth tiebreaker – cumulative total of the third lowest player score from each round.
   e. Fifth tiebreaker – cumulative total of the fourth lowest player score from each round.
   f. Sixth tiebreaker – revert to original seeding of teams. Individuals (within a team) When a tie exists within a team, the individual with the lowest team position will be given the later tee time.
2. **Individuals (within a team)** When a tie exists within a team, the individual with the lowest team position will be given the later tee time. [*Revised: 11/14/23*]
3. **Individuals (not within a team)** [*Revised: 11/14/23*]
   a. First tiebreaker - low score of the most recent round.
   b. Second tiebreaker - low score next previous round.
   c. Third tiebreaker - revert to original seeding of individuals.

Portable Electronic Devices. The use of portable electronic devices (iPods, etc…) with earphones or the like are prohibited on the competition course during any round of the Championship, including the practice round. Violation of this policy will result in the following penalties: (First Offense) player receives a warning; (Second Offense) two-stroke penalty assessed during the opening round of the championship; (Third Offense) disqualification from championship. [*Added: 11/14/23*]

Practice Rounds.

1. Each team may play one 18-hole practice round at the site of the championship on the day prior to the event. Teams are limited to six players during the practice round. [*Revised: 12/12/17; Revised: 8/7/18; 11/14/23*]
2. All other team play (defined as five or more players or any player with a coach) at the site of the championship is prohibited: All other individual play at the site of the championship is prohibited, except as follows: 1) Student-athletes who are members of the championship site course may play at any time, 2) Student-athletes may participate in official professional or established amateur events (e.g. Jones Cup, Southern Amateur). [*Revised: 8/7/18; Revised; 12/7/22; 11/14/23*]
3. Student-athletes are not permitted to use the practice facilities (defined as inside the gates of the club) at the site of the championship from April 1 until the day of the designated practice round, except as permitted in provisions (1) through (3) above. [*Revised: 8/7/18; 11/14/23*]
4. Violation of this policy will result in the following penalties: (First Offense) forfeiture of practice round for that individual; (Second Offense) two-stroke penalty assessed to that individual during opening round of the championship; (Third Violation) disqualification of that individual from the championship. [*Added: 11/14/23*]

Rules Committee. The rules committee will be composed of the host golf professional and at least two other qualified persons whose duties include ensuring that USGA rules are followed, making recommendations for a local rules sheet for all participants, and being available on the course at all times during competition for specific rulings.

Schedule of Events. The following schedule is recommended: [*Revised: 12/12/17]*

First day	Practice round
Second day	First round of stroke play
Third day	Second round of stroke play
Fourth day	Third round of stroke play
Fifth day	Quarter and semi-finals of match play
Sixth day	Finals of match play, awards ceremony

Starting Times. Starting tee times will be determined prior to the event with 10-minute intervals between each group. A split tee start will be utilized for the stroke play portion of the competition and the quarterfinals and semi-finals of match play. The Rules Committee, in consultation with the Tournament Director and Coaches Committee, will determine whether there will be changes to starting times. Seeding for the practice round and first round will be determined by the final regular season Clippd rankings. [*Revised: 11/14/23*]

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

Ties. Following 54 holes of stroke play competition, the top eight teams will advance for match play competition. The individual champion and individual runner-up will be determined following 54 holes of stroke play. Ties will be broken to determine the eight teams advancing to match play as well as first place for the individual champion based on the playoff scenarios outlined below. The Rules Committee, in consultation with the Tournament Director, Coaches Committee and the Golf Club, will determine the schedule and holes for playoffs. [*Revised: 3/13/19; 11/14/23*]

1. **Individual:** All players tied for the individual championship will draw numbers to determine the order of teeing off. Only first place will be determined. If weather and/or daylight does not allow for an individual playoff, the tied participants will be deemed co-champions. The Rules Committee, in consultation with the Tournament Director, Coaches Committee and the Golf Club, will determine the schedule and holes for such playoff. **If a player is involved in a playoff for both the individual title as well as team, the team playoff will take precedent.* [*Revised: 3/13/19*]

2. **Team Competition:** Team ties for the eighth position following 54 holes of stroke play shall be broken by a sudden-death playoff counting the aggregate scoring (all five player scores counting) on each hole. Play shall continue with new scoring on each successive hole until a winner is determined. The Rules Committee, in consultation with the Tournament Director, Coaches Committee and Golf Club, will determine the holes for play. If a playoff involves more than two teams, a shotgun format shall be used. Once the shotgun sudden-death format is started, that format shall be used until a winner is determined. [*Revised: 3/13/19*]

A. **Sudden Death Playoff Procedures.** Teams will draw for positions. For a two-team playoff, the winner of the draw shall have the option of the A or B positions set forth below. For a playoff involving more than two teams, the teams shall assume the drawn letter position (A, B, C, etc.) set forth below. Players will play the numbered position they held at the start of the tournament. The format in pairings for a playoff of six teams or more shall be consistent with the foregoing format as determined by the coaches' committee.

TWO TEAMS (A & B; TEE OFF ALTERNATELY)

#5A	#5B	#4A	#4B	#3A	playoff hole 1
#3B	#2A	#2B	#1A	#1B	playoff hole 1

SHOTGUN FORMAT

THREE TEAMS

#5A	#5B	#5C	playoff hole 5
#4A	#4B	#4C	playoff hole 4
#3A	#3B	#3C	playoff hole 3
#2A	#2B	#2C	playoff hole 2
#1A	#1B	#1C	playoff hole 1

FOUR TEAMS

#5A	#5B	#5C	#5D	playoff hole 5
#4A	#4B	#4C	#4D	playoff hole 4
#3A	#3B	#3C	#3D	playoff hole 3
#2A	#2B	#2C	#2D	playoff hole 2
#1A	#1B	#1C	#1D	playoff hole 1

FIVE TEAMS

#5A	#5B	#5C	#5D	#5E	playoff hole 5
#4A	#4B	#4C	#4D	#4E	playoff hole 4
#3A	#3B	#3C	#3D	#3E	playoff hole 3
#2A	#2B	#2C	#2D	#2E	playoff hole 2
#1A	#1B	#1C	#1D	#1E	playoff hole 1

B. **Non Sudden-Death Playoff Procedures.** For the purposes of ranking teams for pairings, as well as situations in which a sudden-death playoff cannot be completed, the following system shall be used to break ties, except as provided elsewhere when ties need not be broken at the championships:

1. First tiebreaker – cumulative total of the non-counting scores.
2. Second tiebreaker – cumulative total of the lowest player score from each round.
3. Third tiebreaker – cumulative total of the second lowest player score from each round.
4. Fourth tiebreaker – cumulative total of the third lowest player score from each round.
5. Fifth tiebreaker – cumulative total of the fourth lowest player score from each round.
6. Sixth tiebreaker – revert to original seeding of teams. Individuals (within a team) When a tie exists within a team, the individual with the lowest team position will be given the later tee time.

Transporting Players. For the exclusive purpose of transporting players for rulings and lost ball situations, coaches will have the same status as the Rules Committee and will not be required to request specific authorization. To clarify, the intent is for players to walk the course (except or the day on which 36 holes of stroke play are being played, in which case players will ride). Therefore, coaches should only transport players over distances previously walked where a player is required to backtrack on the course to comply with the rules. [*Added: 11/14/23*]

Uniforms. 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 conform to NCAA regulations (NCAA Bylaw 12.5.4) governing the appearance of commercial identification on uniforms, equipment and apparel. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in ineligibility to continue participation. Participants must wear uniforms of the

same color identifying the institution they represent during competition and practice. Walking or Bermuda shorts are permitted provided they are team shorts and are of the same color. Participants may wear slacks or shorts at the individual's discretion, provided they are of the same color and are considered the team uniform. [*Revised; 11/14/23*]

SUPPLEMENT A

SEC WOMEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

Conference Provides:

1. Commemorative gift for student-athletes who participate in championship.
2. T-shirts for participants.
3. Refreshments for participants and coaches on the course.
4. Awards (See Supplement A of the General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations).
5. Logos for the scoreboard.
6. Rules official, athletic trainer, and scoreboard personnel.
7. Lodging for rules officials, tournament staff, and athletic trainer.
8. Tournament golf flags and tee markers.
9. Championship manual.
10. Practice range signage.
11. Golf-Stat setup.
12. Daily media releases.

Host Responsibilities/Administration:

1. Tournament headquarters office/media workroom with access to telephone(s), internet connection, copier, computer and necessary office supplies (paper, stapler, etc.), and located as near to the course as possible.
2. Coaches meeting space on evening prior to Round 1.
3. Scoreboard material (individual and team leader boards, plastic covering for weather protection, and supplies such as markers, staples, etc.).
4. Golf course availability:
   A. One practice round;
   B. Four days of competition; and
   C. Clearance for a play-off if necessary, following the final round.
5. Practice range availability with balls (same days as above).
6. 30+ golf carts:
   A. One for each head coach;
   B. Eight for rules officials;
   C. Five for Conference personnel;
   D. One for the SEC Network;
   E. Four for volunteers;
   F. Additional carts as needed.
7. Signal for inclement weather (siren, shot gun, etc.).
8. Waters, coolers, and ice on the course as designated by the tournament staff.
9. Tents, tables and chairs:
   A. Starter's tent at No.1 tee and No. 10 tee;
   B. Scorer's tent close to the No. 9 and No. 18 greens; containing one table and six chairs;
   C. Rope off No. 1 and No. 10 tee and No. 9 and No. 18 greens.
   D. Awards ceremony near the scoreboard at conclusion of final round (one table with tablecloth for awards and chairs for the winning team, individual medalist, and runner-up medalist)

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

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

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

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

1. **All-SEC Team**. All SEC Team will be comprised of the student-athletes with the top four scores (including ties) on each event and in the All-Around competition in the first session and the second session of the SEC Championships. [*Revised: 9/20/24, 5/29/25*]
2. **All-Freshman Team**. The All-Freshman Team will be comprised of the freshman student-athletes with the top score (including ties) on each event and the top two scores (including ties) in the All-Around competition in the first session and the second session of the SEC Championships. [*Revised: 9/20/24, 5/29/25*]
3. **Gymnast of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. The following procedures will be used: [*Revised: 5/23/19*]
   A. The Conference office will compile and distribute a ballot of nominees that includes the three gymnasts who compete in the All-Around competition with the highest regular-season NQS prior to the Championship as well as the top three finishers in the All-Around competition at the SEC Championship.
   B. The coaches will vote for one student-athlete;
   C. In the event of a tie, Co-Gymnasts of the Year will be recognized.
4. **Freshman of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. To be nominated, a student-athlete must compete in at least three (3) Conference competitions.
5. **Newcomer of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. To be nominated, a student-athlete must compete in at least three (3) Conference competitions. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
6. **Specialist of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. To be nominated, a student-athlete must compete in at least three (3) Conference competitions.
7. **Coach of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. In the event of a three-way tie, the tied coach with the highest finishing team shall be named Coach of the Year.
8. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Community Service Team**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Athlete of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Specialist of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **Freshman of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

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

Coaches Committee. The coaches committee will be made up of three head coaches from different institutions and will follow an alphabetical rotation with one coach rotating off the committee each year. For 2027, the coaches

committee will include Georgia, Kentucky, and LSU.

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

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Georgia serving as the chair for 2027. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Competition Area Lighting. Arena light shows fall into the following categories: 1) full venue light coloring in which the game lights are dimmed and/or change colors, 2) game lighting remains while lights perform movement, including chase and flickering effects, or 3) lights out. The following outlines when these options can be utilized during a contest. [*Adopted: 11/1/2023*]

1. **Pre-Meet.** Lighting effects or lights out may occur during introductions and during periods in which no student-athletes are warming up on the competition surface. Competition level lighting must resume once players begin to enter the competition surface or when the first transition period is announced.
2. **During 3rd-4th Rotation – Two Minute Transition.** Lighting effects or lights out may occur during the two minute (2:00) transition period, but competition level lighting must resume with at least :30 seconds remaining in the two minute period.
3. **Final Rotation.** Lighting effects may occur for 15-seconds (0:15) after the final rotation is completed.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, institutions shall place a minimum of two banners with logos in the venue.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Request for walkthrough by the visiting team must be submitted to the home institution's meet director, or facilities personnel, at least five days prior to the meet date.
2. The home institution shall make its facility available for a minimum of 60 minutes on the day of the meet (the home meet director, or facilities personnel, will extend himself/herself to accommodate the visiting team in case of emergency); the home institution has no obligation to make its facility available the day prior to the meet.

3. The home institution shall dictate the walkthrough slot/time for the visiting team based on arena availability, i.e., arena changeover from other events.
4. The home institution shall make available all areas of the competition floor. All matting and landing surfaces are open to the visiting team, but only the floor exercise should be mounted, and no gymnastics skills should be performed on any apparatus, including floor. Choreography on floor exercise is permissible. There should not be chalk used on any apparatus or matting surfaces. [Examples: No swinging on the bars – a brief hang for height measurement is permissible. The coaches, managers, etc. can set the bars and mark mats with tape; No mounting, handstands or flipping off the vault table. The coaches, managers, etc. can set boards and mark mats with tape; No mounting, walking or choreography on the beam. The coaches, managers, etc. can set boards and mark mats with tape.]
5. It is not required that the home institution provide sound staff, or access to the sound system during the walkthrough.

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

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

Inquiries. Inquiries must be made in writing before the beginning of the next event and must pertain strictly to (1) Start Value (difficulty, special requirements, and bonus values), (2) Compositional requirements, and (3) Clarification of neutral deductions or unusual performance occurrences / falls. When all Start Values are 10.0, only inquiries about items two and three are permissible.

Officials. Judges will be assigned by regional JAS assigners. Coaches may not converse with any person who judges beginning on January 1st and continuing until the Monday immediately following the SEC Championship, except when requested following a meet and in the presence of the meet director. If any coach requests a meeting with the judges following a meet, all head coaches involved in the meet will be notified. Judges may enter the competitive area as outlined in the handbook. A judge's fee of $385 with a $80 overnight driver's allowance and a $175 overnight flyer's travel allowance has been established. Mileage (at the institution's mandated rate or the present IRS rate), air travel (including airport shuttle) and hotel accommodations will be paid by the host institution. Except for Southwest Airlines, judges must have a seat when the flight is purchased. If an airline charges for carry-on baggage, the host institution will reimburse the judge for the fee. Per diem reimbursement (meals, mileage to airport, airport parking) shall be administered consistent with the Judges Assigning System (JAS) Handbook. Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition. [*Revised: 12/13/16, 8/23/18, 3/11/25*]

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

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

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling. Each member institution having a gymnastics team shall meet each other member institution at least once a year during the regular season on an alternating home and away basis. The Conference schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference. NCAA gymnastics guidelines for regular-

season competition shall be strictly followed. Proposed changes in any Conference competition shall be outlined in writing by the coach proposing the change. The change must be received by the coach of the opposing team at least ten days prior to the meet and must be agreed to by both coaches. If both coaches cannot agree, the original arrangements for the meet will be followed. All Conference meets shall be conducted as dual meets, unless the involved coaches mutually agree to another format. If the meet has more than two teams competing, the rightful Conference visiting head coach will choose the starting rotation. If there are more than two Conference teams competing, the other Conference visiting head coach will have second choice of rotation. The home team remains with a home-team rotation. If there is more than one rightful Conference visiting team, the rotation will be determined by a coin toss. The Conference office is responsible for developing the Conference schedule.

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

Squad Size. Only 20 athletes shall be allowed to travel and only 18 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 5/29/25*]

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

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

Video Boards/Replays. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

1. **Replays.**-Video replays may be shown on an in-stadium video board from the end of a play until the beginning of the next play, except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. Video from the official video review system may not be shown during a replay, except during an official video review. Under no circumstance may the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-stadium video board.
2. **Official Video Review.** When a stoppage occurs for an official video review, the in-stadium video board operator must use either the unaltered television network program feed or the unaltered video feed from the officiating video review system as the exclusive video source for plays under review. Replays are permitted only between Referee announcements to stop play and to communicate the outcome of the review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-stadium video board during stoppage for an official review. Video from the official video review system may only be shown during an official video review. Under no circumstances may the video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, or incite the crowd during or following a review.

Warm-up and Open Stretch. During regular season dual meet competitions, teams shall be provided with a 20-minute open stretch period at which time both teams may warm up at all apparatuses. At the 5-minute mark of the open stretch period countdown, the home team and visiting team shall have access to each team's respective starting event exclusively (e.g., home team on the vault apparatus and the away team on the bar apparatus). Teams are permitted to access the starting apparatus during the 2-minute transition period of the first event rotation only. [*Adopted: 5/18/21*]

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Administrative Meeting. Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championship shall participate on a mandatory videoconference prior to the start of the championship to review policies and procedures.

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

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

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

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

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

Event Transition. The following procedures shall apply to event transitions: [*Adopted: 5/23/19, Revised: 5/29/25*]

1. The first transition will start after the march-in, once all teams are in their corrals.
2. For the remaining transitions, teams may rotate after all events are complete, the final score of the previous rotation is shown and the public address announcer states the gymnasts can proceed to their next event.
3. Once all teams reach their respective corral, the two-minute transition will be announced and begin.
4. Once the two-minute transition begins, athletes:
    a. May Invert on mats near bars, beam and vault (not floor)
    b. May run, bounce and stretch only on floor (no gymnastics skills)
    c. May not touch or mount any equipment at this time. "
5. Each team shall take their belongings from corral to corral when transitioning from event to event during regular season and championship competition.

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

Format. The championship will consist of a one-day team and all-around competition. The format will include nine teams with the bottom five teams (determined by NQS) competing in the afternoon session, and the top four teams competing in the evening session. [*Revised: 8/15/23, 5/29/25*]

Officials.

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

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

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

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

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

Practice Session. There will be two practice sessions on the day prior to the meet, consisting of 20-minute rotations. The first session will begin at 12:30 p.m. and the second session will begin at 3:05 p.m. (local time). There will be a 20-minute stretch prior to each session.

Public Address Announcements. Running team scores will be announced after each rotation, including going into the final rotation. No personal accolades will be announced before any gymnast begins her performance. During the opening ceremony, only the teams will be introduced, not by individual athletes' names. If there is a pre-meet show, it must be conducted prior to team introductions. Judges will not be introduced.

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

Squad Size. Only 18 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 6/3/22*]

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

Tickets.

1. A total of 30 team credentials and coach-specific credentials will be placed in each coach's packet for use by student-athletes, coaches, managers, social media/marketing, medical personnel, and administrators. Any additional requests must be approved by the Meet Director. Anyone entering without a credential/pass must have a ticket. Sport administrators and Sports Information Directors will be provided floor seating in the media seating area.
2. Each institution will receive an initial allotment of approximately 100 tickets for which it is financially responsible. An allocation policy of rotating institutional seating assignments two locations clockwise each year has been established. The "pool system" regarding these tickets will be utilized if necessary. There are no complimentary tickets for this championship.

