

# VOLLEYBALL

**Conference Office Liaisons.** The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for volleyball: Sport Administrator – Tiffany Daniels; Communications – Jill Skotarczak; Officiating – Melinda Voorhies/Sylvia Hagan Barnes.

## REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

**Administration.** [SEC Bylaw 17.30]

**Artificial Noisemakers.** [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] 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.

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

1. **All-SEC Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Two weeks before the end of regular season, the SEC office will send out nomination forms for All-SEC voting, which are due back the following week. There will be a conference call on Monday of Thanksgiving Week to allow each coach to briefly discuss their nominees. Ballots will be available online following the Monday morning conference call and must be completed by the end of that day. All-SEC teams will be announced on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving day.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined in the same manner as the All-SEC Team. This team will be voted on at the same time as the All-SEC Team. There will only be one team of seven for the All-Freshman Team. Student-athletes must be in their first year of collegiate eligibility to be eligible for the team.
3. **Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The recipient will be selected in a manner similar to that of the Coach of the Year.
4. **Freshman of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The recipient will be selected in a manner similar to that of the Coach of the Year.
5. **Libero Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The recipient will be selected in a manner similar to that of Coach of the Year. The Libero Player of the Year must be a member of either the first or second All-SEC team.
6. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process. The following criteria will be considered: success of the team; improvement of the team from the previous season; ability to use the talents of the team to the fullest, and professional manner and attitude.
7. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner’s Regulations.
8. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner’s Regulations.
9. **Players of the Week (Offensive, Defensive, Setter and Player).** See General Administration section of the Commissioner’s Regulations.

10. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Institutions with first team All-SEC players, Coaches and Player of the Year are responsible for sending in nominations for all-region selections (AVCA).

**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.

**Coaches Meeting.** [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach shall attend the annual coaches meeting held in January at the SEC office.

**Coaches Meeting Chair.** The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Florida serving as the chair for 2015-2016. Subsequent years will be as follows: Georgia (2016-2017), Kentucky (2017-2018), and LSU (2018-2019). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

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

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

- E. Coin toss conducted by Conference staff liaison.

**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 of that specific brand will be made available to the visiting team for the pre-match practice.

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

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

**Match Protocol.** The following protocol will be used at all SEC matches during the regular season:

1. Only the starting players will be introduced. **Player introductions may be no more than 5 minutes, except for Senior Day presentations;**
2. There will be a 10-minute break at the end of the second game, which includes a three-minute warm-up before the match resumes. During the 10-minute break the host may conduct an entertainment/promotional activity if desired, so long as the visiting team is notified prior to arrival;
3. 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
4. Coaches will discuss on an individual match basis the protocol for the National Anthem and the introduction of the teams.

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

**Officials.** [SEC Bylaw 30.20.1] The Conference office shall make the assignment of officials for all matches. Notification of game officials and all information pertaining to officiating can be found on [www.spotfoul.com](http://www.spotfoul.com). Access to the website can be obtained by contacting Sylvia Hagan Barnes. The first referee must have a national rating (USVBA or NAGWS). Officials' uniforms for SEC matches shall be a collared white shirt, navy slacks and white shoes.

Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is absolutely prohibited. Comments on officiating are to be directed only to the Conference office. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed only to the Conference staff. Public airing of such matters by officials, coaches or institutional personnel serves no worthwhile purpose and is prohibited.

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.

Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone, and all matters pertaining to officials or officiating will be directed to the SEC staff only. Likewise, this policy will preclude officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.

The officials' dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as suggested below:

1. Towels and soap;

2. Chairs and a table;
3. Soft drinks and water (in a cooler of ice); and
4. Sandwiches, fruit, or light snack following the match.

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

*Compensation* – Payment of the game officials will be handled by a third-party service (PayOGFE.com). Each institution will be invoiced for their share of the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials. The fees and travel/expense policies shall be set by the Conference office and athletics directors.