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

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

Warm-Up and Open Stretch. During the open stretch period, only background music provided by the host may be played. During the team's floor exercise warm-up, teams may play their own music. Each team whose first event is scheduled on bars, beam and floor will be required to stretch on at its first event. The team scheduled on vault as its first event has the option to stretch at vault or to share the mats on the floor podium. The team scheduled on the bye as its first event will utilize the floor apparatus for Open Stretch. [*Revised: 6/10/20, 4/30/26*]

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator –John Sullen; Communications – Jill Skotarczak (Interim)

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

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

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

1. **All-SEC Team**. The All-SEC Team will be based on the boat finish in the Varsity Eight Finals at the SEC Championship. The team will consist of nine (9) members of the 1st place boat, five (5) members of the 2nd place boat, three (3) members of the 3rd place boat and one (1) member of the 4th place boat. Members of the 2nd – 4th place boats will be nominated by each boat's respective head coach.
2. **Rower of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches the Monday following the SEC Championship.
3. **Freshman of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches the Monday following the SEC Championship.
4. **Coach of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches the Monday following the SEC Championship. Coaches may not vote for themselves.
5. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
6. **Community Service Team**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
7. **Rowing Athlete of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. The Rowing Athlete of the Week recognition will begin the 2nd weekend in March.
8. **Freshman of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. The Freshman of the Week recognition will begin the 2nd weekend in March.

Coaches Meeting. Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting 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 2027. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall be painted or included on a minimum of two banners in an appropriate area in the venue.

Conference Championship. The Conference champion will be determined by a competition of all member institutions sponsoring a team. The championship will be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations for Rowing. See also, SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling. Each institution sponsoring a rowing team shall schedule teams from other Conference institutions at its own discretion during the regular season.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Administrative Teleconference and Meeting. Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall attend 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 evening prior to the start of the championships to review additional information and procedures.

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

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

Boat Trailers. Boat Trailers should arrive no earlier than 9 a.m. local time on Friday prior to competition.

Bow Numbers / Boat Identification. Institutions shall identify their boats with a name or symbol of their university, within the NCAA size restrictions.

Championships Committee. The Committee shall be composed of the Regatta Coordinator, the head official, and the coach of the highest seeded institution (based on CRCA poll).

Coaches Meeting. The championship logistics meeting for the head coaches, committee chairs, and host site will be held Saturday evening prior to championship competition. This is a mandatory meeting for all head coaches competing in the championship. Additional meetings shall be held as needed during the course of the weekend.

Course Set-Up. Unless otherwise specified, the same regatta course policies adopted for NCAA Championships will apply to the SEC Championship.

Coxswain Meeting. The coxswain's meeting shall be conducted Saturday evening prior to competition. In the event a coxswain cannot attend the meeting, they are to contact the regatta director to schedule an additional meeting. The head official shall meet with the Coxswains.

Coxswain Weigh-In. Coxswains must weigh-in prior to their first race of the day, per USRowing Rules of Racing. A coxswain's weigh-in shall occur around the practice windows on Saturday. Because all races are held on one day, the coxswain only weighs in prior to her first race of the day. A coxswain for an event shall weigh at least 121 lbs. Competitors shall be weighed in racing uniform, without shoes or other footgear. Excess clothing, equipment, electronic systems, tools, or other utilitarian devices germane to competition, shall not be considered part of the coxswain's weight. These guidelines are based on USRowing Rules of Rowing and should be followed accordingly. [*Revised: 10/29/25*]

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 Sunday on the weekend three weeks prior to the NCAA Championships. See Supplement C in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites.

Electronic Timing Procedures. Championship timing will be provided by a vendor deemed fit by the Southeastern Conference.

Entry and Declarations. Information regarding entry for rosters and declarations will be provided by the conference office 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 42 student- athletes. Coaches will have a chance to make all final changes at the pre-championships meeting at the SEC Women's Rowing Championship. Changes may be made until the pre-championship coaches meeting but a change of line-up form must be submitted to the conference office (See Change of Line-up Form). After that time, substitutes are only permissible when there is a medical necessity that has been affirmed through on-site independent medical personnel. If the original student-athlete becomes well enough to compete, she must be re-inserted into the line-up. Final lineups for all six boats are due at the pre-championship coaches meeting conducted at the championships site. Once the lineup form has been submitted at the coaches meeting on-site at the championships, coaches can change the order/seats of student-athletes in a boat without approval but cannot change student-athletes between boats without following official protocol. This process is initiated with the change of lineup approval form, found in the participant manual, and only

granted for student-athletes who have been seen by the host physician and declared unable to race due to illness or injury. If an illness or injury occurs to a competitor and that competitor is later restored to health, the crew must revert back to that which was originally submitted prior to the start of competition. All proper medical forms must be completed for exemption from competition, as well as clearance to return to competition.

Equipment. Unless otherwise specified, the same equipment policies adopted for NCAA Championships will apply to the SEC Championship.

1. A boat in the sport of rowing shall have all its load-bearing parts, including axis of moving parts, firmly fixed to the body of the boat, but the seat of a rower may move along the axis of the boat.
2. The use of "sliding riggers," in which the fulcrum of the oar is not stationary with respect to the body of the boat, is strictly prohibited.

Categories of Boats.

Number of Rowers	Oar	Coxswain
4	Sweep	With
8	Sweep	With

Minimum Weight of Boats. All boats shall comply with the following minimum weights:

Category	Weight (pounds)	Weight (kilograms)
4+	112.44	51
8+	205.03	93

For purposes of this rule, the weight of a boat shall not include oars or detachable loudspeaker or electronic systems. Seats, rudders, skegs, fixed loudspeakers, wiring, fins and riggers shall be included in the boat's weight. Other items that are not permanently affixed to the boat shall not be included in the boat's weight.

- **Bowballs.** Every boat shall have a supple or plastic ball, of a white or fluorescent color, mounted on its bow unless equivalent provision for visibility and protection against puncture injury is included in the boat's basic construction. The bowball shall be at least four centimeters in diameter.
- **Electronic Devices**. A boat may be equipped with an internal loudspeaker system and electronic devices that provide statistical information about the progress of the race or performance of the crew (such as elapsed time or stroke rate). Use of prohibited aids such as an apparatus for wireless communication and water-soluble chemicals intended to reduce frictional resistance are prohibited. However, GPS systems and Action/Sports Cameras (e.g. GoPro) will be allowed as long as there is no direct communication, or transmission of information, to land. Antennas or other devices that permit GPS communication must be removed or turned to the off position. Cameras on tri-pods are prohibited on boats during competition.
- **Foreign Substances**. No boat shall have on its hull any substance that is water soluble or partially soluble, or that alters the mechanical or chemical interaction between the hull and water, except that non-soluble varnishes, paints or other similar surface finishes may be applied. The use of "bottom tape," including "3M Riblets™" on the outside of the hull is specifically prohibited.
- **Oars.** The blade of an oar shall have the following minimum thickness: sweep oar, five millimeters (measured three millimeters from the tip of the blade). The following rules apply to each oar whether it is a sweep or sculling oar:
  1. Oars must be uniform throughout the crew. The team colors may appear on oar blades.

2. Any portion of the loom or shaft beyond the collar must be free of any advertisement or inscription.
3. Nothing else (excluding the name of the school or its emblem) may appear on the oar, except that marks to identify the owner of the oar are permitted. In addition, a designation on the oar of the captain is also permitted.

- **Footgear Release.** Where the feet of the competitor are held in place by footgear affixed to the structure of the boat, the design of such footgear shall provide for the quick release of the competitors' feet in case of emergency, without the use of hands. (Such design may consist of Velcro™ or pull strings at the heels.)
- **Boat Construction for Coxswains.** A boat in which the body of the coxswain is enclosed or partially enclosed within the hull of the boat, shall conform to the following requirements:
  1. The opening through which the coxswain enters, and exits shall be at least 2.30 feet (70 centimeters) long when measured along the longitudinal axis of the boat. For a length of at least 1.64 feet (50 centimeters), the opening shall be as wide as the inner hull of the boat itself.
  2. The inner surface within which the coxswain's body rests shall be smooth and free of any obstacles, devices, or other structures that would hinder quick exit.

- **Insignia**
- **Bow Numbers.** Each boat shall be capable of having mounted on its bow a card indicating the number of its lane in a race, and each crew shall be responsible for supplying the bow number card. The local organizing committee may have a supply of bow number cards for use in a regatta, but crews shall not rely on the local organizing committee to provide such cards. The local organizing committee also may require that a member of a crew wear a number marker affixed to her uniform.
- **Boat Manufacturer.** The manufacturer's name, address, trademark and name of the product may appear on the inside of the boat on a plaque or equivalent marker, provided that plaque has a maximum area of not more than 50 square centimeters. The manufacturer's advertisement also may appear on the outside of the boat once on each side (including the gunwale and washboard), provided the maximum area of that advertisement does not exceed 30 square inches.
- **Name of School.** Each boat must carry once on each side of the shell the name of the institution that the crew represents. The letters used in any such name must be at least 2 inches high near the coxswain seat.
- **Electric Equipment.** Any internal loudspeaker or electronic equipment permitted by the USRowing Association (see USRowing Rules of Rowing - "Electronic Equipment") may bear the name and trademark of the manufacturer of that equipment.
- **Footgear.** Any footgear attached to the stretcher for use by a rower may bear the name and trademark of the manufacturer.

Format. Each institution is allowed to enter one boat in each event. The Championship shall consist of the First Eight, Second Eight, First Four, Second Four, Third Eight and Third Four. The top four teams in each race will score. The competition format for the six events shall be a finals-only event.

Inclement Weather. The Championship Committee shall make the decision on all weather-related issues. The Championship Committee may approve a weather plan prior to the tournament beginning and delegate its duty to make weather-related decisions to an On-site Championship Committee, consisting of the Regatta Director, the Head Official, and the Head Coach of the highest ranked institution (based on CRCA poll).

Lane Assignment. Lane assignments for all races are below. Championship lane assignments will be sent to the coaches by the end of the day on the Friday preceding the Championship. Note that the championship committee may change lane assignments based on weather conditions. Under extenuating course conditions, the Championships Committee, in consultation with the coaches, will make decisions regarding lane assignments. There shall not be open lanes between boats.

Seed	Lane
No. 1 Seed	1
No. 2 Seed	2
No. 3 Seed	3
No. 4 Seed	4

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

Manual. A tournament manual outlining the policies and procedures for the tournament, as well as information specific to the host site, shall be distributed to each institution no later than one month prior to the start of the championship.

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 assign the officials for all conference championship events.

Practice. The championship course will be open and available to teams for practice the day prior to the championships. No coaches are allowed on the water during designated practice times which shall run from 2pm to 6pm local time. Safety launches shall be provided. Teams are not permitted to row at the championship venue starting the Monday (one week) before the championships. [*Revised: 10/29/25*]

Protests. Protests shall only be allowed in accordance with USRowing rules. Officials' decisions are final. Protests arising from the decisions of the officials, or any inadvertent misinterpretation of the rules will not be considered by the Conference. If an institution files a protest in accordance with USRowing rules, the head coach and/or their designee must immediately notify the on-site Conference office sport liaison of said protest. The Conference office liaison shall then promptly alert all head coaches and/or their designee of the protest.

Scoring. Team totals at the SEC championship will be determined using the following points system.

Place	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
First Eight	36	27	18	9
Second Eight	24	18	12	6
First 4	12	9	6	3
Second 4	8	6	4	2
Third Eight	4	3	2	1
Third Four	4	3	2	1

Seeding. Seeding for the Championship will be based on the coaches' ranking of the conference teams. Each coach should share season results with the other three (3) coaches prior to the seeding form being due. The coaches will rank each conference team on the seeding form provided by the conference office. The form shall be submitted by 5PM CST on Monday before the championship. The coaches will be notified of the seedings. If there is a tie for seeds, all coaches will re-vote for the tied spots. If a second tie occurs, a coin will be flipped for ties between two teams, and a draw will occur for ties among three or more teams.

Squad Size. Only 42 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in the 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.

Tickets. The Southeastern Conference may decide whether to charge for ticketed admission. The ticket prices shall be set by the Conference office.

Tie Breaking Procedure.

1. **Single Events.** If there is a tie in a single event (based on one-hundredth of a second), the points for the two places involved shall be added and divided in half, then applied to both teams. (Example: If there is a tie for first in the IV4: 18 + 16 = 34 (divided by 2) = 17 points for both teams.)
2. **Team Championship**. If two or more teams are tied for the team championship, the winner of the IV8 will decide the championship. If teams are still tied, the winner of the IIV8 will decide the championship. If still tied, winners of the IV4, IIIV8, then IIV4 will decide the championship.

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

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – TBD; Communications – Craig Pinkerton; Officiating – Rachel Woo

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Artificial Noisemakers. Artificial noisemakers are permitted in soccer venues with the exception of whistles, air horns, and electric amplifiers. However, the home institution has the right to limit or prohibit artificial noisemakers from being brought in to soccer venues. The referee, in cooperation with home event management, shall be responsible for ensuring artificial noisemakers do not interfere with administration of the contest and follow NCAA soccer playing rules. At no time shall artificial noisemakers be located directly behind the goal or in the quadrant of the field adjacent to the visiting team's bench. See also, SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e. [*Revised: 8/18/15*]

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 using a point system devised from voting by all 16 head coaches. Coaches will list their own players in order of preference and email their list to the Conference office by a date determined by the Conference administrator. A complete list of coaches' nominees will then be sent to coaches to use in completing their All-SEC Team ballots. Coaches will list four forwards, four midfielders, four defenders, and one goalkeeper on their ballots for both first, second, and third teams. [*Revised: 3/9/16, 3/13/19, 9/20/24*]
2. **All-Freshmen Team**. The All-Freshman Team will be determined using the same process as the All-SEC Team but are selected regardless of position.
3. **Forward of the Year.** The Forward of the Year will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote from the list of forwards selected as the first team All-SEC Team. A conference call will be conducted on the Monday prior to the tournament to announce the candidates for the Forward of the Year. Following the call, the coaches' ballots are due to the Conference office by noon CT. [*Revised: 3/13/19*]
4. **Defender of the Year**. The Defender of the Year will be determined in the same manner as the Forward of the Year. The Defender of the Year will be chosen from defenders from the first team All-SEC Team. [*Revised: 3/13/19*]
5. **Midfielder of the Year**. The Midfielder of the Year will be determined in the same manner as the Forward of the Year. The Midfielder of the Year will be chosen from midfielders from the first team All-SEC Team. [*Adopted: 3/13/19*]
6. **Goalkeeper of the Year**. The Goalkeeper of the Year will be determined in the same manner as the Forward of the Year. The Goalkeeper of the Year will be chosen from goalkeepers from the first team All-SEC Team. [*Adopted: 3/13/19*]
7. **Freshman of the Year.** The Freshman of the Year will be determined in the same manner as the Offensive/Defensive Player of the Year.
8. **Newcomer of the Year.** The Newcomer of the Year, who shall be a transfer that has not previously competed in SEC competition, will be determined in the same manner as the Offensive/Defensive Player of the Year. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
9. **Coach of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Balloting for Coach of the Year will take place when the ballots for the Players of the Year and Freshman of the Year are returned to the Conference office. There will not be any nominations, only a final vote.
10. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Community Service Team**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **Player of the Week (Offensive and Defensive)**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
13. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Ball Crew. There should be a minimum of four to six people who serve on the ball crew. Ball crew members must be at least 10 years of age. NCAA rules shall govern the involvement of prospect-age individuals serving as ball crew

members.

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

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Mississippi State Miss serving as the chair for 2027. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Competition Area Lighting. Stadium light shows fall into the following two categories: 1) full stadium light coloring in which the game lights are dimmed and/or change colors, or, 2) game lighting remains while lights perform movement, including chase and flickering effects. The following outlines when these two options can be utilized during the game. [*Adopted: 8/16/23*]

1. **Pregame.** Lighting effects may occur during introductions and during periods in which no student-athletes are warming up on the playing surface. Competition level lighting must resume once players begin to enter the playing surface to take their positions and prior to the ball being placed. at midfield to start the game.
2. **Following Goals.** Lighting effects may occur once the referee has signaled for a goal and the clock to be stopped. Lighting movements may be performed for a maximum of ten second (0:10) and then must return to competition level lighting.
3. **Halftime.** Lighting effects may occur once both teams have cleared the field. Competition level lighting must return when the first team returns to the field for warmups or by fifteen seconds (0:15) prior to the end of halftime.
4. **End of Game** Lighting effects may occur once the match has concluded for up to fifteen seconds (0:15).

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall be painted in school approved colors on the playing field.

Conference Championship/Tournament.

1. The team with the highest number of points during overall regular-season Conference competition will be declared the Conference champion. If two or more teams are tied with the highest number of points, they will be declared Conference co-champions. Final overall standings will be determined by the number of points in all regular season Conference competition. [*Revised: 3/13/19*]
2. The following point system shall determine regular-season standings: a win counts as three points, a tie as one point, and a loss as zero points. If a game is canceled, neither team will receive a point and the teams' average points per game will be used to determine regular-season standings.
3. A Conference tournament shall be held at the conclusion of the regular season in order to determine the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. The Conference tournament shall be conducted under the guidelines outlined in these Commissioner's Regulations.

Music. Playing music is prohibited when the ball is in play.

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

Officials. The Conference office shall assign officials for all home games and any games specified in contractual agreements with Conference institutions. Home team game management is responsible for confirming game times/dates and other information on the officiating website. If there is discrepancy in the information, the home team game manager must immediately contact the visiting team and the Conference office. The following procedures shall

be utilized regarding officials at all Conference soccer matches:

1. Each institution will provide a dressing room for officials within close proximity to the soccer facility. When male and female officials are assigned, two separate dressing rooms should be provided, if possible. Admittance to this room shall be limited to game officials and conference office representatives. No guests, visitors or institutional personnel (other than a trainer or manager upon request) shall be admitted. The officials' dressing room shall be set-up with towels, soap, soft drinks, water and cups.
2. 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.
3. Each official shall be provided a maximum of two complimentary admissions to the assigned contest. An official shall directly contact the host institution's soccer game management contact at least ten days prior to the competition in order to obtain such admissions.

Practice. The home team shall provide the visiting team with the same activity for practice on the day prior to the match. If the competition field is used for practice, the home team shall provide specific information to the visiting team regarding permissible actions on the competition field during practice (e.g. use of flats, use of 18, etc.) [*Adopted: 3/9/16*]

Promotions. The head coach must notify the visiting team of any promotions to be conducted on the field during pre-game or halftime.

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling. Each member shall play a 10-match schedule, with one contest against a permanent opponent and nine contests against revolving opponents from the remaining teams. This schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference. The home team shall determine the day of competition with administrator approval. [*Revised: 3/9/16*]

1. On weekends where two matches are scheduled, games will be played Thursday and Sunday. The two match weekends will be "split" travel weekends. [*Revised: 3/426*]
2. On single game weekends, games may be played on Friday, Saturday or Sunday depending on television, campus events, budgets, and missed class time. Such a contest may also be played on Thursday, provided the Athletic Director from both participating institutions agrees. [*Revised: 3/8/17*]
3. Sunday matches that do not involve television shall start no later than 2 p.m. (local time), unless mutually agreed upon by both institution's administration. [*Revised: 6/2/17*]
4. Once established, the date of a match may not be changed beginning 10 days after the release of the television schedule. [*Adopted: 3/8/17*]
5. If a contest is postponed due to inclement weather and cannot be played on the originally scheduled date, the match will be rescheduled to be played on the Wednesday between the ninth and tenth scheduled conference regular season match. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

Pre-Season Scouting and Videotape/Film Exchange. The following scouting and videotape/film exchange policies apply to all exhibition, regular season, and post-season competition: [*Revised: 3/8/17, 8/24/17, 3/23/20*]

1. The Conference operates with an open exchange policy governing the exchange of game video. All schools are required to provide video of all matches to other Conference programs. All teams must use Spiidio software as the primary means for transferring women's soccer video within the Conference;
2. All programs should purchase the Spiidio software, after which unique accounts (folders) will be developed for each school. Video from each contest shall be uploaded into Spiidio under the program's playing schedule that will be posted by the Conference office. All games shall remain on Spiidio until the season is complete;
3. The video being uploaded shall be filmed from midfield and HD quality and shall be the "coaches copy" (i.e., the video the program uses for its own purposes);
4. Teams are responsible for uploading video to Spiidio by 11a.m. local time following the day of their match. For Conference matches, only the home team shall be required to upload video of the match. Each institution will have the ability to download any match from any program;
5. No institution shall exchange video or provide a scouting report to any non-conference institution regarding

Conference teams;

6. If an extenuating circumstance prevents an institution from uploading game film by the specified deadline, the institution shall immediately notify each institution and the Conference office to communicate the issue and expected time upload will be available. If the issue is unable to be resolved to upload via Spiidio, the institution must provide a DVD (or electronic copy) to every Conference institution within 48 hours following the match.

Suspension/Ejection Policy.

1. Any game official may eject a student-athlete, coach or team representative for misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. If an individual is ejected from the contest, the ejected individual shall leave the bench and playing area immediately without further communication with the teams or game officials. The ejected individual shall remain out of sight and sound of the contest for the remainder of the contest. "Out of sight and sound" means that the ejected individual(s) may not view the contest, communicate with his or her team, or be in a location where the game officials can hear him or her. The ejected individual may not return to the bench area, playing area, or grandstands until all game officials are escorted to their dressing area by security or game management. In the event an ejected individual does not comply with the ejection policy set forth in this subparagraph 2 in a timely manner (as determined in the game officials' sole discretion), the game will be forfeited.
3. A suspended student-athlete may be in the team area during their suspension, provided they are not in uniform. However, a suspended student-athlete may not participate in any competition related pregame activities during the suspension. If a suspended student-athlete does not comply with the suspension policy set forth in this subparagraph 3 in a timely manner (as determined in the game official's sole discretion), the game will be forfeited. If a suspended student-athlete participates in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game shall be forfeited. [*Adopted: 2/21/24*]
4. A suspended coach or staff member shall remain out of sight and sound during the applicable suspension. Additionally, a suspended coach or staff member may not:
   A. Communicate with any team personnel or referees;
   B. Take part in any pregame activities at the site of competition; or
   C. Be in the stadium or on the field once pregame activities have started.

   If a suspended coach or staff member does not comply with this policy in a timely manner (as determined in the game official's sole discretion), the game shall be forfeited. [*Revised: 2/21/24*]
5. This policy is in effect for all regular season games and the Conference Tournament only.

Squad Size. Only 26 athletes shall be allowed to travel and only 24 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities. [*Revised: 8/18/15, 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 5/29/25*]

Team Area. During a game, a team's coaching and bench area (as defined by NCAA Soccer Playing Rules) shall be limited to no more than ten staff members (e.g. coaches, director of operations, trainers, etc.) who must be included on the team's official NCAA game roster. [*Adopted: 3/23/20*]

Tickets. The home team must provide up to 50 complimentary tickets/admissions to the visiting team for Conference matches.

Uniforms. During Conference weekend series, the home team shall wear its light/white uniform and the visiting team shall wear its dark uniform, unless mutually agreed upon by both participating programs. [*Revised: 8/24/17*]

Video Boards/Replays. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

1. **Replays.**-Video replays may be shown on an in-stadium video board from the end of a play until the beginning of the next play, except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. Video from the official video review system may not be shown during a replay, except during an official video review. Under no circumstance may the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must

designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-stadium video board.

2. **Official Video Review.** When a stoppage occurs for an official video review, the in-stadium video board operator must use either the unaltered television network program feed or the unaltered video feed from the officiating video review system as the exclusive video source for plays under review. Replays are permitted only between Referee announcements to stop play and to communicate the outcome of the review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-stadium video board during stoppage for an official review. Video from the official video review system may only be shown during an official video review. Under no circumstances may the video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, or incite the crowd during or following a review.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Awards. The following selection procedures will be used:

1. **All-Tournament Team**. After each semifinal match, the losing coach will submit two individual players from his or her team for selection to the All-Tournament Team. After the championship game, three players will be submitted by the losing team and four players will be submitted by the winning team for a total of 11 players selected to the All-Tournament Team.
2. **Most Valuable Player**. The MVP is chosen by the championship winning coach.

Dates and Sites. The tournament shall be held on the weekend prior to the start of the NCAA championship. See Supplement C in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites. If the tournament returns to campus sites, the order of rotation at Conference institutions is the following: Mississippi State, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Auburn, Kentucky, Florida, Alabama, Vanderbilt, Georgia, LSU, Ole Miss, Missouri, Texas A&M, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Equipment. The Conference office will provide game balls during the tournament. The official ball used during the NCAA Tournament shall be used for the Conference tournament.

Format. There shall be a single-elimination tournament of the top twelve teams played at the conclusion of the regular-season schedule. The tournament champion shall be the Conference representative to the NCAA championship. The top twelve teams with the highest point total will participate in the tournament. The following point system is utilized to determine regular season standings and seeding for the tournament: a win counts as three points, a tie as one, and a loss as zero points. If a game(s) is cancelled, neither team will receive a point and the standings will be determined by average points per game. The tournament shall be played in a Sunday-Tuesday-Thursday-Sunday format with Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday designated as off/practice days. [*Revised: 3/8/17, 3/13/19*]

Game Protocol. NCAA procedures and march-out protocol will be followed during pre-game. Game times shall be established in consultation with the Conference office and the host organization.

Lodging. Each institution is responsible for arranging its own lodging. If necessary, the host organization can assist in blocking an appropriate number of rooms.

Manual. A tournament manual outlining the policies and procedures for the tournament, as well as information specific to the host site, shall be distributed to each institution no later than one month prior to the start of the tournament.

Officials. The Conference office shall assign the officials for all tournament games.

Practice. Practice times on the day prior to a team's match will be selected based upon seed. Teams interested in additional practices should contact the host organization for assistance in scheduling practice times. The game field may not be used for practices. Teams may be allowed to conduct a walk-thru on the field if requested. In the case of inclement weather, practices may be scheduled at an alternate location.

Seeding. The tournament will be seeded 1-12 based on the point system implemented to determine regular season standings. If teams are tied, the following procedures, in order as follows, will be used to break the tie: [*Revised: 3/13/19*]

1. **Two-Team Tie** – The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
   A. Head-to-head competition between the tied teams.
   B. Points earned versus common opponents.
   C. Goal differential versus common opponents.
   D. Goals scored versus common opponents.
   E. Won-Lost percentage of the two teams versus highest seeded common opponent and proceeding

through the No. 16 seed, if necessary.

F. Goal differential versus highest seeded common opponent and proceeding through the No. 16 seed, if necessary.

G. Goals scored versus highest seeded common opponent and proceeding through the No. 16 seed, if necessary.

H. Coin flip by the Commissioner.

2. **Three-Team Tie (or more)** – The following procedure will be used until the tie is broken. If at any time this tie breaker results in only two remaining tied teams, then the two-team tiebreaker will be used beginning with Subsection A in that procedure and continuing from that point:

   A. If all teams have played one another, then most points earned in those matches only.

   B. If all teams have not played, but one team has defeated all teams in the tie break, then that team breaks the tie and shall be placed highest. Remaining teams will continue with the tie break procedure.

   C. If all teams have not played one another and a team does not have all wins over the tied teams, then use Subsection B in the two-team tie break procedures and continue through the two team tie-break procedures until ties between all teams are broken (except Subsection H will read "if three or more teams are still tied, the Commissioner will conduct a draw").

Squad Size. 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. [*Revised: 8/18/15, 7/10/20, 6/3/22*]

Tickets. Participating institutions are not required to purchase a block of tickets to the tournament. An institution may purchase general admission tickets as it advances in the tournament. Admissions for participating institutions will be provided via a pass list and institutions will be sent an invoice by the Conference office for any admissions used following the completion of the Championship.

Uniforms. All team members must wear the uniform of the institution they represent. Teams must be prepared to wear light or dark uniforms (jerseys and socks). The higher seeded team will wear the light uniforms for all matches.

Videotaping. Teams may only videotape matches in which they are competing. Videotape of a tournament match may not be used to scout an opponent.

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – Jeremy Hammond; Communications – Jill Skotarczak; Officiating – Tom Meyer

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. The first and second teams shall consist of 24 players each, with no position designations. To be nominated, a position player must have played in a minimum of 50 percent of the team's conference games, and pitchers must have played in a minimum of 25 percent of the team's conference games. Ties will not be broken. [*Revised: 1/18/22, 9/20/24*]
2. **All-Defensive Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process.
3. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Player of the Year must be an All-SEC nominee and not a pitcher.
4. **Pitcher of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Pitcher-of -the-Year must be an All-SEC nominee.
5. **Freshman of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Freshman of the Year must be an All-SEC Team nominee.
6. **Newcomer of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. Newcomer of the Year must be an All-SEC Team nominee. *[Adopted: 8/21/24]*
7. **Coach of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process and are not permitted to vote for themselves. The following criteria shall be considered for Coach of the Year: success of the team, improvement of the team from the previous season, ability to fully use the talents of the team, and professional manner and attitude.
8. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Community Service Team**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Player and Pitcher of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Barrel Compression Testing. Barrel Compression Testing in the regular season and Conference Tournament shall be governed by the annually approved Barrel Compression Testing Protocol attached as Supplement A.

Coaches Meeting Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting 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 the University of Georgia serving as the chair for 2026. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Commercial Advertisements on Playing Fields. Commercial marks or logos may not be displayed on the playing surface, including the grass, turf, and dirt in fair and foul territory or on the bases, except: [*Adopted: 11/6/24*]

1. **Foul Territory.** An institution may display up to three commercial advertisements in the dirt or grass area of foul territory: 1) between bome plate and the right field foul pole, 2) between home plate and the left field foul pole, or 3) behind home plate. Such advertising marks and logos may be of any size and any color(s) but may not be placed within five feet of any foul line or the catcher's box. All advertisements must be sold and established on a season-long basis and may not be rotated during the season.

2. **Foul Poles.** Commercial advertising may be displayed on foul poles, but any graphics shall not be of a color or design that may complicate an umpire's evaluation of a fair/foul call.

Competition Area Lighting. Stadium light shows fall into the following categories: 1) full venue light coloring in which the game lights are dimmed and/or change colors, 2) game lighting remains while lights perform movement, including chase and flickering effects, or 3) lights out. The following outlines when these options can be utilized during a contest. Dugouts and bullpens must remain lit at all times, otherwise such lighting effects may not occur. [*Adopted: 1/31/24*]

1. **Pregame**. Lighting effects or lights out may occur during introductions and during periods in which no student-athletes are warming up on the field. Lights must return to competition level lighting prior to teams taking the field for first pitch.
2. **Following Home Runs**. Lighting effects may occur once the ball has landed and the umpire makes the call that it is a home run. Lights must be concluded before the batter touches home plate.
3. **Pitching Changes**. Lighting effects may occur when a new pitcher takes the field. Lights must return to competition level lighting once the pitcher takes the mound/circle.
4. **Postgame**. Lighting effects or lights out may occur once all student-athletes and officials have cleared the field.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall be placed in school approved colors either on the field, on the backstop, or on interior outfield walls.

Conference Championship/Tournament.

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

Departure Times. The visiting team shall make arrangements to depart the locale of the competition site following the final game of each Conference series via the last available flight, bus, etc., leaving that day and connecting to the visiting team's final destination. The visiting team shall complete and return a Conference Departure Form to the proper game management official at the competition site and to the Conference office by January 10th each year. This form will indicate the visiting team's designated departure time from the competition site facility following the final game of each Conference series. Once the departure time is established, the host institution will set a game time that provides a reasonable amount of time for completion of a seven inning game. If the visiting team is utilizing air travel, the final game of the series may start no later than 4 p.m. local time. A visiting team's departure time as designated on the Conference Departure Form may not be modified without approval by the Conference office. If a contest is called due to travel arrangements, the following procedures will be used:

1. If the contest is called and is a regulation game according to NCAA Softball Playing Rules, the contest and all averages will count in the final playing record.
2. The contest will be considered a regulation tie game if it meets the appropriate conditions set forth in NCAA Softball Playing Rules and all averages will count in the final playing record.
3. If the contest is called prior to reaching regulation game status per NCAA Softball Playing Rules, the contest will be considered a "No Game".
4. In no case shall departure time of umpires be a factor in completing games.

Double-Header Warm-Up. Access to the batting cages must be split equally between both teams during the time

between games of a double-header. [*Adopted 12/15/15*]

Ejection Policy.

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

   In the event a suspended individual does not comply with the suspension policy set forth in this subparagraph 4 in a timely manner (as determined in the game official's sole discretion), the game shall be forfeited. In the event a suspended individual participates in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game shall be forfeited.
5. This policy is in effect for all regular season games and the Conference Tournament only.

Facilities. All facilities should meet NCAA requirements insofar as possible. Both teams should have equal access to facilities and equipment as defined in the NCAA rules under Pre-game Practice.

Inclement Weather. The inclement weather policy is as follows:

A. Friday through Sunday Series

1. If a game is postponed on Friday or Saturday due to inclement weather, the game shall be completed from the point of interruption on the following day prior to the regularly scheduled game.
2. In the event the regularly scheduled game is televised, the postponed game may be rescheduled, in consultation with the conference office, prior to, or following, the regularly scheduled game, whichever allows the best opportunity to complete such game without interruption.
3. Televised Games Affected by Weather
   A. If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised on a linear network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
   B. If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised on a linear

network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.

C. A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on SEC Network+.

4. If weather prohibits a game from occurring on the date scheduled and cannot be played during the weekend series, then the game(s) will not be rescheduled.
5. Length of Games
   A. All games played should be scheduled as a regulation game.
   B. If weather prevents playing both the Friday and Saturday game, or if the Saturday game does not begin because of rain, there shall be two regulation games on Sunday. If a Friday game is postponed and no games are played on Saturday, the postponed game shall be resumed on Sunday, followed by a regulation game.
   C. If a postponed game is unable to be completed because of inclement weather and has reached official game status per NCAA Softball Playing Rules, it shall be declared a game.
   D. Once a postponed game is resumed, the game shall be complete if one team has a lead of eight or more runs per NCAA Softball Playing Rules.
6. Restart Times
   A. In the event of rain, no game may start after 10:00 pm local time or resume after midnight local time.
   B. In the event of a rain-delay prior to the beginning of play on Sunday, the game must begin at least two hours prior to the visiting team's scheduled departure time from the field, but no later than 4:00 pm local time to avoid a rain out of the game.
   C. If the game begins and is postponed (Sunday game), it must resume by 6:00 pm local time to avoid a rain out of the game.
7. Travel Considerations
   A. In all instances, departure time takes priority. A team may not stay over until Monday to begin or complete a game or series.
   B. In the event the visiting team is not scheduled to leave the host city until Monday and there are no prior travel limitations for the game's umpires that would dictate departure to enact these deadlines, with Conference approval, it would be permissible to waive the 4:00 pm deadline for the start of a game and a 6:00 pm deadline for the resumption of the game.
8. Authority to Play Doubleheaders
   A. If weather forecasts on Friday and Saturday morning call for a high occurrence of inclement weather on Saturday or Sunday (80 percent or higher), the home team in consultation with the visiting team may request permission from the Conference Office to play a doubleheader on Friday or Saturday provided the teams are already in the locale and there is no television involved.
   B. Approval of a prospective doubleheader shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on one of the days in the series.

B. Thursday through Saturday Series

1. If a game is postponed on Thursday or Friday due to inclement weather, the game shall be completed from the point of interruption on the following day prior to the regularly scheduled game.
2. In the event the regularly scheduled game is televised, the postponed game may be rescheduled, in consultation with the conference office, prior to, or following, the regularly scheduled game, whichever allows the best opportunity to complete such game without interruption.
3. Televised Games Affected by Weather
   A. If a game is postponed on Thursday, and the regularly scheduled Friday game is televised on a linear network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Friday game at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly

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

B. If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by on a linear network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.

C. A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on the SEC Network Alternate Channel or on SEC Network+.

4. If weather prohibits a game from occurring on the date scheduled and cannot be played during the weekend series, then the game(s) will not be rescheduled.

5. Length of Games
   A. All games played should be scheduled as a regulation game.
   B. If weather prevents playing both the Friday and Saturday game, or if the Saturday game does not begin because of rain, there shall be two regulation games on Sunday. If a Friday game is postponed and no games are played on Saturday, the postponed game shall be resumed on Sunday, followed by a regulation game.
   C. If a postponed game is unable to be completed because of inclement weather and has reached official game status per NCAA Softball Playing Rules, it shall be declared a game.
   D. Once a postponed game is resumed, the game shall be complete if one team has a lead of eight or more runs per NCAA Softball Playing Rules.

6. Restart Times
   A. In the event of rain, no game may start after 10:00 p.m. local time or resume after midnight local time.
   B. In the event of a rain-delay prior to the beginning of play on Saturday, the game must begin at least two hours prior to the visiting team's scheduled departure time from the field, but no later than 4:00 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game.
   C. If the game begins and is postponed (Saturday game), it must resume by 6:00 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game.

7. Travel Considerations
   A. In all instances, departure time takes priority. A team may not stay over until Sunday to begin or complete a game or series.
   B. In the event the visiting team is not scheduled to leave the host city until Sunday and there are no prior travel limitations for the game's umpires that would dictate departure to enact these deadlines, with Conference approval, it would be permissible to waive the 4:00 p.m. deadline for the start of a game and a 6:00 p.m. deadline for the resumption of the game.

8. Authority to Play Doubleheaders
   A. If weather forecasts on Thursday and Friday morning call for a high occurrence of inclement weather on Friday or Saturday (80 percent or higher), the home team in consultation with the visiting team may request permission from the Conference Office to play a doubleheader on Thursday or Friday provided the teams are already in the locale and there is no television involved.
   B. Approval of a prospective doubleheader shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on one of the days in the series.

C. Saturday through Monday Series

1. If a game is postponed on Saturday or Sunday due to inclement weather, the game shall be completed from the point of interruption on the following day prior to the regularly scheduled game.

2. In the event the regularly scheduled game is televised, the postponed game may be rescheduled, in consultation with the conference office, prior to, or following, the regularly scheduled game, whichever

allows the best opportunity to complete such game without interruption.