*Tickets* – 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 liaison to determine the protocol for re-scheduling the match.

**Practice.** The SEC visiting team has priority over non-conference teams regarding practice times. The SEC visiting coach must make arrangements with the host well in advance of the event. Coaches will confirm practice times for the visiting team on Tuesday the week of the match. An athletic training room should be available for the visiting team one hour prior to their practice time. On football weekends, the host must provide specific instructions for parking and other pertinent matters to the visiting team.

**Pre-Match.** 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. The visiting team has the right to request that there be no music played during their 30-minute segment. No players or coaches from the opposing team should be allowed on the court area during the 30-minute time period. 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. Teams are limited to one hitting line while the court is being shared. The match will begin at the contractual time. The home team shall supply at least 12 balls for warm-up. Ball-shaggers during the warm-up period should be reminded to extend the same courtesies to the visiting team as they do to the home team.

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

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

1. The regular season Conference schedule shall consist of 18 matches in which each member institution sponsoring the sport shall play each other member institution sponsoring the sport at least once. The additional eight matches shall be determined by a random computer draw. The dates and sites of the Conference schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference.
2. Competition shall be conducted under NCAA and SEC volleyball rules and regulations.

3. Conference play shall begin on a Wednesday nine weeks prior to the NCAA First and Second Round matches and end the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Sunday matches 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.
4. Saturday matches played during the last week of the Conference season shall begin no later than 1:00 pm (local time).

**Squad Size.** [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 15 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 15 eligible student-athletes.

**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 SEC 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 SEC institution and the Conference office on the first working day following the match. Score sheets and libero tracking sheets in triplicate will be provided by the Conference office. If possible, stat monitors will be provided near both team benches.

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

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

**Video Exchange.** The SEC operates with an open exchange policy. Therefore, all schools must provide video of all matches to the other SEC programs. All teams shall use DataProject Video Sharing software as the primary means for transferring video of matches with the following guidelines:

1. All Volleyball programs will purchase the DataProject Video Sharing software, after which 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;
2. The video of each match is required to be uploaded to that school's individual folder. The away team has no responsibility for uploading matches;
  - A. The video of each match should be uploaded to that school's individual folder within the following timeframes:
    - (1) Weekend matches must be posted by 11:00 a.m. (ET) Monday;
    - (2) Mid-week matches must be posted by 11:00 a.m. (ET) the following day.
  - B. SEC Programs will have access to each other's folders within DataProject Video Sharing which will enable them to select and download any match they choose for the purpose of match preparation. In conference play, schools will not have access to recent matches (Friday matches) until the conclusion of play on Sunday.
  - C. Due to these posting requirements, there will be no need for formal tape requests; video of all matches involving SEC schools must be available to other conference teams through DataProject Video Sharing.
3. No member institution shall exchange video, provide a scouting report or DataVolley scout files to any non-conference institution regarding SEC teams or matches;

- A. Through DataProject Video Sharing, schools have the ability to monitor who downloads their matches and when the transfers occur;
  - B. If any issues arise regarding specific transfers, schools should contact the SEC liaison.
4. Copies of each match score sheet (scanned to a PDF file) and final box shall be attached to the account folder (same time restraints as video uploads); if unable to attach, these documents should be faxed; and
  5. The match shall be filmed from an end zone position and it is preferred that only the competition court be in the frame.
    - A. The camera should be positioned so that jersey numbers are legible.
    - B. The video should be High Definition quality (at least 720p at 1280 x 720).
    - C. The video should include sound.
    - D. The home team must be on the near side in the 1<sup>st</sup> set. The camera must remain in the same position and not switch sides as the teams change sides.
    - E. If your facility does not provide a location to produce the conference required angle for video, the home team must provide the visiting team a feed in the home team's permanent camera.
  6. It is permissible to exchange DataVolley scout files (.dvw) between conference teams if it is agreed upon by both institutions.