3. Televised Games Affected by Weather
   A. If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised on a linear network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
   B. If a game is postponed on Sunday, and the regularly scheduled Monday game is televised by on a linear network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Monday game at its published start time. (The postponed game should be scheduled at a time which provides the regularly scheduled televised game a reasonable chance of starting at its published time.) If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, the postponed game must be completed without interruption.
   C. A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on SEC Network+.
4. If weather prohibits a game from occurring on the date scheduled and cannot be played during the weekend series, then the game(s) will not be rescheduled.
5. Length of Games
   A. All games played should be scheduled as a regulation game.
   B. If weather prevents playing both the Saturday and Sunday game, or if the Sunday game does not begin because of rain, there shall be two regulation games on Monday. If a Friday game is postponed and no games are played on Sunday, the postponed game shall be resumed on Monday, followed by a regulation game.
   C. If a postponed game is unable to be completed because of inclement weather and has reached official game status per NCAA Softball Playing Rules, it shall be declared a game.
   D. Once a postponed game is resumed, the game shall be complete if one team has a lead of eight or more runs per NCAA Softball Playing Rules.
6. Restart Times [*Revised: 6/3/16*]
   A. In the event of rain, no game may start after 10:00 p.m. local time or resume after midnight local time.
   B. In the event of a rain-delay prior to the beginning of play on Monday, the game must begin at least two hours prior to the visiting team's scheduled departure time from the field, but no later than 8:00 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game.
   C. If the game begins and is postponed (Monday game), it must resume by 9:00 p.m. (Central) if the game is played in the Central time zone, or by 10:00 p.m. (Eastern) if the game is played in the Eastern time zone, to avoid a rain out of the game. [*Revised: 10/10/19*]
7. Travel Considerations
   A. In all instances, departure time takes priority. A team may not stay over until Tuesday to begin or complete a game or series.
   B. In the event the visiting team is not scheduled to leave the host city until Tuesday and there are no prior travel limitations for the game's umpires that would dictate departure to enact these deadlines, with Conference approval, it would be permissible to waive the 8:00 p.m. deadline for the start of a game and a 9:00 p.m. deadline for the resumption of the game.
8. Authority to Play Doubleheaders
   A. If weather forecasts on Saturday and Sunday morning call for a high occurrence of inclement weather on Sunday or Monday (80 percent or higher), the home team in consultation with the visiting team may request permission from the Conference Office to play a doubleheader on Saturday or Sunday provided the teams are already in the locale and there is no television involved.
   B. Approval of a prospective doubleheader shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on one of the days in the series.

D. Other

1. Authority to Rule on Game Stoppage - The Plate Umpire has sole authority to suspend, postpone or cancel the game if conditions become unfit for play per NCAA Softball Playing Rules.
2. Lightning Strikes
   A. Each member institution shall be responsible for having the capability to determine when lightning strikes are within specified distances from the competition site. When lightning is detected within 10 miles of the competition site (or, at a minimum, that by the time the monitor observes 30 seconds between seeing the lightning flash and hearing its associated thunder), home team game management shall utilize the public address system to inform those in attendance that inclement weather including lightning is within 10 miles and that should patrons vacate the facility for safe shelter, they will be allowed to re-enter with a ticket stub. When lightning is detected within eight miles of the competition site, the competition shall be suspended.
   B. To resume athletics activities, lightning safety experts recommend waiting 30 minutes after both the last sound of thunder and last flash of lightning. See also NCAA Softball Rule, Appendix G Safety Guidelines/Lightning Guidelines.
   C. A 10-minute warm-up period may be granted following the 30-minute suspension.
3. Game Time Temperature – A Conference contest may not begin if the temperature at the time of first pitch is below 32-degrees Fahrenheit (real feel). [*Adopted: 10/5/23*]

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

Officials. The Conference office shall assign officials for all home games and any games specified in contractual agreements with Conference institutions. The following procedures shall be utilized regarding umpires at all games:

1. Each institution will provide a dressing room for umpires closely located to the softball facility. When male and female umpires are assigned, two separate dressing rooms should be provided, if possible. Admittance to this room shall be limited to game officials and conference office representatives. No guests, visitors or institutional personnel (other than a trainer or manager upon request or conference office representative) shall be admitted. The officials' dressing room shall be set up with towels, soap, soft drinks, water, and cups.
2. Security escorts for umpires should be provided from the dressing room to the field and back to the dressing room at the conclusion of each game.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Pitch Clock. Programs shall administer the NCAA 20-second pitch clock via two visible on-field timers (one in the outfield and one behind the plate) which shall be managed by an on-the-field umpire. [*Adopted: 10/5/23*]

Playing Rules. During Conference games, umpires shall administer and address the NCAA Softball Playing Rules as written without requiring the opposing coach to bring the issue to the umpire's attention.

Practice by Visiting Team. Weather permitting, visiting teams shall be permitted to practice on the field used for competition on either the day/night prior to or the morning of the first game of a conference series. It is the responsibility of the visiting team to notify the host institution prior to the start of a series to arrange for such a practice. The host institution shall determine whether weather and/or field conditions are acceptable for practice, and the visiting team may be required to assist in the field preparation (e.g., removal or placement of the tarp). For practices on game days, the visiting team must adhere to the host institution's grounds crew game day protocol during its practice (e.g., use of a hitting and/or pitching mat). A coach, administrator, or trainer from the visiting team must be on-site during its practices. [*Revised: 12/15/15, 10/27/16, 10/10/19, 12/1/21*]

A. **Day/Night Prior to the First Game of the Series.** Visiting team practice on the competition field and/or in the batting cages the day/night before the first game of a series may last no more than two hours.

B. **Day of the First Game of the Series.** Visiting team practice on the competition field on the morning of the first game of the series may last a minimum of one hour and must conclude no later than six hours prior to the game. If the game begins at 3 p.m. or later local time, the visiting team may practice in the batting cages for a minimum of one hour.

C. **Day of Games Two and Three of the Series.** On days two and three of the series when games begin at 3 p.m. or later local time, the visiting team may practice in the batting cages for a minimum of one hour per day.

D. **Mandatory On-Field Practice Equipment.** The following equipment shall be provided to a visiting team for use in on-field practice and pre-game warm-ups during a Conference series; 1) two bins of Rawlings practice balls (75 balls per bin minimum, 2) four shag buckets, 3) one sock net, 4) one front toss net, 5) one pitching mat, and 6) one hitting mat. [*Adopted: 1029/25*]

E. **Mandatory Indoor Practice Equipment.** The following equipment shall be provided to a visiting team for use in indoor practice and pre-game warm-ups during a Conference series; 1) two three-wheel pitching machines, 2) two bins of pitching machine balls (100 balls minimum), 3) two extension cords, 4) one bin of 50 practice balls (50 balls minimum per cage, 5) one front toss net per cage, 6) one sock net per cage, 6) one tee per cage. [*Adopted: 1029/25*]

Pre-Game Protocol.

A. All contests shall follow the Pre-Game Protocol as specified in Supplement B of this section that allows both the home team and the visiting team a 35-minute batting practice/warm-up period and a seven-minute field period. The pregame protocol will also include a period for player and coach introductions and the National Anthem. Coaches are required to turn in line-ups 30 minutes prior to the start of the game. [*Revised: 10/4/18*]

B. The home team shall designate the space provided for home and visiting teams to conduct its 35-minute batting practice/warm-up. Home and visiting teams shall be permitted to do offensive and defensive drills, or any combination thereof, during its designated 35-minute batting practice/warm-up. If the home team designates the playing field as the batting practice/warm-up area, they must provide a suitable and convenient alternative site for the visiting team to stretch and throw during the home team's batting practice/warm-up period. This site will be available for stretching and throwing only. Neither team may hit batted balls on the playing field during the 35-minute periods. During a team's seven-minute field period, the team shall have access to the entre playing field (infield and outfield). [*Revised: 10/4/18, 11/2/22*]

C. Each institution may establish field rules related to permissible activities for a team not in a designated warm-up period. This will assist the home team with implementing a policy that is respectful of the grounds' crew time to prepare the field for play. As an example, if Team A (home) is in the designated 35-minute batting practice/warm-up at one hour and 45 minutes prior to first pitch, then Team B (visitor) will follow Team A's established protocol for what activities may or may not occur on the field, inside/outside the lines, etc. However, during a team's seven-minute field period, the opposing team may warm-up on the playing field in foul territory. [*Revised: 10/4/18*]

D. There shall be a two minute "turnover" period that occurs between home and visiting team warm-up. The home team must be free and clear of the field and batting cages following this two-minute warm-up period in order for the visiting team to receive a full 35-minute warm-up period.

E. Institutions shall submit their home facility's pre-game protocol to the Conference office by February 1 prior to each season. Collected protocols will then be disseminated to all participating institutions prior to the start of the Conference schedule. [*Adopted: 11/2/22*]

Post-Game Protocol. Participating coaching staff members (head coach, full-time assistant coaches, and the volunteer coach only) shall shake hands at home plate following the conclusion of games one and two of a conference series. Participating student-athletes and coaching staff members shall shake hands via a handshake line following the conclusion of the third game of the series. [*Adopted 10/4/18*]

Public Address Announcer. A public address announcer shall be present at all Conference games. The announcer must be impartial and give only necessary information in good taste and acceptable language.

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling. The regular-season Conference schedule shall be a revolving schedule with each team playing eight, three game series for a total of 24 games. Unless otherwise permitted by administrative action of the Conference, the three-game series will be played on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, except during the

final weekend of the season during which games will be played on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. When the visiting team is on spring break during the weekdays immediately prior to a series, the participating teams may mutually request the series begin on Thursday and conclude on Saturday. The Conference schedule is set by administrative action of the Conference. Institutional administrators may change the date of a Conference game with mutual consent and upon approval by the Conference administrator. Revisions to a Conference schedule that are associated with spring break require the approval of the Commissioner. In no case shall a team stay over on Monday to start or complete a Conference game or series (unless otherwise permitted by administrative action of the Conference). There must be a minimum of 20 minutes between games in a double header and game management personnel shall be available to escort umpires during this interval period. [*Revised: 12/12/17, 3/7/24*]

Rosters. For each series and prior to the first game of the series, teams shall submit a roster designating its 25 players. This roster is submitted to the home plate umpire prior to the first game and cannot be changed during the series. [*Revised: 8/18/15, 10/22/25*]

Scouting. [*Revised: 10/27/16*]

1. **Non-Conference Opponents.** Coaches shall be required to share scouting information relating to non-conference opponents with other Conference programs.
2. **Conference Opponents.** Coaches shall not share scouting information relating to other Conference programs with anyone.

Squad Size. Only 25 athletes shall be allowed to travel and participate in a Conference contest. The 25-participating student-athletes for both the home and visiting team must be declared on a form that is provided to the opposing team 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 dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities. [*Revised: 8/18/15, 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 11/2/22, 5/29/25, 8/19/25, 10/29/25*]

Tickets. The home team shall provide up to 100 complimentary tickets/admissions to the visiting team for each game in a Conference series. [*Revised: 1029/25*]

Tie-breaker. In regular season Conference games, the NCAA tie-breaker rule, as defined by NCAA Softball Rules will not be utilized.

Uniforms. During Conference series, the home team shall wear its light/white uniform on the first day of the series, its dark uniform on the second day, and its light/white uniform on the final day. The visiting team will wear its dark uniform on the first day of the series, its light/white uniform on the second day, and its dark uniform on the final day. Head coaches will verify the color of uniform to be worn when they discuss practice times.

Video Boards/Replays. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

1. **Replays.**-Video replays may be shown on an in-stadium video board from the end of a play until the beginning of the next play, except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. Video from the official video review system may not be shown during a replay, except during an official video review. Under no circumstance may the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-stadium video board.
2. **Official Video Review.** When a stoppage occurs for an official video review, the in-stadium video board operator must use either the unaltered television network program feed or the unaltered video feed from the officiating video review system as the exclusive video source for plays under review. Replays are permitted only between Referee announcements to stop play and to communicate the outcome of the review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-stadium video board during stoppage for an official review. Video from the official video review system may only be shown during an official video review. Under no circumstances may the video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, or incite the crowd during or following a review.

Video and Electronics Equipment.

1. An institution may only videotape its own contests.

2. The home and visiting teams may video the contest from a centerfield camera location. The home team may also video the contest from any location outside the team area. If the home team elects to video from a location or angle other than centerfield, the home team must video the game in its entirety from that location or angle.
3. The home team shall provide the same video including all angles (centerfield and non-centerfield locations) to the visiting team. The home team shall provide a video feed from its equipment to the visiting team or, if providing the video feed is not possible, a DVD or external drive copy of the video captured during the contest to the visiting team. [*Revised: 10/4/18*]
4. If the home team does not utilize a camera angle or a camera is not operating properly, the home team must cover the camera to indicate that the angle is not available and neither team has access.
5. When the visiting team elects to video from a centerfield camera location, the visiting team shall provide a video feed from its equipment to the home team, or, if providing the video feed is not possible, a DVD or external drive copy of the video captured during the contest to the home team if this video is requested by the home team. [*Adopted: 10/4/18*]
6. Cameras may not be manned during play.
7. Teams may only access such cameras during warm-up and between innings.
8. Under no circumstances may institutional videographers capture film for scouting purposes.
9. The home team must provide video produced on the digital platform to the visiting team, when available.
10. No electronic equipment (*e.g*., phones, tablets, palm pilots, iPhones, iPads, etc.) is permitted inside the dugout. Exceptions shall be limited to medical personnel for medical necessity, credentialed media (*e.g.,* television cameras and Conference managed devices.).
11. Video or other technology devices shall not be evaluated during a game.
12. Information collected by a 3D radar-based technology (e.g., Trackman) must be shared with an opponent immediately after a contest and must be shared with the umpires [*Adopted: 10/10/19, Revised: 8/25/26*]

Video Review. Video replay shall be used in all Conference games, and may be used in any nonconference game at the participating institution's discretion. The policies and procedures for administering replay will be maintained by the Conference Office. [*Revised: 11/2/22*]

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Awards.

1. **All-Tournament Team**. After each semifinal game, the losing coach will submit two individual players from their team for selection on the All-Tournament Team. Three players will be submitted from the losing team in the championship game and four players will be submitted by the winning team in the championship game for a total of 11 players.
2. **Tournament MVP**. The Tournament MVP will be chosen by the championship winning coach.

Credentials. Each team will receive 45 participant credentials for the official members of their travel party.

Dates and Sites. The Conference tournament shall be conducted the week prior to the first round of the NCAA Division I Women's Softball tournament. See Supplement C in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites.

Dugouts/Home Team Determination. The higher seed in each game of the tournament will be designated the home team. The home team shall warm-up first and wear light uniforms. The visiting team will wear a contrasting color. The home team shall occupy the first base dugout. [*Revised: 10/10/19*]

Format. The tournament shall be a 15-team, single-elimination format, beginning on Tuesday and concluding with the championship game on Saturday. The tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. [*Revised: 1/30/19, 3/31/21*]

Game Times. The Conference administrator, in consultation with the broadcasting television will determine the game times, Start times may be adjusted to accommodate television schedule, weather delays or other unforeseen situations. [*Revised: 1/30/19, 11/2/22*]

Lodging. Each institution is responsible for arranging its own lodging for the tournament.

Length of Game. All games shall be seven innings, unless a team holds at least an eight-run lead after five innings of play, at which time the game shall be declared complete. If play has been stopped before a seven-inning game has been completed, it shall be resumed at the point of interruption, except for the eight-run rule. If the eight-run rule does not apply, at least five innings must be played for the game to be considered regulation or complete.

Manual. The Conference shall distribute a tournament manual outlining the policies and procedures for the tournament, as well as information specific to the host site, to each institution no later than four weeks prior to the tournament.

NCAA Automatic Qualification. The Conference tournament champion shall be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the highest remaining seed in the tournament at the time of suspension shall be designated as the automatic qualifier. [*Adopted: 4/27/17*]

Seeding. Teams shall be seeded based on winning percentage in regular season conference competition. Ties will be broken in the following manner: [*Revised: 1/30/19*]

1. **Two-Team Tie.** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
   A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the two teams.
   B. Won-lost percentage of the two teams versus the No. 1 seed (and proceeding through the No. 15 seed, if necessary).
   C. Fewest runs allowed in head-to-head competition. If head-to-head competition between two tied teams did not occur, then fewest runs allowed against all common opponents.
   D. Fewest runs allowed versus all opponents.

E. Coin flip by the Commissioner.

2. **Three-Team Tie (or more)**. If three or more tied teams have three different records against each other, they shall be seeded in best percentage order. Otherwise, once the tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tie breaker procedure shall be utilized. The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
   A. Total won-loss percentage of games played among the tied teams.
   B. Won-lost percentage of the two teams versus the No. 1 seed (and proceeding through the No. 13 seed, if necessary).
   C. Fewest runs allowed in head-to-head competition. If head-to-head competition between the tied teams did not occur, then fewest runs allowed against all common opponents.
   D. Fewest runs allowed versus all opponents.
   E. If three or more teams are still tied, the Commissioner will conduct a draw.

Squad Size. Only 25 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Conference Championship competition. Eligible non-participating student-athletes may travel, dress, and engage in all pre and post-game activities, but will not be eligible for Championship participation awards from the Conference. [*Revised: 8/18/15, 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 10/29/25*]

Team Expenses and Allowances. Each participating institution will be provided a per diem of $75 per day for 25 individuals for each day the institution plays a game plus two per diems. A travel allowance of $30 per mile (one-way) or $5,000, whichever is greater, will be paid to each participating institution.

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

Uniforms. Teams must be prepared to wear light and dark uniforms. The higher seeded team in each game will wear light uniforms.

SUPPLEMENT A

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE
SOFTBALL BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING (BCT) PROTOCOL

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Southeastern Conference institutions shall follow the NCAA Bat Compliance Testing Program. The Conference Barrel Compression Testing (BCT) protocol is meant to work in concert with the NCAA Bat Compliance Testing program except where policies are specific to the Conference.
2. Coaches and administrators of Conference institutions are obligated by the NCAA Softball Rules to play with legal equipment and to remove any illegal equipment from play.
3. Barrel compression testing will be conducted prior to each Conference contest (regular and post season) but only the first game of a double header. Per NCAA rules, barrel compression testing is also required prior to all non-conference games or the first game of a non-conference series or tournament.
4. Each institution is required to purchase and use the LV Sports (formerly WSU) bat testing machine for the Conference softball season.

LOCATION AND TIME OF TESTING [*Revised: 1/25/18, 10/4/18*]

1. The home team shall designate the sport administrator, event manager or other administrative designee to oversee the administrative process of the testing (e.g., overseeing the meeting and filling out the form).
2. The crew chief will be responsible for testing both team's bats (e.g., physically placing the bats in the machines). The home team's administrator will serve as the observer and record the results.
3. Both coaches (or appointed designee(s)) will bring all bats to the testing location, as well as their logo stickers provided by the Conference. Each team's logo stickers must be available in the testing location prior to the start of the home team's testing.
4. Bat testing shall begin two hours prior to the scheduled start time of each game of the series. The home team's bats shall be tested first. The visiting team's bats shall be tested following the home team's bat testing. In the event of a doubleheader, BCT will only be conducted prior to the first game of the doubleheader. [*Revised: 10/4/18, 10/10/19*]
5. Location of the testing will be determined by the home team and communicated via email to the visiting team's head coach no later than 48 hours prior to the first game of the series.
6. The crew chief must be present during testing and shall be made aware of when/where testing will take place. Each team has the option to have a designated staff member present during their opponent's testing.
7. Testing shall not be conducted in public view or near fans/media.

TESTING PROCEDURE

1. On the WSU or LV fixture, 1550psi shall be the lowest (softest) passing score except as noted on the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List for specific models granted a lower passing score.
2. Each bat will be tested until it receives two pass results or two fail results whichever comes first.
3. Each bat will be tested approximately 6 inches from the end of the barrel. The bat will then be rotated 90 degrees and tested again.
4. If after the first two tests:
    A. The bat has two pass results, the bat receives the appropriate sticker and is ready to be used in competition;
    B. The bat has two fails, the bat is surrendered and will not be returned for use; or
    C. The bat has one pass result and one fail result after the second test, the bat will be removed from the machine and inspected for cracks. If none is found, the bat will be inserted into the machine and

tested the third and final time.

(1) If the bat has a second pass result, the bat will be identified as passed and the sticker affixed.

(2) If the bat receives a second failed result, the bat will be deemed unacceptable and surrendered to the testing team.

5. Bats passing both tests will receive a tamper-proof sticker to be placed on the taper of the bat so that it is easily visible.
6. The opponent's sticker will be placed on bats that have passed. (e.g., if Arkansas is playing Georgia, the Arkansas sticker is placed on the passing Georgia bat and the Georgia sticker is placed on the passing Arkansas bat.)
7. The visiting team shall always travel with its own stickers to be used during the testing. The home team is not responsible for stickers of the opposing teams.
8. The stickers should be removed after the series has been completed.
9. The Conference staff will purchase each institution's stickers and ship to each head coach prior to the start of Conference play.

PROCEDURES FOR FAILED BATS

1. A bat that fails the BCT testing during a series will be deemed illegal and remain in the immediate possession of the home team's event manager until the end of the series.
2. If a bat fails testing, the bat is dead for that series and cannot be re-tested for that series.
3. The home team's sport administrator, event manager or appointed administrative designee will return a visiting team's illegal bat to the visiting team head coach at the conclusion of the last game of the series.
4. The home team's sport administrator, event manager or appointed administrative designee will give a home team's illegal bat to the home team's SWA.
5. For each failed bat, the home team event manager (or administrative designee) will complete the SEC Failed Bat Form and submit the form via email ***no later than 48 hours after completion of bat testing for the series*** to the Conference office, with copies of the form sent to the head coach and SWA of the affected institution.
6. It is the responsibility of the head coach to give the failed bat to his/her SWA upon the team's return to campus.
7. All failed bats shall not be used in any subsequent game.
8. The Conference office will submit failed bat information to the NCAA Bat Testing Administrator.

SUPPLEMENT B

SOFTBALL PRE-GAME TIMING PROTOCOL

Revised: 10/4/18

1:00 p.m. Start		Time Prior to Game
11:15 A.M.	**HOME TEAM BP/WARM-UP** (35 MINUTES)	1 HOUR, 45 MINUTES
11:50 A.M.	**TURNOVER** (2 MINUTES)	1 HOUR, 10 MINUTES
11:52 A.M.	**VISITING TEAM BP/WARM-UP** (35 MINUTES)	1 HOUR, 8 MINUTES
12:27 P.M.	**FIELD PREP** (3 MINUTES)	33 MINUTES
12:30 P.M.	**HOME TEAM FIELD** (7 MINUTES)	30 MINUTES
12:37 P.M.	**VISITING TEAM FIELD** (7 MINUTES)	23 MINUTES
12:44 P.M.	**FIELD CREW PREP** (6 MINUTES)	16 MINUTES
12:50 P.M.	**UMPIRE/COACHES MEETING** (2 MINUTES)	10 MINUTES
12:52 P.M	**NATIONAL ANTHEM** (3 MINUTES)	8 MINUTES
12:55 P.M.	**INTROS** (5 MINUTES)	5 MINUTES
12:59 P.M	**HOME TEAM FIELD WARM-UP** (1 MINUTE)	1 MINUTE
1:00 P.M.	**FIRST PITCH PLAY BALL!**	

- When the competition venue has two separate batting cages that are of similar size, a team may begin its initial 35-minute batting practice/warm-up at any time prior to the initial field prep. The initial field prep begins 33 minutes prior to game time.
- If possible, institutions should combine field crew prep and umpire meeting.
- Intro videos shall be limited to 60 seconds in length.
- If a game is televised, media relations and marketing will work with the producer to adjust the pre-game timing protocol to accommodate timing of requested first pitch.
- Weather issues may dictate a need to adjust the recommended protocol. For example, if there is rain or has been rain, then the field crew may need more than 5 minutes to get the field ready. Coaches, umpires, field crew, media and marketing will need to work together to coordinate any adjustments to the pre-game protocol.
- If mutually agreed upon, senior day or other special activities may occur prior to the start of intros. The timing sheet will need to be adjusted to account for these activities.

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – John Sullen; Communications – Jill Skotarczak.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

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

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

1. **All-SEC Teams**. The first team consists of the top finisher in each event. The second team consists of the second-place finishers in each event. The third team shall consist of the third-place finisher in each event. [*Revised: 9/20/24*]
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The team consists of freshman who finish either in the top eight or is the highest scoring freshman of each event, excluding relay events. Ties will not be broken. If no freshman scores, there is no representative for that event.
3. **Swimmer of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The ballot will be provided to coaches following completion of the NCAA Championships for vote at the annual Head Coaches Meeting.
4. **Diver of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The ballot will be provided to coaches following completion of the NCAA Championships for vote at the annual Head Coaches Meeting.
5. **Freshman Swimmer of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The ballot will be provided to coaches following completion of the NCAA Championships for vote at the annual Head Coaches Meeting.
6. **Freshman Diver of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The ballot will be provided to coaches following completion of the NCAA Championships for vote at the annual Head Coaches Meeting.
7. **Newcomer Swimmer of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The ballot will be provided to coaches following completion of the NCAA Championships for vote at the annual Head Coaches Meeting. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
8. **Newcomer Diver of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The ballot will be provided to coaches following completion of the NCAA Championships for vote at the annual Head Coaches Meeting. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
9. **Swimmer of the Meet**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote by write-in, there will not be a nomination process. Each coach must drop their ballot into the scratch box prior to the last relay of the meet. The award will be announced at the conclusion of the championship. [Coaches may not vote for their own student-athlete]
10. **Diver of the Meet**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote by write-in, there will not be a nomination process. Each coach must drop their ballot into the scratch box prior to the last relay of the meet. The award will be announced at the conclusion of the championship. [Coaches may not vote for their own student-athlete]
11. **Commissioner's Trophy**. The recipient will be determined by total individual points scored at the Conference Championship. The award will be announced at the conclusion of the championship.
12. **Coaches of the Year**. A swimming coach of the year and a diving coach of the year will be chosen annually. The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The ballot will be provided to coaches following completion of the NCAA Championships for vote at the annual Head Coaches Meeting.
13. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. The ballot will be provided to coaches prior to the SEC Championship.
14. **Community Service Team**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

15. **Swimmer of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
16. **Diver of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
17. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Coaches Committee. The coaches committee will be made up of three head coaches from different institutions and will follow an alphabetical rotation with one coach rotating off the committee each year. The head diving coach from each of the three institutions shall be included in any diving-specific issues, however, the swimming coaches will have the final vote on all non-technical situations. For 2027, the coaches committee will include Texas, Texas A&M, and Vanderbilt.

Coaches Meeting Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in April. Two diving coaches may also attend the meeting – one from the institution hosting the following year's Conference championship, and one from an alphabetical rotation (Auburn in 2027). See also, SEC Bylaw 21.8. [*Revised: 5/22/24*]

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Arkansas serving as the chair for 2027. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, institutions shall include a minimum of two banners containing the logo in the competition venue.

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

Officials. 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.

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: 3/12/26*]

Squad Size. Only 24 athletes shall be allowed to travel and only 22 may participate in a Conference contest, except a home team may allow "exhibition" participants. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities. [*Revised: 4/27/16, 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 5/29/25*]

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

Appeals. Appeals will be considered in accordance with NCAA rules. Appeals may be lodged only for errors in entries, scratches, recording of data, scoring and non-judgment errors in the application of rules. Films or videotape will not be used in the appeals process, except for the relay take-offs (see the Video Replay section of the regulations). Appeal forms may be obtained from the referee. The written statement made on the appeal form must be submitted to the referee no later than 15 minutes after the finish of the final heat/round of that event in which the appeal is applicable. The meet committee will act upon all appeals. The decision of the committee is final. (NCAA Rule 8.4.9)

Awards Ceremony. An awards ceremony will be conducted immediately after the championship heat of each event (finalist for the diving event will be announced before the swimming award presentations where applicable). The top three finishers will go directly to the awards stand after they complete their event and before they begin their warm-down. The host institution may use dignitaries to present awards for the relays only. For individual events, a member of the coaching staff from the top finisher will present awards. Individuals must wear team sweat suits during the presentation of awards. The winners must be in team warm-ups and will not be allowed to bring towels or other items to the award stand. Hats cannot be worn, unless they are a part of the official team warm-up. Media personnel will not be allowed to interview student athletes before the award ceremony. All winners must participate in the award ceremony unless they have been given an exception by the meet committee.

Banners. Only one team banner may be placed in each team's seating area.

Dates and Sites. The Championships shall be held Tuesday through Saturday four weeks prior to the NCAA Women's Championships. See Supplement C in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites. If another institution acquires facilities that meet the minimum hosting specifications set forth in these Commissioner's Regulations, the institution may be entered the hosting rotation.

Entries for Diving. Divemeets.com will be utilized for the diving portion of the meet and divers should register at divemeets.com prior to the meet. Diving entries must be submitted with the swimming entries and must list the participant's name and the event(s) the diver will be diving.

Entries for Swimming. Entries must be submitted using the Hy-Tek file. The entry deadline for events is Noon Central Time the Monday preceding the week of the championship. For swimming entries, only the best time achieved during the school year may be submitted on the entry form (actual or aggregate, whichever is faster). Failure to enter an event properly will be reviewed by the meet committee. A "no time" entry may be submitted only if the event has not been contested or an aggregate relay time cannot be submitted.

Format. The Championships will be a common-site, men's and women's event, with each meet scored separately. In swimming, each institution may enter one relay team per relay event. For preliminaries and finals, all eight lanes will be used per NCAA rule 5.1.5. During finals there shall be three heats of 8 swimmers each swum in the following order C-B-A. In diving, there shall be two heats of 8 divers ordered B-A, with places 17-24 determined based upon preliminaries. [*Revised: 8/16/23*]

Heats. When eight lanes are available, all eight lanes should be used in preliminary heats and finals. When seeding the swimmers, intentionally leaving empty lanes between them is not permitted.

Host Institution Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the host institution's tournament director and sports information contact are listed in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference staff.

Manual. A championships manual, outlining the policies and procedures for the event, as well as information specific to the event, will be distributed by the host to each institution no later than four weeks prior to the championships.

Meet Committee. The coaches committee shall serve as the meet committee and shall supervise the conduct of the championships, including appeals. A committee member who is directly involved in an appeal shall remove himself/herself from the committee, and the next coach in the committee rotation order shall substitute. The committee may defer any issue to the Conference administrator at the championship, whose decision shall be final. The diving coaches will have a separate diving meet committee to handle the technical aspects of the diving events; however,

when a situation arises that is outside the technical realm (e.g., conduct, behavior, etc.), the matter will come directly to the swim meet committee. The diving meet committee members will be from the same schools as the swim meet committee.

Minimum Hosting Specifications. The championships may only be hosted by a member institution with a facility that meets the following criteria:

- Minimum of 1,200 spectator seats [*Revised: 10/6/22*]
- Adequate deck space for a minimum of 600 participants and championship staff and officials
- Minimum of twelve (12) warm up / cool down lanes [*Revised: 8/16/23*]
- Minimum of two (2) 1M and two (2) 3M springboards
- 5M, 7.5M, and 10M platforms
- Dedicated warm-up area for divers
- Locker rooms – If a facility's visiting locker room is not adequate for all participants, then home team locker rooms must be available to all participants
- Adequate and accessible treatment space
- Pool with NCAA required depth
- For replay purposes – a minimum of two steady HD cameras, mounted at the start and elevated to a point of an unobstructed view. A minimum of one camera should be made available on either side or a minimum of two in the same location above the starting lanes. [*Adopted: 10/27/17*]

Officials. The coaches shall select the following head officials: referee, stroke and turn judge, starter and diving referee. The referee/host shall assign the other officials, however, coaches will be allowed to recommend stroke and turn judges. The assignment of judges shall be as follows:

1. Turns: Four judges at the turn end, two at the start end, plus the referee and starter;
2. Strokes: One on each side of the pool, plus the referee and starter;
3. Timers: Two on each lane; and
4. Relay Take-offs: Head timer in each lane; two additional officials, plus the referee and starter will serve as dual confirmation officials (two lanes per official).
5. Diving: A panel of seven non-affiliated judges and the diving referee will be assigned to score the diving events. These judges will be selected by the diving coaches in consultation with the diving referee. The diving referee shall be selected by the coaches.

Order of Events. The order of events for trials and finals will be determined at the annual spring head coaches meeting each year. Swimming events will begin with women followed by men, while diving will alternate each year with men first in odd years and women in even to be consistent with the zone diving rotation. [*Revised: 6/3/16*]

Player Pass Gate Admissions. Complimentary admissions will be provided only through a pass list for individuals designated by the student-athlete.

Pool Safety Manager. The host institution shall appoint a pool safety manager to monitor and designate lanes in the warm-up / warm down pool (lane 1 or 8 for sprint and lane 2 or 7 for pace). Monitoring will begin an hour before each session and run through its completion.

Psych Sheets, Heat Sheets and Results. The host shall compile a psych sheet for each championship and make it available to all coaches at check-in. The host also shall compile heat sheets for all preliminary and finals sessions, as well as results of each day's competition. A complete set of results shall be forwarded to each institution in a timely manner. Three sets of results shall be forwarded to the Conference office.

Relays. Relays will be contested as timed finals in the evening, but a time trial may be contested in the morning, if requested. If a relay is contested in the morning, that swim will constitute a time-standard trial for purposes of qualifying for NCAA championships, inasmuch as the morning option is not a preliminary event. A school may enter only one team in the time-standard trial. Relay time trials do not count toward the maximum number of events a swimmer may enter. A team's seed time cannot be changed by a timed-trial.

Scoring. The NCAA 24-place scoring system shall be used. A comparable scoreboard for both the men's and

women's championships must be visible and updated frequently.

Scratches. Scratches may be made by the coach (or official team representative) sending an e-mail to the Meet Manager with a copy to the Conference administrator. A confirmation of receipt and processing will be provided by the Meet Manager. Scratches may be submitted via e-mail (only) at any point throughout the event, with the deadline for submission being one hour prior to the scheduled start of swimming finals on the evening prior to the respective event. All entries not scratched will become official entries. [*Revised: 4/6/22*]

Seeding. All swimming events will be seeded according to short-course standards. When seeding the swimmers or relays, intentionally leaving empty lanes between them is not permitted. In addition, the heats for the 1,650 freestyle will be seeded according to actual 1,650-yard times and will be swum slowest to fastest with the heats alternating between men and women. The 1,650 will begin at a time in the afternoon that will ensure the next to last heats will finish by 5:00 p.m.

Spectator Seating. The order of selection for the spectator seating will rotate in reverse order as the team seating. The drawing for spectator seating for the championships will be done during a conference call of all head coaches prior to the Championship. Each institution will receive an equal number of spectator seating. Each institution will receive two blocks of seating, one for swimming and a corresponding one for diving. These blocks should rotate by session during the championship. The order for spectator seating, which shall rotate up annually (e.g. last to first) for the 2026 championships is as follows: Tennessee, Arkansas/Vanderbilt, Georgia, LSU, Alabama, Kentucky, Florida, Texas, Auburn, South Carolina, Missouri, and Texas A&M.

Squad Size. 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. [*Revised: 5/23/19, 7/10/20, 6/3/22*]

Team Seating. The drawing for team seating will take place during the coaches meeting in conjunction with the championships. Each institution will receive an equal number of seats. Men's and women's teams will sit together according to the school. Athletes should stay in their team section during competition events. No team member shall be allowed behind the blocks during a race. The locations for team seating will rotate by session during the championship. The order for team seating, which shall rotate down annually (e.g. first to last) for the 2026 championships is as follows: Texas A&M, Missouri, South Carolina, and Auburn, Texas, Florida, and Kentucky, Alabama, LSU, Georgia, Arkansas/Vanderbilt, and Tennessee.

Tickets. The host institution may decide whether to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge admission, ticket prices shall be set by the host institution, but must be approved by the Conference administrator. 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. The host institution is encouraged to create a general admission seating section.

Time Trials. Time Trials will be held daily after each session (preliminaries and finals).

Video Replay. Video replay may be used to dispute disqualifications declared by the relay judging platforms. The host institution should assure that cameras are placed in an adequate position to display the take-off platforms for all lanes. Procedures for disputing a disqualification will be reviewed with the coaches and the head referee during the pre-championship meeting. Any video replay must take place after the final heat of an event.

Warm-Up. One hour before the start of each session, lanes for specific types of warm-up will be designated.

2027 SEC Swimming & Diving Competition Schedule

	Sunday, February 14	*Monday, February 15*	*Tuesday, February 16*	*Wednesday, February 17*	*Thursday, February 18*	*Friday, February 19*	*Saturday, February 20*
PRELIMS	**Men's 1-Meter** (12:00 pm start) **Women's 3-M** (12:00 pm start)	**Women's 1-M** (12:00 pm start) **Men's 3-Meter** (12:00 pm start)	**Time Trials** (10:30 am start) **1650 Free** (11:30 am start) **Women's Plat.** (12:00 pm start)	**100 Back** (9:30 am start) **200 Fly** **100 Breast** **Men's Platform** (12:00 pm start)	**100 Fly** (9:30 am start) **400 IM** **200 Free**	**200 Breast** (9:30 am start) **50 Free** **500 Free**	**200 IM** (9:30 am start) **100 Free** **200 Back**
FINALS	**Men's 1-meter** (5:00 pm start) **Women's 3-M** (6:00 pm start)	**Women's 1-M** (5:00 pm start) **Men's 3-Meter** (6:00 pm start)	**200 Medley Relay** (5:00 pm start) **800 Free Relay** **Women's Plat**	**100 Back** (5:30 pm start) **200 Fly** **100 Breast** **Men's Platform**	**100 Fly** (5:30 pm start) **400 IM** **200 Free** **400 Med Relay**	**200 Breast** (5:30 pm start) **50 Free** **500 Free** **200 Free Relay**	**200 IM** (5:30 pm start) **100 Free** **200 Back** **400 Free Relay**

***Note: The rotation for swimming events at the SEC Championships begin with women followed by men, and the diving rotation begins with men in odd years and women in even years consistent with the zone diving rotation.**

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – Matt Evans; Communications – Tammy Wilson.

REGULAR SEASON COMPETITION

Administration. The administration of Conference regular-season and championship competition is governed by ITA regulations, except where these Commissioner's Regulations expressly supersede or conflict with ITA regulations.

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 recipients will be determined by a combination of ITA rankings and vote of the head coaches as set out in this subsection. A nomination form will be due the week of the SEC Tournament. Coaches will nominate only players from their own teams and should nominate all players they believe deserve the honor, including ranked players. There are no criteria for nominating a player. A player may only be named once and to one team. There will be no distinction between singles and doubles. First-team will be a combination of ITA rankings and a vote of the coaches. The top ranked doubles team and the top 8 ranked singles players (not part of the top doubles team) will be automatically named based upon the latest ITA rankings. There will be two wildcard spots based on the coaches' votes for a total of no less than 12 first-team members. Second-team will be based solely on the coaches' vote for a total of no less than 12 second-team members. A link to the online ballot and nomination information will be sent to the coaches the week after the SEC Tournament once ITA rankings become available. There will be a mandatory coach's call the week after the SEC Tournament for the coaches to discuss their own nominees. The coaches must submit their online ballots by the deadline set by the Conference office.
2. **All-Freshman Team**. The recipients will be determined in the same manner as the All-SEC Teams, and it will consist of six players.
3. **Player of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches using the same process as the All-SEC Teams.
4. **Freshman of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches using the same process as the All-SEC Teams.
5. **Newcomer of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches using the same process as the All-SEC Teams. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
6. **Coach of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. All coaches are eligible, and there is no nomination process. The vote will be at the same time as other awards.
7. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. Coaches will nominate their own players for consideration and the same online nomination and voting processes used to select All-SEC Teams will be utilized.
8. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Player of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Coaches Meeting. Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in December 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 the University of Texas serving as the chair in 2026. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Coaching. ITA Regulation I.J. (Coaching) governs the coaching of players during a match. A coach may coach a player during the 25 seconds between points and during the 90-second change of sides. However, conversations with players may not impede the continuous-play rule.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, institutions shall include a minimum of two logoed banned in their competition venue.

Conference Championship/Tournament.

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

Dual-Match Format. Teams will play the format set forth under ITA Regulations, except in the event of inclement weather when teams may mutually agree to play the singles matches first. Notwithstanding the forgoing provision, once a team clinches the doubles point, the teams may not complete the remaining doubles match, unless both coaches agree to complete the doubles match before the start of the team match. In addition, teams shall complete all remaining singles matches, unless, prior to the start of the team match, both coaches agree to end the team match once a team clinches four points. If the third set has begun, the match would play out according to rule. If the third set has not begun, a 10-point tiebreaker shall be played for the third set. A coach may suspend play without a default when singles matches do not start when singles play begins in indoor facilities with less than six courts. Following the clinch of the team match, a two-minute break for celebration can occur. [*Revised: 12/15/15*]

Equipment. NCAA championship rules will be followed for ball changes. The host coach shall see that towels, scoreboards and drinks are provided for each court in use throughout the match. The host coach shall provide information to the visiting coach regarding match time, location of rest rooms and the conduct of the match prior to the beginning of the match. The host coach shall provide water during the visiting team's practice. The host institution shall also provide a place for the visiting team to shower, especially following the Sunday matches.

Game Management Meeting. At least one hour prior to the scheduled start of a match, the host institution's designated game management director shall meet jointly with the visiting head coach and head referee to review Conference, NCAA and ITA rules and expectations regarding crowd control, facility restrictions, and other game management issues of importance.

Inclement Weather. Institutions shall play all Conference matches outside, except in the event of inclement weather or when both coaches agree to play indoors. ITA Regulations govern the determination of whether a match will be delayed, suspended, postponed, or moved indoors due to inclement weather, except as otherwise stated in this subsection. In situations in which the conference sport administrator must be called upon to decide whether the match will be played indoors in accordance with the Conference and ITA rules, the home event manager shall contact the conference sport administrator sixty-five minutes prior to the scheduled start of the match. The event manager, both head coaches, and the referee (when appropriate) shall all jointly take part in the discussion, with the conference sport administrator making the final determination if both coaches do not agree. [*Revised: 12/12/17, 1/29/20*]

1. **Delay or Suspension Due to Rain** In the event of a delay or suspension due to rain, institutions shall use their best efforts to ready the courts within one hour. If inclement weather is forecasted on match day, each institution shall notify the visiting team head coach of the resources available to ready the court by Wednesday of each week of competition. [*Revised: 1/29/20*]
2. **Suspended Matches** In the event of a suspension, ITA Regulations govern the procedures related to the continuation of the match.
3. **Permissible Indoor Tennis Facilities** A Conference match may only be played indoors at a varsity quality indoor tennis facility with at least three courts available. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a match in progress is suspended due to inclement weather and both coaches mutually agree, the matches may be moved indoors, even if the facility has fewer than three courts available.

4. **No Indoor Facility Available** If no indoor back-up court is available, ITA standards for playable weather conditions will apply, except that a wind speed of 25 mph or less and a temperature of at least 40 degrees will be the numerical standards used to determine playable outdoor weather conditions. Coaches may agree to play despite inclement weather.
5. **Starting or Resuming a Delayed or Suspended Match When no Indoor Facilities Available.** In the event of inclement weather and no indoor back-up court is available, a match may be moved up as early as 9 a.m. local time on the original play date, if both coaches agree. The decision to move the match time earlier must be made by 5 p.m. local time the day prior to the scheduled match. ITA standards for playable weather conditions will apply**.** If no indoor back-up court is available, a match may not start or resume after 10pm local time. [*Adopted: 12/12/17, Revised: 1/29/20*]
6. **Postponed Matches**
   A. Authority to postpone a match (*i.e.*, defer or resume the match on a date other than that originally scheduled) is vested *only* with the Commissioner or his/her designee.
   B. If a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday competition is postponed, the visiting team must remain overnight to play the following day. If the postponed match does not begin by 10 a.m. local time the following day, the visiting team may depart.
   C. If a Sunday competition is postponed, the visiting team may stay overnight until Monday to complete the match. A visiting team must wait a minimum of four hours (no maximum wait) after the match is scheduled to begin before departing on Sunday. Sunday match scheduling may only be adjusted if both coaches agree to a modification.
   D. If it is determined that a match cannot be completed within the parameters established by these Commissioner's Regulations, the involved institutions' senior-level administrators shall decide when to resume the postponed match, which must occur prior to the end of the Conference regular season. Institutions must complete any and all postponed matches. If a match is unable to be fully completed on the last Sunday of the regular season and the host institution does not have an indoor facility, the match may be completed on Monday. Institutions may not resume matches at the Conference Tournament site. [*Revised: 1/29/20*]

Injuries. ITA Regulations govern the procedures related to injuries.

Line-Ups. This subsection supersedes all ITA Regulations related to Team Line-Ups. This line-up procedure is for Conference matches only. ITA Regulations govern nonconference matches for lineups and substitutions.

1. **Initial Exchange and Protest of Line-ups**.
   A. Coaches shall e-mail their entire singles and doubles line-ups to the Conference administrator by Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. (Eastern) each week of Conference competition. (Note: Line-ups will be due on Monday the week of the SEC Championship and follow the same timeline as the regular season, but one day earlier.) [*Revised: 1/29/20*]
   B. Coaches must list all eligible student-athletes to compete that week on the singles line-up in their order of ability (*i.e.*, the best player on the team listed at No. 1, the second best at No. 2, etc…). If a player is not listed on the singles line-up, the player may not participate that week in doubles or singles. Coaches shall also list and submit at least four doubles teams in order of ability (*i.e.*, the strongest doubles team listed at No. 1, etc…) in their lineup each week. [*Revised: 1029/25*]
   C. If any coach desires to protest the line-up of another team, the coach must e-mail the protest request to the Conference administrator by 9:00 p.m. (Eastern) each Tuesday. The Conference administrator will then immediately email a summary of all protests to the head coaches' distribution list. The Protest Committee shall review any protest on a conference call at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)(Eastern) each Wednesday and make a ruling by Wednesday afternoon. Any coach whose line-up is being protested may participate on the call. [*Revised: 1/29/20*]
2. **Change of Line-up after Protest Call**. Once a team submits its line-ups and the Protest Committee rules on any protest requests, a team may not change their line-ups for that week's competitions except as set out below.
3. **Exchange of Final Line-ups Prior to Match**. Coaches shall exchange doubles line-ups (with the head

referee present) 30 minutes prior to the start of the doubles matches. Coaches shall exchange singles line-ups (with the head referee present) within two minutes of the completion of the doubles matches.). If the head coaches do not exchange their substitutions within two minutes after the doubles point, the lineups shall remain as exchanged at the start of the match. Except for a previously scheduled special event (such as an awards presentation) occurring between doubles and singles, there shall be no exceptions for extending either the time for lineup changes or the time to start singles play. [*Revised: 12/13/16, 12/20/18*]

4. **Players Listed in Line-ups**. Coaches may only list players in the line-up if they are physically able to play.
5. **Change of Line-up for Following Week**. Coaches may not move a player more than one position (up or down) from their last submitted line-up for Conference matches.
6. **Removing Players from Singles Line-Up.** A coach may remove a singles player or players from the line-up until two minutes following completion of doubles matches. Each player listed below the removed player will move up the appropriate number of spots. [*Revised: 12/20/18*]
7. **Removing Players from Doubles Line-Up.** A coach may remove any player from the doubles line-up until the beginning of the doubles matches. However, if a player is removed from the doubles line-up within 30 minutes of the start of the doubles matches, the player may not play in singles. If one member of the doubles team is removed from the line-up, the remaining player will move down one spot and the next highest doubles team will move up. If both members of the doubles team are removed from the line-up, then all teams move up and the replacement team moves into the third position. If more than one player is removed from the doubles line-up, affecting more than one doubles team, the substitutions will be a direct-line substitution. This policy will be used unless both coaches agree to play a new doubles lineup in order of strength. Substitutions for doubles must be pulled from the roster of available singles players.
8. **Insufficient Number of Players** ITA Regulations related to a "Team that is short on players" apply.
9. **Protests Concerning Unfair Line-ups** ITA Regulations relating to "Protests concerning unfair line-ups" do not apply, except if a player is listed in the line-up who is physically unable to play. All other protests concerning unfair line-ups must be submitted pursuant to subsection 1 above.

Match Times. Institutions shall schedule Thursday and Friday matches between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. local time. Institutions shall schedule all Saturday, Sunday, and Monday matches to begin by no later than 1 p.m. local time, or at least six hours prior to the last available departure flight from a reasonably located airport, unless both coaches agree to a later start time which may be no later than 2 p.m. If the visiting team travels by air, the visiting team must schedule air travel on the last available departure flight from a reasonably located airport. Institutions may play the next day at the host site (outside or at an indoor facility). [*Revised: 12/15/15, 12/13/16, 12/18/24*]

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

Officials. Seven ITA-certified umpires (six chair umpires and one head referee) shall be assigned to each Conference match during the regular season, and the head referee may not serve as a chair umpire. During doubles matches, the three "additional" umpires shall act as far-side line officials to assist the three chair umpires. The umpires shall be empowered to administer the penalties prescribed for court conduct. Each institution shall be responsible for providing the name and contact information of the head referee to Conference administrator who will email a copy of these regulations to each institution's head referee. Following each match, both coaches shall evaluate the head referee. The referee, along with the assistance of the head coach of the host institution, shall be responsible for spectator behavior. 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.

Penalties. A player may be penalized in accordance with ITA rules for engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as cursing, throwing a racket, making obscene gestures, stalling, and any other conduct that is intended to disrupt the course of the match (e.g., trading insults with the crowd) or adversely affecting the concentration of his opponent.

Protest Committee. The Protest Committee shall consist of the head coach from each institution and shall serve to hear all line-up protests during the regular season. All Committee decisions are final. If one or more members of the

current committee are involved in a protest or cannot otherwise participate, then he or she will be excused. The Committee Chair shall annually rotate alphabetically, with Vanderbilt serving as Chair in 2027. [*Revised: 1/29/20*]

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.

1. Each member institution having a tennis team shall play other member institutions once each year. The schedule will be approved by administrative action of the Conference. Coaches may not agree to move matches once the schedule has been approved, except as otherwise set out in this subsection or the relevant scheduling parameters.
2. Teams scheduled with a split weekend (*i.e.* one home and one way contest in the same weekend) may reschedule their match within the Conference season if both coaches agree prior to December 1 of each year. If both coaches do not agree on a date, the match must be played as originally scheduled. Approval by the Commissioner is required.
3. When the visiting team is on spring break during the weekdays immediately prior to Conference competition, the participating teams may mutually request the playing days for matches be adjusted to alternate dates during that same week. Approval by the Commissioner is required.
4. Matches scheduled during Easter weekend shall be scheduled to occur on Thursday/Saturday. [*Adopted: 1/22/25*]

Squad Size. Only 12 women's/11 men's athletes shall be allowed to travel and only 10 women's/9 men's athletes may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 6/9/21, 6/3/22, 5/29/25, 8/19/25*]

Tennis Balls. Tennis balls used in all Conference matches shall be the same as used in the NCAA Men's Tennis Tournament. [*Adopted: 1029/25*]

Video Boards/Replays. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

1. **Replays.**-Video replays may be shown on an in-stadium video board from the end of a play until the beginning of the next play, except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. Video from the official video review system may not be shown during a replay, except during an official video review. Under no circumstance may the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-stadium video board.
2. **Official Video Review.** When a stoppage occurs for an official video review, the in-stadium video board operator must use either the unaltered television network program feed or the unaltered video feed from the officiating video review system as the exclusive video source for plays under review. Replays are permitted only between Referee announcements to stop play and to communicate the outcome of the review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-stadium video board during stoppage for an official review. Video from the official video review system may only be shown during an official video review. Under no circumstances may the video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, or incite the crowd during or following a review.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Awards. There will be a 10-minute break after the championship match concludes before the awards ceremony begins. The team runner-up will be verbally recognized, followed by the winning team trophy presentation, then the MVP trophy. The following procedures shall be used to determine the All-Tournament Team and Most Valuable Player:

1. **All-Tournament Team**. After each semifinal match, the losing head coach will submit one player from his or her own team for consideration onto the all-tournament team. Two players will be submitted from the championship runner-up, and two players will be submitted from the champion team. The all-tournament team will have no more (or less) than six players, including the most valuable player.
2. **Most Valuable Player.** The MVP will be chosen by the championship winning coach and must be one of the two players submitted for consideration onto the all-tournament team.

Dates and Sites. The tournament will be held two weeks prior to the NCAA Championships on Wednesday through Sunday. See Supplement C in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites. [*Revised: 12/15/15, 12/12/17*].

Equipment. The Conference office shall provide tennis balls. The balls will be the same as those used for the NCAA Men's Tennis Championship. NCAA Championship ball change rules apply during the Championship.

Format. The championship will consist of a single-elimination tournament using the format approved under ITA regulations. Once a team clinches the match, all play stops immediately for matches in progress. There will be no consolation matches. Singles and doubles champions shall not be named. The host institution (with approval from the Championship Committee) shall set match times.

Host Institution Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the host institution's tournament director and sports information contact are listed in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference office.

Inclement Weather. The Conference Administrator and the Head Referee shall have the sole authority to make all weather-related decisions for the entirety of the Championship. [*Revised: 10/29/25*]

Line-Ups. The regular-season regulations related to line-ups apply. In the event of a line-up protest prior to the start of the championship, all coaches not directly involved shall participate on a teleconference to discuss and vote on protests. Once the tournament begins, the only lineup changes permitted are those permitted under the regular-season regulations related to line-ups.

Line-Up Protest Committee. The Line-Up Protest Committee will include all coaches that are not directly involved. If a protest is filed after the start of the championship, the Committee will be comprised of three coaches on the opposite side of the bracket from the protested match. The three coaches will be chosen by the reverse order of seed.

Manual. The host institution shall distribute a championship manual, outlining the policies and procedures for the event, as well as information specific to the championship, to each institution no later than six weeks prior to the championship.

Match Times. The host institution shall recommend (and the coaches shall approve) match times during the annual coaches meeting. The host institution will be assigned preferred times and/or preferred courts. Teams should schedule air travel on the last available departure flight. If necessary to maintain the match schedule, the doubles competition may be staggered. If inclement weather is predicted, the match times may be adjusted accordingly. If matches must be moved indoors, the higher seed will be given preference. If the site is conducive to having a "premier" match played "under the lights," the Championship Committee may adjust the schedule. The host team will be assigned preferred times.

Officials.

1. **Head Referee.** The head referee will be selected to a two-year term by a majority vote of the coaches during the annual coaches' meeting in even years and contracted by the host institution. The referee must be a certified USTA official. The referee's duties include:

A. Ensuring that the championship is conducted according to the rules of the USTA with modifications by the Conference, NCAA and ITA;
B. Ruling on defaults with regard to tardiness or improper conduct (with approval of the championship committee);
C. Assigning umpires to each match;
D. Enforcing the USTA point-penalty system;
E. Assisting in scheduling of matches, including decisions concerning inclement weather or darkness;
F. Rendering decisions necessary to ensure the proper conduct and operation of the championship; and
G. Be on-site at least 1 hour prior to match time for each match of the championship.
H. Be prepared to stay until Monday following the Championship in the event of a rain delay.

2. **Deputy Referee**. The deputy referee will be appointed by joint decision of the head referee, Conference administrator, and the host institution. The deputy referee must be a certified USTA official, and his/her duties shall be as directed by the head referee.
3. **Solo Chair Umpires**. The host institution is responsible for providing certified ITA chair umpires for the championship, in cooperation with the head referee. The chair umpire shall keep the score of the match, ensuring it is conducted under USTA, Conference, NCAA, and ITA rules and regulations, and shall have the authority to enforce the ITA point-penalty system.
4. **Line Judges during Doubles Matches.** During doubles matches, the three "additional" umpires shall act as far-side line officials to assist the three chair umpires.

Penalties. The Conference is seriously concerned about the conduct of participants at championship events. Each coach should make his/her student-athletes aware of the penalties for misconduct, which are listed in the regular-season section of these regulations. It is mandatory that the chair umpire and/or the championship referee enforce the ITA point-penalty system in the event there is a delay in play or unsportsmanlike conduct. The decision to disqualify a student-athlete for conduct and/or tardiness should be made by the championship referee with the approval of the Championship Committee, which always remains the ultimate authority on all such championship issues and policies.

Playing Court Restrictions. Only players and coaches are allowed on the playing courts or on adjacent courts, except in case of injury or illness.

Practice. The host institution shall provide facilities at no charge and monitor a sign-up system one day prior to and throughout the championship. Each coach shall be responsible for signing up his team and individuals for practice times. Teams playing on Thursday will have priority practice times on Wednesday.

Protests. Protests relating to matters that develop during a match shall be made to the Championship referee. If the protest is other than an interpretation of ITA rules governing play, the referee shall request the presence and decision of the Championship Committee.

Rest Periods. Rest periods will be provided in accordance with ITA Regulations.

Seeding. The teams will be seeded 1-15, regardless of division, based on conference match winning percentage. In case of ties in team standings, the following tie-breaker procedure will be utilized:

1. **Two-Team Tie**. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the two tied teams;
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more)**. The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken: (Note: once the tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tiebreaker will be used.)
   A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the tied teams;
   B. Won-lost record (percentage) of tied teams versus the No. 1 team (and proceeding down through the No. 15 team, if necessary);
   C. Most recent ITA rankings; and
   D. Coin toss or draw by the Commissioner or his or her designee.

Squad Size. Only 10 women's/9 men's 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. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 8/19/25]*

Tickets. Each institution will be allowed 15 passes for its official traveling party (coaches, players, trainers, managers, etc.). The host institution of the championship may decide whether to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, the ticket prices will be set by the host institution but must be approved by the Conference administrator. 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 competitors must wear exclusively the official uniform of their institution in competition, warm-up for competition, and during the awards ceremonies. The uniforms must identify the institution either by name or school colors. In addition, all NCAA policies regarding commercial logos on uniforms and equipment shall be followed. Matches will not be delayed to conform to this policy.

Warm-Up. Players will have a minimum of 20 minutes to warm-up when changing playing surfaces. The referee is the timekeeper.

Conference Office Liaisons. Sport Administrator – TBD ; Communications – Tammy Wilson.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Administration. The administration of Conference regular-season and championship competition is governed by ITA regulations, except where these Commissioner's Regulations expressly supersede or conflict with ITA regulations.

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 recipients will be determined by a combination of ITA rankings and vote of the head coaches as set out in this subsection. A nomination form will be due the week of the SEC Tournament. Coaches will nominate only players from their own teams and should nominate all players they believe deserve the honor, including ranked players. There are no criteria for nominating a player. A player may only be named once and to one team. There will be no distinction between singles and doubles. First-team will be a combination of ITA rankings and a vote of the coaches. The top ranked doubles team and the top 8 ranked singles players (not part of the top doubles team) will be automatically named based upon the latest ITA rankings. There will be two wildcard spots based on the coaches' votes for a total of no less than 12 first-team members. Second-team will be based solely on the coaches' vote for a total of no less than 12 second-team members. A link to the online ballot and nomination information will be sent to the coaches the week after the SEC Tournament once ITA ranking become available. There will be a mandatory coach's call the week after the SEC Tournament for the coaches to discuss their own nominees. The coaches must submit their online ballots by the deadline set by the Conference office. [*Revised: 12/13/16*]
2. **All-Freshman Team**. The recipients will be determined in the same manner as the All-SEC Teams, and it will consist of six players.
3. **Player of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches using the same process as the All-SEC Teams.
4. **Freshman of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches using the same process as the All-SEC Teams.
5. **Newcomer of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches using the same process as the All-SEC Teams. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
6. **Coach of the Year**. The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. All coaches are eligible, and there is no nomination process. The vote will be at the same time as other awards.
7. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. Coaches will nominate their own players for consideration and the same online nomination and voting processes used to select All-SEC Teams will be utilized.
8. **Community Service Team**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Player of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Freshman of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Coaches Meeting. Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in December 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 Missouri serving as the chair for 2026. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Coaching. ITA Regulation I.J. (Coaching) governs the coaching of players during a match. A coach may coach a player during the 25 seconds between points and during the 90-second change of sides. However, conversations with players may not impede the continuous-play rule.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, institutions shall include a minimum of two logoed banned in their competition venue.

Conference Championship/Tournament.

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

Dual Match Format. Teams will play the format set forth under ITA Regulations, except in the event of inclement weather when teams may mutually agree to play the singles matches first. Notwithstanding the forgoing provision, once a team clinches the doubles point, the teams may not complete the remaining doubles match, unless both coaches agree to complete the doubles match before the start of the team match. In addition, teams shall complete all remaining singles matches, unless, prior to the start of the team match, both coaches agree to end the team match once a team clinches four points. If the third set has begun, the match would play out according to rule. If the third set has not begun, a 10-point tiebreaker shall be played for the third set. A coach may suspend play without a default when singles matches do not start when singles play begins in indoor facilities with less than six courts. Following the clinch of the team match, a two-minute break for celebration can occur. [*Revised: 12/12/17, 12/1/21*]

Equipment. NCAA championship rules will be followed for ball changes. The host coach shall see that towels, scoreboards and drinks are provided for each court in use throughout the match.

Game Management Meeting. At least one hour prior to the scheduled start of a match, the host institution's designated game management director must meet jointly with the visiting head coach and head referee to review Conference, NCAA and ITA rules and expectations regarding crowd control, facility restrictions, and other game management issues of importance.

Inclement Weather. Institutions shall play all Conference matches outside, except in the event of inclement weather or when both coaches agree to play indoors. ITA Regulations govern the determination of whether a match will be delayed, suspended, postponed, or moved indoors due to inclement weather, except as otherwise stated in this subsection. In situations in which the conference sport administrator must be called upon to decide whether the match will be played indoors in accordance with Conference and ITA rules, the home event manager shall contact the conference sport administrator sixty-five minutes prior to the scheduled start of the match. The event manager, both head coaches, and the referee (when appropriate) shall all jointly take part in the discussion, with the conference sport administrator making the final determination if both coaches do not agree. [*Revised: 12/12/17, 1/29/20*]

1. **Delay or Suspension Due to Rain** In the event of a delay or suspension due to rain, institutions shall use their best efforts to ready the courts within one hour. If inclement weather is forecasted on match day, each institution shall notify the visiting team head coach of the resources available to ready the court by Wednesday of each week of competition. [*Revised: 1/29/20*]
2. **Suspended Matches** In the event of a suspension, ITA Regulations govern the procedures related to the continuation of the match.
3. **Permissible Indoor Tennis Facilities** A Conference match may only be played indoors at a varsity quality indoor tennis facility with at least three courts available. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a match in progress is suspended due to inclement weather and both coaches mutually agree, the matches may be moved indoors, even if the facility has fewer than three courts available.
4. **No Indoor Facility Available.** In the event of inclement weather, a match may be moved up as early as 9 a.m. local time on the original play date, if both coaches agree. The decision to move the match earlier must be made by 5 p.m. local time, the day prior to the scheduled match. ITA standards for playable weather

conditions will apply. If no indoor back-up court is available, a match may not start or resume after 10pm local time. [*Revised: 1/29/20, 10/29/25*]

5. **Starting or Resuming a Delayed or Suspended Match.** In the event of forecasted inclement weather, a match may be moved up as early as 9 a.m. local time on the original play date, if both coaches agree. The decision to move the match time earlier must be made by 5 p.m. local time the day prior to the scheduled match. ITA standards for playable weather conditions will apply. If no indoor back-up court is available, a match may not start or resume after 10pm local time. [*Revised: 1/29/20, 10/29/25*]
6. **Postponed Matches**
   A. Authority to postpone a match (*i.e.*, defer or resume the match on a date other than that originally scheduled) is vested *only* with the Commissioner or his/her designee.
   B. If a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday competition is postponed, the visiting team must remain overnight to play the following day. If the postponed match does not begin by 10. a.m. local time on the following day, the visiting team may depart.
   C. If a Sunday competition is postponed, the visiting team may stay overnight until Monday to complete the match. A visiting team must wait a minimum of four hours (no maximum wait) after the match is scheduled to begin before departing on Sunday. Sunday match scheduling may only be adjusted if both coaches agree to a modification.
   D. If it is determined that a match cannot be completed within the parameters established by these Commissioner's Regulations, the involved institutions' senior-level administrators shall decide when to resume the postponed match which must occur prior to the end of the Conference regular season. Institutions must complete any and all postponed matches. If a match is unable to be played to completion on the last Sunday of regular season competition and the host institution does not have an indoor backup, the match may be played on Monday. Institutions may not resume matches at the Conference Tournament site. Institutions may not resume matches at the Conference Tournament site. [*Revised: 1/29/20*]

Injuries. ITA Regulations govern the procedures related to injuries.

Line-Ups. ITA Regulations govern all matters related to Team Line-Ups in both Conference and nonconference matches, with the exception of the subsections below for Conference matches only.

1. **Initial Exchange and Protest of Line-ups.** Coaches shall e-mail their entire singles and doubles line-ups to the Conference administrator by Tuesday at 6 p.m. (Eastern Time) each week of Conference competition. (Note: Line-ups will be due on Monday the week of the Championship and follow the same timeline as the regular season, but one day earlier). Coaches must list all eligible student-athletes to compete that week on the singles line-up in their order of ability (*i.e.*, the best player on the team listed at No. 1, the second best at No. 2, etc…). If a player is not listed on the singles line-up, the player may not participate that week in doubles or singles. Coaches shall also list three doubles teams in order of ability (*i.e.*, the strongest doubles team listed at No. 1, etc…). If any coach desires to protest the line-up of another team, the coach must e-mail the protest request to the Conference administrator by 9 p.m. (Eastern Time) each Tuesday. The Conference administrator will then immediately email a summary of all protests to the head coaches' distribution list. All coaches involved in a protest must provide their protest rationale or defense to the Conference administrator via email by noon (Eastern Time) each Wednesday. The Conference administrator will provide the protest rational and defense for all protests to all head coaches for review. Each coach will email their vote on each protest to the Conference administrator. Coaches are not allowed to abstain from voting. Any vote received after the Conference administrator's set deadline for vote submission will not be considered. The final ruling on all protests will be sent to all head coaches with a voting grid listing each head coach's vote. [*Revised: 12/20/18, 10/29/25*]
2. **Change of Line-up after Protest Call.** Once a team submits its line-ups and the Protest Committee rules on any protest requests, a team may not change their line-ups for that week's competitions except as set out below.
3. **Change of Line-up for Following Week.** Coaches may not move a player more than one position (up or down) in their line-up from the last Conference match.

4. **Double Substitutions.** As it relates to doubles substitutions, if a change is necessary after a line-up has been declared to the Conference office, the substitution must be a direct line substitution. The opposing coach may move the new doubles team up one spot or down one or two spots. [*Revised: 12/20/18*]
5. **Postponed/Suspended Matches.** The lineup used for a postponed match shall be the lineup that was used the week of the rescheduled match. A match that was suspended shall continue play from where it was halted without any changes to lineups. [*Adopted 12/15/15*]

Match Times. Institutions shall schedule Thursday matches between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. local time. Institutions shall schedule Friday matches between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. local time. Institutions shall schedule all Saturday and Sunday matches to begin at least six hours prior to the last available departure flight and the visiting team must schedule air travel on that flight. Institutions may play the next day at the host site (outside or at an indoor facility). [*Revised: 12/15/15, 12/20/18, 12/13/23*]

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

Officials. Seven ITA-certified umpires (six chair umpires and one head referee) will be assigned to each Conference match during the regular season, and the head referee may not serve as a chair umpire. During doubles matches, the three "additional" umpires shall act as far-side line officials to assist the three chair umpires. The umpires shall be empowered to administer the penalties prescribed for court conduct. Each institution shall be responsible for providing the name and contact information of the head referee to The Conference administrator who will email a copy of these regulations to each institution's head referee. Following each match, both coaches shall evaluate the head referee. The referee, along with the assistance of the head coach of the host institution, shall be responsible for spectator behavior. Each official is entitled to a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the competition. Officials shall contact the ticket offices directly. The deadline for ticket requests is ten days prior to the competition. [*Revised: 12/13/16*]

Penalties. A player may be penalized in accordance with ITA rules for engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as cursing, throwing a racket, making obscene gestures, stalling, and any other conduct that is intended to disrupt the course of the match (e.g., trading insults with the crowd) or adversely affecting the concentration of his opponent.

Protest Committee. The Protest Committee shall consist of the head coach from each institution and shall serve to hear all line-up protests during the regular season. All Committee decisions are final. If one or more members of the current committee are involved in a protest or cannot otherwise participate, then he or she will be excused. The Protest Committee chair shall be the head coach for the institution that hosted the previous Conference Championship, with Auburn serving as Chair in 2025.

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling.

1. Each member institution having a tennis team shall play other member institutions once per year. The schedule will be approved by administrative action of the Conference administrator. Coaches may not agree to move matches once the schedule has been approved, except as otherwise set out in this subsection or the relevant scheduling parameters.
2. Travel partners may reschedule their match within the Conference season if both coaches agree prior to December 1 of each year. If both coaches do not agree on a date, the match must be played as originally scheduled. Approval by the Commissioner is required.
3. Teams scheduled with a split weekend (*i.e.* one home and one way contest in the same weekend) may reschedule their match within the Conference season if both coaches agree prior to December 1 of each year. If both coaches do not agree on a date, the match must be played as originally scheduled. Approval by the Commissioner is required.
4. When the visiting team is on spring break during the weekdays immediately prior to Conference competition, the participating teams may mutually request the playing days for matches be adjusted to alternate dates during that same week. Approval by the Commissioner is required.

Scouting/Video Exchange. Institutions shall share match video with an opposing team no later than Noon ET the day following a match. No institution shall exchange video or provide a scouting report to any non-conference institution regarding Conference teams. [*Adopted: 10/29/25*

Squad Size. Only 12 athletes shall be allowed to travel and only 10 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 6/9/21, 6/3/22, 5/29/25*]

Video Boards/Replays. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

1. **Replays.**-Video replays may be shown on an in-stadium video board from the end of a play until the beginning of the next play, except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. Video from the official video review system may not be shown during a replay, except during an official video review. Under no circumstance may the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-stadium video board.
2. **Official Video Review.** When a stoppage occurs for an official video review, the in-stadium video board operator must use either the unaltered television network program feed or the unaltered video feed from the officiating video review system as the exclusive video source for plays under review. Replays are permitted only between Referee announcements to stop play and to communicate the outcome of the review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-stadium video board during stoppage for an official review. Video from the official video review system may only be shown during an official video review. Under no circumstances may the video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, or incite the crowd during or following a review.

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

Awards. There will be a 10-minute break after the championship match concludes and before the awards ceremony begins. The team runner-up will be verbally recognized, with presentations to the all-tournament team, most valuable player and winning team. The following procedures shall be used to determine the all-tournament team and most valuable player.

1. **All-Tournament Team**. After each semifinal match, the losing head coach will submit one player from his or her own team for consideration onto the all-tournament team. Two players will be submitted from the championship runner-up, and two players will be submitted from the champion team. The all-tournament team will have no more (or less) than six players, including the most valuable player.
2. **Most Valuable Player**. The MVP will be chosen by the championship winning coach and must be one of the two players he or she submits for consideration onto the all-tournament team.

Championship Committee. The Championship Committee will consist of the head referee (chair), deputy referee and the Conference administrator.

Dates and Sites. The tournament will be held two weeks prior to the start of the NCAA Championships on Wednesday through Sunday. See Supplement C in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites.

Equipment. The Conference shall provide tennis balls. The balls will be the same as those used for the NCAA Women's Tennis Championship. NCAA Championship ball change rules apply during the SEC Tournament.

Format. The Championship shall consist of a single-elimination tournament using the format approved for use during the NCAA Championship. Once a team clinches the match, all play stops immediately for matches in progress. There will be no consolation matches. Singles and doubles champions shall not be named.

Host Institution Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the host institution's tournament director and sports information contact are listed in the On-Campus Hosting Manual that is produced by the Conference office.

Inclement Weather. All inclement weather decisions at the Conference tournament shall be made by the championship committee, which has the authority to determine when to stop play outside and shall use ITA guidelines, with the following exception: the ITA definition of inclement weather may not be used as the sole reason for stopping play outside. In the event of a suspension, ITA rules shall be followed regarding continuation of the match.

Line-Ups. The regular season regulations related to line-ups apply. In the event of a line-up protest prior to the start of the championship, all coaches not directly involved shall participate on a teleconference to discuss and vote on protests. Once the tournament begins, the only lineup changes permitted are those permitted under the regular-season regulations related to line-ups.

Line-up Protest Committee. The Line-up Protest Committee will include all coaches that are not directly involved. In the event of a line-up protest filed after the start of the championship, the Committee will be comprised of the Championship Committee.

Manual. The host institution shall distribute a championship manual, outlining the policies and procedures for the event, as well as information specific to a championship, to each institution no later than six weeks prior to the championship.

Match Times. The host institution shall recommend (and the coaches shall approve) match times during the annual coaches meeting. The host institution will be assigned preferred times and/or preferred courts. Teams should schedule air travel on the last available departure flight. If necessary to maintain the match schedule, the doubles competition may be staggered. If inclement weather is predicted, the match times may be adjusted accordingly. If matches must be moved indoors, the higher seed will be given preference.

Officials.

1. **Head Referee**. The head referee will be selected to a two-year term by a majority vote of the coaches during the annual coaches' meeting in even years and contracted by the host institution. The referee must be a

certified USTA official. The referee's duties include:

A. Ensuring that the championship is conducted according to the rules of the USTA with modifications by the Conference, NCAA and ITA;

B. Ruling on defaults with regard to tardiness or improper conduct (with approval of the championship committee);

C. Assigning umpires to each match;

D. Enforcing the USTA point-penalty system;

E. Assisting in scheduling of matches, including decisions concerning inclement weather or darkness; and

F. Rendering decisions necessary to ensure the proper conduct and operation of the championship.

2. **Deputy Referee**. The deputy referee shall be appointed by the head referee, Conference administrator, and the host institution. The deputy referee must be a certified USTA official, and his or her duties shall be as directed by the head referee. [*Revised: 12/1/21*]

3. **Solo Chair Umpires**. The head referee is responsible for securing certified USTA umpires for the championship. The chair umpire shall keep the score of the match, ensuring it is conducted under USTA, Conference, NCAA and ITA rules, and shall have the authority to enforce the USTA point-penalty system. An umpire, who has been provided by an institution, shall not call matches in which a member of that institution's team is competing.

4. **Line Judges during Doubles Matches.** During doubles matches, the three "additional" umpires shall act as far-side line officials to assist the three chair umpires. [*Adopted: 12/13/16*]

Penalties. The Conference is seriously concerned about the conduct of participants at championship events. Each coach should make his/her student-athletes aware of the penalties for misconduct, which are listed in the regular-season section of these regulations. It is mandatory that the chair umpire and/or the championship referee enforce the ITA point-penalty system in the event there is a delay in play or unsportsmanlike conduct. The decision to disqualify a student-athlete for conduct and/or tardiness should be made by the championship referee with the approval of the Championship Committee, which always remains the ultimate authority on all such championship issues and policies.

Playing Court Restrictions. Only players and coaches shall be allowed on the playing courts or on adjacent courts, except in case of injury or illness.

Practice. The host institution shall provide facilities and monitor a sign-up system one day prior to and throughout the championship. Each coach shall be responsible for signing up his team and individuals for practice times. Teams playing on Thursday will have priority practice times on Wednesday.

Practice Courts. Practice courts will be available at least one day prior to the start of the championship at no charge. A reservation system will be used to ensure equal use of courts and will be included in the entry information packet.

Protests. Protests relating to matters that develop during a match shall be made to the championship referee. If the protest is other than an interpretation of ITA rules governing play, the referee shall request the presence and decision of the Championship Committee.

Rest Periods. Rest periods will be in accordance with ITA rules.

Seeding. All dual matches must be played prior to the end of the regular season to determine tournament seeding, which will be 1-16. In case of ties in team standings, the following tie-breaker procedures will be utilized:

1. **Two-Team Tie**. The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:

   A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the tied teams;

   B. Won-lost percentage of tied teams versus the No. 1 team (and proceeding down through the No. 16 team, if necessary).

2. **Three-Team Tie (or more)**. The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken: (Note: once the tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tiebreaker will be used.)

   A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the tied teams;

   B. Won-lost percentage of tied teams versus the No. 1 team (and proceeding down through the No. 16

team, if necessary);

C. Most recent ITA rankings; and

D. Coin toss or draw by the Commissioner or his or her designee.

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

Tickets. Each institution will be allowed 15 passes for its official traveling party (coaches, players, trainers, managers, etc.). The host institution of the championship may decide whether to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, the ticket prices will be set by the host institution but must be approved by the Conference administrator. 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 competitors must wear exclusively the official uniform of their institution in warm-up, competition, and during the awards ceremonies. The uniforms must identify the institution either by name or school colors. In addition, all NCAA policies regarding commercial logos on uniforms and equipment shall be followed. Matches will not be delayed to conform to this policy.

Warm-Up. Players will have a minimum of 20 minutes to warm-up when changing playing surfaces. The referee is the timekeeper.

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 shall consist of the top finisher in each event. The second team shall consist of the second place finisher in each event. The third team shall consist of the third place finisher in each event. For award purposes, ties are not broken. [*Revised: 9/20/24*]
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. **Newcomer Runners of the Year**. The recipients, who must be a transfer that has not previously competed in SEC competition, 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. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
7. **Newcomer Field Event Athletes of the Year**. The recipients, who must be a transfer that has not previously competed in SEC competition, 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. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
8. **Coaches of the Year**. The recipients will be determined by a vote of the head coaches.

9. **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 indoor track and field.
10. **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.
11. **Track/Field Athletes of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **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 different institutions based off alphabetical rotation. For 2026, the coaches committee will include: Arkansas, Auburn, and Florida.

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

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Alabama serving as the chair for 2026. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, institutions shall paint a logo on the field or include a minimum of two logoed banned in their competition venue.

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 29 athletes shall be allowed to travel and only 27 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 5/29/25*]

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Administrative Videoconference and Meeting. Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall attend a mandatory videoconference 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 evening prior to the start of the championships to review additional information and procedures.

Championships Committee. The Committee shall be composed of the Competition Manager, the referees, and the Conference sport administrator. In consultation with the Coaches Committee, its duties shall include:

1. Supervising the declaration of entries;
2. Heating and flighting 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.

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*]

Competition Manager. The Conference office shall identify, based upon an annual vote of the participating head coaches, a Competition Manager who will be responsible for executing meet operations for the Championship. Compensation for the Competition Manager shall consist of $1,000 per day, plus transportation, and lodging, all of which will be provided by the host institution. [*Adopted: 12/20/18, Revised 8/29/2025*]

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 Friday and Saturday on the weekend two weeks prior to the NCAA Championships. Institutional facilities which meet the Minimum Hosting Specifications herein shall be part of the Championship host rotation. See Supplement C in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites. [*Revised: 3/7/18, 10/22/2025*]

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.

Entry and Declarations. 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 27 student-athletes per gender. Once declarations are made final, no student-athletes may be added to the competition or entered into any additional events. All entries for the Championships will be submitted according to NCAA standards for conversion. (i.e., If the NCAA converts all times to a banked board, 200-meter track, the same will be done for the SEC Championships. Performances used on the entry forms must have been achieved during the current indoor season. No outdoor 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. All competitors, including those in field events, must have a competition number. Every competitor must 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**.

60-Meter Dash	5000-Meter Run	Triple Jump

200-Meter Dash	60-Meter Hurdles	Pole Vault
400-Meter Dash	35-Pound Weight Throw	Shot Put
800-Meter Run	Long Jump	1600-Meter Relay
Mile Run	High Jump	Distance Medley Relay
3000-Meter Run	Heptathlon	

2. **Women's Events**.

60-Meter Dash	5000-Meter Run	Triple Jump
200-Meter Dash	60-Meter Hurdles	Pole Vault
400-Meter Dash	20-pound Weight Throw	Shot Put
800-Meter Run	Long Jump	1600-Meter Relay
Mile Run	High Jump	Distance Medley Relay
3000-Meter Run	Pentathlon	

Format. Institutions may enter up to 27 individuals per gender. 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 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 Competition Manager 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, as well as a descending order list per event will be provided to coaches prior to the championships, and no later than the pre-event coaches meeting. [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.

Minimum Hosting Specifications. The championships may only be hosted by a member institution with a facility that meets the following criteria: [*Adopted: 3/7/18*]

- Minimum seating capacity of 2,500 seats
- 200-meter banked track based on NCAA specifications (i.e. inclinations, surface type, curbing)
- Jump (pole vault, high jump, triple jump) facilities based on NCAA specifications
- Shot put and high jump areas should be able to handle competitions at the same time with competitor and spectator safety
- Adequate space for management of the event including a clerking area large enough to accommodate 50 athletes
- Adequate warm-up space
- Permanent restroom facilities
- Concessions and an athletic training facility must be available on site. If permanent facilities are not available for athletic training/message therapy, tents set up in or adjacent to the facility may be used to meet this requirement.

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 host institution shall be responsible for obtaining all competition officials identified in the Championship Director's responsibilities and the SEC On-Campus Championship Hosting Manual and 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, 8/29/2025*]

Officials Pool. The conference office shall maintain a list of qualified referees and starters from which each host institution must select for championship events. Head coaches shall review this list annually to recommend additions or removals. If 25% or more of the head coaches vote to remove an official or oppose a proposed addition, that official shall be removed from, or not added to, the list. [*Adopted: 10/22/2025*]

Order of Events. The order of events shall mirror the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championship order of events. 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. 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. [*Revised: 10/4/18*]

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.

Protests. NCAA rules govern protests. 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, 8/29/2025*]

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 27 athletes per gender 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*]

Throws and Horizontal Jumps: Throws and Horizontal Jumps will use a flight specific warm-up when the event includes multiple flights. [*Adopted: 8/29/2025*]

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.

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 World Athletics list, it may be used in the Championships. This list will be provided by the host with the meet information packet.

SUPPLEMENT A

FOUL CAMERA PROTOCOLS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

Cameras

- **Camera Requirements.** Cameras 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.
    - **Shot Put.** Two (2) cameras are required, positioned at opposite ends of and just behind the stopboard.
    - **Weight.** 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 – 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 shall consist of the top finisher in each event. The second team shall consist of the second place finisher in each event. The third team shall consist of the third place finisher in each event. For award purposes, ties are not broken. [*Revised: 9/20/24*]
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. **Newcomer Runners of the Year**. The recipients, who must be a transfer that has not previously competed in SEC competition, 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. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
7. **Newcomer Field Event Athletes of the Year**. The recipients , who must be a transfer that has not previously competed in SEC competition, 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. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
8. **Coaches of the Year**. The recipients will be determined by a vote of the head coaches.

9. **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.
10. **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.
11. **Track/Field Athletes of the Week**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **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 2026-27, the coaches committee will include Arkansas, Auburn, and Georgia.

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

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Alabama serving as the chair for 2026. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, institutions shall paint a logo on the field or include a minimum of two logoed banned in their competition venue.

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 32 athletes per gender shall be allowed to travel and only 30 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-competition activities. [*Revised: 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 5/29/25*]

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Administrative Videoconference and Meeting. Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall participate in a mandatory videoconference 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 Competition Manager, the referees, and the Conference sport administrator. In consultation with the Coaches Committee, its duties shall include:

1. Supervising the declaration of entries;
2. Heating and flighting 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.

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*]

Competition Manager. The Conference office shall identify, based upon an annual vote of the participating head coaches, a Competition Manager who will be responsible for executing meet operations for the Championship. Compensation for the Competition Manager shall consist of $1,000 per day, plus transportation, and lodging, all of which will be provided by the host institution. [*Adopted: 12/20/18, Revised 8/29/2025*]

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. 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. **Women's Events**.

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 per gender. 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 Competition Manager in accordance with the guidelines listed for each event. Lanes one and two will not be used during the preliminary rounds of 200 meters, 400 meters, and 400 meter hurdles. Lanes one and two will not be used during the timed final sections of the 4x100 meter and 4x400 meter relays. 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 as well as a descending order list per event. [*Revised: 9/28/22, 10/5/23*]

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 host institution shall be responsible for obtaining all officials identified in the Championship Director's responsibilities and the SEC On-Campus Championship Manual and 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*]

Officials Pool. The conference office shall maintain a list of qualified referees and starters from which each host institution must select for championship events. Head coaches shall review this list annually to recommend additions or removals. If 25% or more of the head coaches vote to remove an official or oppose a proposed addition, that official shall be removed from, or not added to, the list. [*Adopted: 10/22/25*]

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. NCAA rules govern protests. 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, 8/29/2025*]

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. Performance marks in the 100 Meters, 200 Meters, 100- and 110-Meter Hurdles, and Long/Triple Jump with wind readings exceeding 4.0 meters per second will not be used for seeding purposes. [*Revised: 9/28/22, 10/5/23*]

Squad Size. Only 30 athletes per gender 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.

Throws and Horizontal Jumps: Throws and horizontal jumps will use a flight specific warm-up periods when the event includes multiple flights. [*Adopted: 8/29/2025*]

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 World Athletics list, it may be used in the Championships. This list will be provided by the host with the final meet information packet.

SUPPLEMENT A

FOUL CAMERA PROTOCOLS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

Cameras

- **Camera Requirements.** Cameras must be operational for all throw and horizontal jump competitions, including Combined Event competition.
- **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. All-SEC teams will be announced prior to the start of the Conference Tournament. Institutions with first team All-SEC players are responsible for submitting nominations for AVCA All-Region selections. [*Revised: 3/5/25*]
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.
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. [*Revised: 5/28/26*]
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 automatically earns a spot on the All-SEC First Team. [*Revised: 4/26/23*]
6. **Newcomer 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. [*Adopted: 8/21/24*]
7. **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.
8. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Community Service Team**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Players of the Week (Offensive, Setter, and Player).** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. A Freshman shall be defined as an individual who has the maximum number of years of eligibility remaining.

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 Alabama serving as the chair for 2027. An individual must have attended an annual coaches' meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Competition Area Lighting. Stadium light shows fall into the following two categories: 1) full stadium light coloring in which the game lights are dimmed and/or change colors, or, 2) game lighting remains while lights perform movement, including chase and flickering effects. The following outlines when these two options can be utilized during the game. [*Adopted: 8/16/23*]

1. **Pre-match.** Lighting effects may occur during introductions and during periods in which no student-athletes are warming up on the playing surface. Competition level lighting must resume sixty seconds (0:60) prior to the match's scheduled start time.
2. **Technical Timeouts/Set Breaks.** Lighting effects may occur during technical timeouts and set breaks as long as the benches remain lit. Competition level lighting must resume fifteen seconds (0:15) prior to the end of the timeout.
3. **End of Match.** Lighting effects may occur once the match has concluded for up to fifteen seconds (0:15).

Conference Branding Requirements. [*Adopted: 5/30/24*]

1. **Uniform and Apparel Patch.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo patch on all uniforms and apparel. The placement and colors of such logos shall be consistent with guidelines established within the SEC Branding Guide.
2. **Competition Venues.** Member institutions shall include an SEC logo on all competition surfaces and in all competition venues. Consistent with the SEC Branding Guide, logos shall be applied in school approved colors on the court.

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.

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. The scorekeeper and libero tracker must be certified. [*Revised: 3/4/26*]

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 tournament champion will be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event, inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the highest remaining seed in the tournament at the time of suspension shall be designated as the automatic qualifier. [*Revised: 3/5/25*]

Officials.

1. The Conference office shall assign officials for all home games and any games specified in contractual agreements with Conference institutions. The first referee must have a national rating (USAV or PAVO). Officials' uniforms for Conference matches shall be a collared white, blue, gray or SEC approved shirt, navy slacks, and white shoes.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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. At the conclusion of the home team's 30-minute serve and pass window, two minutes will be allotted for turnover. The visiting team's serve and pass will begin immediately following the conclusion of the two minutes. The visiting team must refrain from touching the volleyballs until the two minutes have expired and their designated time has begun. [*Revised: 2/9/24, 3/5/25*]
3. The visiting team has the right to request that there be no music played during their 30-minute segment.

4. 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.
5. Teams are limited to one hitting line while the court is being shared.
6. The match will begin at the contractual time.
7. 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. Public address announcers shall follow all established NCAA guidelines for serving in the role. [*Revised: 3/5/25*]

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

1. The regular season Conference schedule shall consist of 15 matches in which each member institution sponsoring the sport shall play each other member institution sponsoring the sport once home or away. The dates and sites of the Conference schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference. Conference regular season play shall begin on a Wednesday 8 weeks prior to the SEC Volleyball Tournament and 10 weeks prior to the NCAA First and Second Round matches. [*Revised: 6/23/21, 3/3/23, 3/5/25*]
2. 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*]
3. Saturday matches played during the last week of the Conference season shall begin no later than 1:00 pm (local time).
4. 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 20 athletes may travel and 18 may participate in a Conference contest. Eligible non-participating student-athletes (home and away) may dress, and engage in all pre and post-match activities. [*Revised: 8/8/15, 7/10/20, 6/3/22, 5/29/25*]

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.

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.

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 Boards/Replays. [*Revised: 8/21/24*]

1. **Replays.**-Video replays may be shown on an in-stadium video board from the end of a play until the beginning of the next play, except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. Video from the official video review system may not be shown during a replay, except during an official video review. Under no circumstance may the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official or visiting team members or coaches, incite the crowd or distract a participant or coach. Each school must designate a full-time staff member with a high-degree of accountability to be responsible for determining what video appears on the in-stadium video board.
2. **Official Video Review.** When a stoppage occurs for an official video review, the in-stadium video board operator must use either the unaltered television network program feed or the unaltered video feed from the officiating video review system as the exclusive video source for plays under review. Replays are permitted

only between Referee announcements to stop play and to communicate the outcome of the review. No replays from any other video source may be shown on the in-stadium video board during stoppage for an official review. Video from the official video review system may only be shown during an official video review. Under no circumstances may the video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an official, visiting team member or visiting team coach, or incite the crowd during or following a review.

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.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Administrative Teleconference. A coach and a designated administrator from each institution competing in the Conference tournament shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the tournament to review policies and procedures. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

Awards. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

1. **All-Tournament Team.** A seven-person, all-tournament team, including the most valuable player, shall be selected. After each semifinal match, the losing coach will submit one player from their team for selection on the All-Tournament Team. Two players will be submitted from the losing team in the championship match, and three players will be submitted by the winning team in the championship match for a total of 7 players.
2. **Tournament MVP.** The Tournament MVP will be chosen by the championship-winning coach.

Dates and Sites. The Conference tournament will be conducted one week prior to the first round of the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship and after the conclusion of the Conference regular-season schedule. The SEC Athletics Directors and Executive Committee must approve the sites and dates of the tournament. See Supplement C in General Administration for Future Championship Dates and Sites. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

Format. The Conference tournament shall be a 16-team single-elimination tournament. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

Home Team Designation. The higher seed in each match of the tournament will be designated the home team. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

Lodging. Each institution is responsible for making its own lodging reservations. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

Manual. The Conference office shall distribute to each institution a tournament manual outlining the policies and procedures for the tournament, as well as information specific to the host site, no later than October 15th of each year. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

NCAA Automatic Qualification. The Conference tournament champion will be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship. In the event, inclement weather or other factors prevent the completion of the championship prior to the date and time when the NCAA requires notification for selection to the NCAA tournament, the highest remaining seed in the tournament at the time of suspension shall be designated as the automatic qualifier. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

Practice. Practice on the competition court and at the designated volleyball tournament practice site will be determined according to seed and may only be conducted at the times listed on the tournament practice schedule. Each competing institution will be allotted at least one practice session on the competition floor prior to their first tournament match. One additional practice session will be scheduled for each competing institution at the designated volleyball tournament practice site. No additional practices will be permitted on the competition court or at the volleyball tournament practice site beyond what is scheduled. Each institution will be responsible for scheduling its own additional practices at alternate sites. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

Seeding. Teams will be seeded No. 1 through No. 16 in the bracket based upon the final regular season Conference standings. Teams that finish No. 1 through No. 4 in the final regular season standings shall receive first- and second-round byes and teams that finish No. 5 through No. 8 will receive a first–round bye. For seeding purposes, if an institution is precluded from participating in the tournament, such institution will automatically be seeded last. The No. 9 seed will then receive a bye. However, for the purpose of breaking ties, the team precluded from participating in the tournament will remain where it finished in the regular-season standings before being seeded last. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

1. **Two-Team Tie.** In the event of a percentage tie between two teams for the Conference tournament, the following criteria will be used in the following order to determine how team will be seeded for the SEC Volleyball Championship: [*Revised: 3/5/25*]
   A. Head-to-Head competition in Conference matches;
   B. FIVB Point System for all Conference matches (3 points for a 3-0 or 3- win; 2 points for a 3-2 win; 1 point

for a 3-2 loss);

C. Points won/points lost in all Conference matches between the two teams;

D. Sets won/sets lost for all Conference matches; and

E. 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 tournament, the following criteria will be used in the following order to determine how teams will be seeded for the SEC Volleyball Championship (once the tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tiebreaker procedure will be used): [*Revised: 3/5/25*]

A. Head-to-Head competition in Conference matches;

B. FIVB Point System for all Conference matches (3 points for a 3-0 or 3- 1 win; 2 points for a 3-2 win; 1 point for a 3-2 loss);

C. Points won/points lost in all Conference matches between the two teams;

D. Sets won/sets lost for all Conference matches; and

E. Coin toss conducted by the Conference administrator.

Squad Size. Only 18 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. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

Tickets. Tickets will be sold in book form for the entire tournament. At a predetermined date, remaining seats may be sold on a single-session basis. No complimentary tickets will be provided for the tournament. Each institution shall notify the Conference office of its institutional ticket allotment, for which it is financially responsible, each year by a date specified by the SEC Ticket Office. The location of each institution's allotment may rotate on an annual basis (two sections clockwise each year). Each institution participating in the tournament championship game shall have the option to purchase additional tickets for such game. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]

Uniforms. All team members must wear the uniform of the institution they represent. Teams must be prepared to wear light or dark uniforms throughout the championship. The higher-seeded team will wear light uniforms for all matches. If a team does not have a white uniform, their color must be light and contrast the opponent. [*Adopted: 3/5/25*]